

individual pieces make this the new standard in the field. Those new to the field, educators, and even experienced practitioners, will find much here to take first steps or to help bring in-class projects to the next level. Strongly recommended.

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**Steven M. Beaudoin. *Poverty in World History*. Themes in World History Series. London and New York: Routledge, 2007. Pp. 136. Paper, \$26.95; ISBN 978-0-415-25459-5.**

The Themes in World History Series has acquired a new and important addition with Steven Beaudoin's treatment of poverty throughout world history. Designed specifically for the classroom, the book provides an impressive overview of the state of current scholarship while intertwining strands of world history. The result is a very readable narrative that investigates the causes of poverty, attitudes toward poverty, and relief efforts from the pre-modern world to the present.

It seems unlikely that such a significant and vast topic could fit into such a brief space; however, the key is in the organization. Surveying scholarly descriptions of poverty and taking ideas from several definitions with emphasis on the belief that "all poverty is born of insecurity," Beaudoin divides the poor into three categories: the destitute, the structural poor, and the conjunctural poor. Using these definitions, he then examines poverty and charity in the pre-modern world, the early modern world from 1450 to 1750, the industrial world from 1750 to 1945, and since 1945.

The demarcations should be familiar to students of world history and allow them to contextualize the place of poverty in the overall scheme of world history. As Beaudoin points out, the history of poverty both follows and strays from traditional patterns of world history. During the pre-modern era, most poverty grew out of chronic hunger and undernourishment. People saw poverty as a natural occurrence. Family, friends, informal sources, and a few private and state-run organizations provided limited relief. Around the mid-1400s, new forms of poverty emerged based on global networks of trade and subsequent economic insecurity. The incidence of structural and conjunctural poverty became more widespread as individuals and societies became more vulnerable to fluctuations in world trade. In response, several Western European states came to view poverty as a moral scourge of one's own making that needed to be eradicated through discipline, confinement, and education. With the onset of industrialization in the mid-1700s, poverty became "less dangerous and more common." Ironically, the same economic system that expanded poverty also created more powerful tools to ameliorate poverty through programs such as the social welfare and social insurance systems. The period after 1945 saw increased intensification though few changes in the causes of poverty. Enhanced global connections meant that relief efforts became much more international though still dominated by the Western

world. Currently, there are reasons for both optimism and concern regarding the state of world poverty.

Clear, concise, and well-written, the book has much strength and few weaknesses. It would work equally well as an assigned book in a world history survey or as material from which to draw lecture notes. Though the Western world occupies a vital place in the history, the study takes a global approach that does not neglect regional, religious, political, and cultural variations. While Beaudoin describes specific examples of poverty to introduce chapters and draws upon statistical information, those looking for vivid descriptions of poverty or tables of statistics may be disappointed. Yet, this is not the purpose of the book. The book illuminates the elements of continuity and change in the history of poverty and serves as an excellent jumping off point for further study.

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**Eric F. Johnson, Andrew J. Donnelly, and Gabriel K. Wolfenstein.** *The Bedford Glossary for European History*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. Pp. 144. Paper, \$10.00; ISBN 0-312-45717-0.

In this digital age in which a new online reference source seems to crop up every few minutes, many of them often having a less than scholarly scope, it is reassuring to know that there are still reliable, affordable print sources being produced for students and their educators. Oftentimes, there is a tendency on the part of instructors to rely on the glossary in the back of textbooks or on websites such as Google to provide students with definitions of terms and further information on topics not found within the narrative texts or lectures. However, textbook glossaries are very concise and might not prove to be an adequate reference source. It cannot be assumed that students will rely on peer-reviewed, authoritative sources that a Google search yields.

Bedford's latest offering in the realm of glossaries covering the topic of general European history can help to remedy this problem. The glossary is designed as a companion piece to the *Making of the West* survey text series, but it certainly is an appropriate supplement to any European history or Western civilization text. The book is organized in the traditional alphabetical format and covers just over 600 primary terms. The entries run the gamut of political, social, economic, and cultural topics and cover the periods from ancient history through the modern era. A particular strength of this reference work is the detail given to providing the historical context to the terms, not simply a thorough definition. Subject specialists will, naturally, find some terms they consider key to the topic omitted, but overall the coverage is quite thorough for such an ambitious span of time and topics. However, this glossary does not contain any biographical entries, so the student looking for a ready reference for a simple fact, such as the ruling dates of Napoleon, will come up wanting. The role of this glossary is to familiarize students with terms that they are likely to encounter in readings and lectures.