

of control and torture was not as severe as previously reported. She also shows that the Inquisition was a multifaceted, ever changing institution that left both positive and negative outcomes on Spanish society and culture.

Rawlings begins by clarifying the historiography of the Inquisition and then explains what the institution of the Inquisition was, how it was organized, why it was created, who was running it, and what its initial intentions were. She also follows how each of these components evolved over the length of the Inquisition's existence until the nineteenth century. The bulk of the evidence is presented in chapters three through six and breaks down the activities of the Inquisition by categories of targeted victims. She devotes a chapter to the *Coverso*, to the *Morisco*, to Protestantism, and to minor heresy. Each of these chapters is organized similarly and clear connections are made, making it easy to follow the progression of the Inquisition, despite its many layers and numerous victims. Rawlings is able to explain clearly why each set of victims was targeted and how the logic or process was similar or different from other victimized groups. She provides perfect examples that support her arguments, yet does not bog the volume down with quote after quote. There is a variety of evidence, both primary and secondary. Very interesting to the reader are the descriptions from actual cases of minor heresy in the sixth chapter. The seventh and final chapter does an excellent job of wrapping up the evidence and explaining how the Inquisition came to a final end on all fronts.

There is a simple map and several pictures to help stimulate and guide the reader, as well as a glossary of Spanish and Inquisition terminology. Overall, this is a great book for senior-level high school students, college students, or the general reader interested in topics such as Spanish/European history, Catholic history, Medieval history, religion, spirituality, and of course the history of the Inquisition itself.

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Link Hullar and Scott Nelson. *The United States: A Brief Narrative History.* Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 2006. 2nd edition. Pp. xii, 234. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-88295-229-3.

In the spring 2003 number of this journal, Larry Madaras wrote a perceptive and highly useful review of the first edition of Hullar and Nelson's *The United States*. In the preface to both editions, the authors claim to offer up an account of "big ideas, major themes, important events, and basic facts ... arranged in a chronological narrative that tells a lively story without talking down to the reader." Yet Madaras noted that most of the 2001 edition was a "traditional accounting of political and military events." This second edition deviates little, despite the authors' assertion that they have "worked toward a cultural-literacy approach to deciding what goes in the text." The narrative still largely deals with standard political and military developments.

The coverage of religion, for example, a seminal issue in the nation's past, is skimpy, to say the least. Puritans get no further explanation than that they found the Church of England to be "corrupt." Anne Hutchinson, Roger Williams, and Thomas Hooker are all correctly noted as religious dissenters from Massachusetts, with nary a word on how each objected to Puritan doctrine or practice. Penn's Quakers get a bit more coverage, as does the Great Awakening. But religion thereafter is a thin gruel, with 1920s fundamentalism and the 1980s Christian Right earning only cursory nods.

Coverage of the two key events of the nation's history, the American Revolution and Civil War, is mixed. Hullar and Nelson do a commendable job, in the limited space they have, of explaining the causes for the surprising and unlikely outcome of the Revolutionary War. But their treatment of the Civil War devotes two and one-half pages to a blow-by-blow military account. Surely something could have been said about the "home front" factors that sapped southern morale as the conflict ground on.

New to this edition is an engaging and highly readable fourteen-page Introduction on "America's First Nations," the Native Americans, by acclaimed Indian scholar Philip Weeks. This is by far the most in-depth section of the book, although why this particular topic is singled out for special coverage is never explained.

Hullar and Nelson helpfully **bold-print** key terms in each chapter as part of their cultural-literacy theme, and those items are all listed again at the end of each chapter. While this is no fault of the authors, instructors should take care that students do not seize on these as "the only things they need to learn" (or worse memorize) in the course. This reviewer can attest that students will quickly latch onto this truncated approach to studying history unless they are steered elsewhere.

There are regrettably no pictures, although this is probably inevitable in a volume this inexpensive. The five maps show the first thirteen colonies and their key cities in 1779; the growth of the nation to 1853; secession in 1861; a front endpaper map of all fifty states and their capitals; and, inexplicably, a simplistic world map on the back endpages. There is no bibliography or suggestions for further reading.

It is easy to take potshots from the sidelines at a book of this nature, and I do not mean to come across as unduly critical of the authors' heroic effort to compress the essentials of the American story into 198 pages. The narrative is smoothly written and easily digestible. As they themselves admit up front, the book's "length, approach and price encourage an abundance of supplemental books, research projects, and primary documents." In the eternal quest for the Holy Grail of textbooks, somewhere between the obese full narrative tomes that weigh students down both physically and financially and the skeletal, anorectic outlines, this worthy volume tilts toward the latter end of the spectrum. What Lincoln once said about a long essay on spiritualism someone sent him might equally apply to this text: "Well, for those who like that sort of thing I should think it is just about the sort of thing they would like."