

Of course, the fun part of writing about what others have said and written about Churchill, studying the life along with the changing assessment of his critics, is the chance to quote many juicy tidbits. Churchill is marvelously quotable himself (much of his reputation, after all, stems from oft repeated quotes during Britain's darkest Second World War days), and is a controversial enough subject to draw out heightened rhetoric (the most glowing encomiums or fulminating condemnations) from those observing or assessing him as well. The book includes wonderfully acerbic (and insightful!) comments from supporters and opponents, politicians and journalists, friends and enemies. Addison has seemingly read enormously and quoted judiciously.

The book has interesting information about every phase of Churchill's life, and it is clearly organized into eight sensible chronological chapters. Endnotes do not add much additional information, but the notes, the bibliography, and index are solid. There's much in here that could inform or add spice to a lecture, and students from late secondary school on could profitably use this for their own projects or papers. If I had one problem with the book, it involved the amount of space and detail about the early life. Certainly Churchill's youthful days set the stage and establish certain traits and influences. But there are, at least for readers not interested in immersing themselves in every detail of British history, too many side stories and too many references to obscure events in British history in the first couple of chapters.

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Julian E. Zelizer, ed. *The American Congress: The Building of Democracy*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Pp. 784. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 0-618-17906-2.

The book covers a great deal of material. It divides Congress into four eras. As the reader progresses through each era, one can follow the struggle of early Congresses to find a balance in using their powers. The reader then progresses into a discussion about political parties, the role of parties in Congress, and the struggle of Congress to cope with difficult issues such as slavery and westward expansion. The book gives details about the attempts to change Congress in order to meet the needs of a changing nation and world. The reader gains a sense of how Congress continues to change in order to meet the demands of today's complex, ever-changing society.

The discussion of little known pieces of legislation and members of Congress makes this a great book to read. There is a great deal of discussion about these laws that gives the reader a sense that each piece of legislation was important in making our country what it is today. This book also offers detailed information about some of the key players in each session or era of Congress. Some of the members of Congress discussed in this book were leaders who helped shape the institution. Others were part of the larger membership that attempted to shape the nation or tried to diffuse conflicts over issues.

Each essay provides a wealth of information for the reader. Some of the information might not be commonly known and, as a result, this book helps to increase the depth of knowledge and understanding about Congress. The research also makes an attempt to delve deeply into each event and personality discussed in the book.

The American Congress is a collection of essays, so one might think that different writing styles would stand out and the flow of the book would be interrupted. This is not the case with this compilation of essays. While reading one essay to the next, it was easy to forget that each essay had a different author. The editor of this book did an excellent job in ensuring that each essay flowed into the one that followed with ease.

This book would be useful for a number of purposes. This book could be used in courses that cover Congress, events, and people. While mainly for history, this book could be used across disciplines. *The American Congress* could be used as a text, although it might be more useful as a supplement. This book might be more appropriate for a graduate-level seminar. The depth of information and some of the terminology might be a little challenging to undergraduate-level classes. It might be possible to attempt to use the book for upper-level undergraduate classes. Instructors can create an entire lecture or series of lectures on the content of this book. Instructors could also use the book to supplement current lectures.

The American Congress is an excellent collection of essays about the history of Congress and the nation. It goes beyond the sometimes stale stories of the formation of the institution and its function. The book provides the reader with an inside look as to how Congress really works, while providing the juicy details about the members and the deals that were made to advance the institution and the nation.

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Richard Godbeer. *Escaping Salem: The Other Witch Hunt of 1692.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Pp. xiv, 177. Paper, \$13.00; ISBN 0-19-516130-0.

Richard Godbeer, author of *The Devil's Dominion: Magic and Religion in Early New England* and *Sexual Revolution in Early America*, makes a wonderful contribution to the field of early American witchcraft studies with *Escaping Salem: The Other Witch Hunt of 1692*. While most students are likely familiar with the more famous witch hunt that took place in Salem that same year, and as a result might well bring their own preconceptions to the topic, the lesser known scare in Stamford, Connecticut, might provide a better instructional opportunity.

Godbeer takes advantage of the Stamford witch hunt's anonymity. In clear and accessible prose, he offers a vivid portrait of Stamford, its people, and their varying responses to Kathleen Branch's fits and visions. By recreating the world of Stamford, Godbeer invites readers into colonial Connecticut and makes it possible for them to understand witchcraft from a different perspective and in a broader context. Witchcraft