

Gregory Hadley. *Field of Spears: The Last Mission of the Jordan Crew.* Sheffield, England: Paulownia Press, 2007. Pp. 158. Paper, GBP 14.95, US \$24.95; ISBN-13 978-0-9555582-1-4. Hardcover, GBP 21.95.

There has been an enormous output of works in English on World War II, dealing seemingly with any and all aspects of it: individual battles and military figures, the air war and battle at sea, politicians and the home fronts. Yet precious few narrative histories exist that allow readers to view and understand events from multiple perspectives. A fine new book, *Field of Spears: The Last Mission of the Jordan Crew*, uses a variety of sources to explore a single event and see the complex, broader implications that emerged from it.

Briefly, *Field of Spears* explores a harbor mining mission by an American B-29 bomber to the western Japanese city of Niigata, on July 19, 1945, just weeks before the Pacific war ended. The plane was shot down over a small rural community near Niigata; several of the eleven-man crew were killed on the ground by civilians, while the others were captured, interrogated by the Japanese military police, the Kempai-tai, and then sent to a harsh prison by Tokyo where they survived the war.

The author, Gregory Hadley, is Professor of English and American Cultural Studies at Niigata University of International and Information Studies, Japan. Having lived and worked in Japan for nearly fifteen years, Hadley is uniquely positioned to research both English and Japanese sources. And he does so, using Japanese archives and document collections as well as personal interviews with eyewitnesses and participants from events in July 1945. He interweaves this with similar research and interviews done in the U.S. The result is a very readable, even captivating, piece of history. Hadley fairly presents both sides of the story and follows the consequences for involved parties in the decades after 1945.

How useful is this book for teaching about western or world history? Put simply: quite. World War II continues to be an important part of the history curriculum, both at the secondary and college levels. As a possible course reading, the length of the book, its readability, and its level of detail make it attractive for colleges and universities, but also for advanced high school students. Instructors would need to ensure their classes had sufficient background knowledge, and the Introduction is helpful in this respect. This reviewer could envision using *Field of Spears* in a world history section for first-year students, but also in upper-division classes on twentieth-century U.S. history or specialized offerings on World War II. All in all, this is a case study with broad application, and Hadley is to be congratulated for writing a book that is so accessible.

In addition to classroom applications, both high school and college faculty members might find this book useful for background reading or preparing lectures. In addition, the many illustrations are useful, if at times graphic, and help to make this faraway time and place seem more real.

In sum, *Field of Spears: The Last Mission of the Jordan Crew* is a solidly researched and well-written account. Gregory Hadley takes one bomber crew, one mission, and one Japanese town, illustrates the impacts on those involved, and makes clear the longer term historical implications. This is a rewarding book, useful for classroom applications. Secondary and college faculty seeking a book on this topic would be encouraged to give it strong consideration.

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Thomas Saylor

Tibor Glant. *Remember Hungary 1956: Essays on the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence in American Memory.* New York: Eastern European Monographs, 2008. Pp. 246. Cloth, \$50.00; ISBN 9780880336161.

Howard Zinn taught me long ago that objectivity is a myth, neither possible nor desirable, and that the best we can do in writing history is to be honest and open and up front about our biases and then proceed to write the best history we can. Assuming the same principle applies to book reviewing, I should note that Tibor Glant is my friend. We were colleagues for two years, 1994-96, at Kossuth University, in Debrecen, Hungary. I was the Soros Professor of American Studies; Glant and I coauthored a textbook during that time, and we have continued our relationship over the years. He is now Chair of the North American Department of the Institute of English and American Studies of the university, now known as the University of Debrecen.

But my biggest challenge in reviewing Glant's book is not my bias *for* him, but rather my bias *against* Richard Nixon. Let me explain. One of the five major sections of *Remember Hungary 1956* is entitled "Vice President Nixon's Refugee Fact-Finding Trip to Austria in December 1956 in American Memory." We read of Nixon's "bravery," "professional performance," "tact," "sincerity," and "professional handling of the delicate diplomatic situation" that helped make for "an effective public relations campaign." For a historian (myself) who sees Nixon as a tragedy American politics is in many ways still trying to rise above, it is difficult to read such positive things about him. But it was also good, for we *should* read things that challenge our biases, shouldn't we? In any case, surely we can *all* agree that the Ferenc Daday painting, now in the Nixon Library, that portrays "a Biblical image with Nixon positioned as the Savior" is too much!

But maybe this is also too much on that one part of Glant's excellent and interesting book. The other four major parts explore "The *New York Times* and the Memory of the 1956 Revolution," "Diplomatic Memoirs" (i.e., the memoirs of American ambassadors to Hungary), "Registers of Remembrance in English Prose: What the North American Reader is Confronted With (A Brief Overview)," which looks at everything from Hungarian Freedom Fighter accounts to American journalists in Hungary, from family histories to novels, and from crime fiction to juvenile