

engaging for both instructors and students. *Insurgent Responses to Emancipation* outlines the tribulations of rebel leaders, some of whom in 1793 wished to end their quasi-alliance with the Spanish. Such a force was the rebel army that in 1793 French officials emancipated slaves in an attempt to gain military aid. *In the Camps of the Insurgents* provides an account of a colonial official captured by the rebel slave armies. Other documents give insight into Toussaint Louverture, the famous rebel leader, governor, and prisoner of Napoleon. *The Haitian Declaration of Independence and Haitian Constitution* provide a fitting end to this expansive collection.

*Slave Revolution in the Caribbean* would serve as a supplemental reader for an introductory global history class but would best complement a study of the Caribbean or slavery in general. Americanists will find useful sources in the fifth section of documents, "The Haitian Revolution and the United States." Notable is the *Petition of French refugees* who on October 25, 1799, in Charleston, South Carolina, plea for aid by invoking themes of French support for the American Revolution. Instructors could also use the aforementioned documents to develop a number of topics relating to resistance, abolition, and racial hierarchy in the Caribbean. This text is necessary for an upper-level or graduate course focusing solely on the Haitian Revolution, general Haitian history, or the French Revolutionary period.

The title, unfortunately, is deceptive as the book focuses heavily on Haiti rather than the region as a whole. Although the first collection of documents, "The French Caribbean in the Eighteenth Century," contains some information on areas outside of Hispaniola, most all documents relate directly or indirectly to events in Haiti. The authors only stray from the French Caribbean when discussing the United States and events in France. A complete history of slave revolutions in the Caribbean from 1789 to 1804 should mention the situations of British, Dutch, and Spanish inlands. In 1795 maroons and slaves in Jamaica staged a rebellion, which panicked British planters and officials, including Governor Edward Balcarres. He remained convinced the rebels were influenced by the events of Haiti and eventually had them deported to Nova Scotia. Despite this minor detail, the work is an outstanding text that demonstrates the knowledge and skill of the accomplished authors.

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**Thomas J. Whalen. *A Higher Purpose: Profiles in Presidential Courage*. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2007. Pp. xvi, 254. Cloth, \$26.00; ISBN 13-978-1-566663-630-8.**

Inspired by John F. Kennedy's 1955 *Profiles in Courage*, Thomas J. Whalen's most recent book narrows its focus to nine politically challenging and defining conflicts in the history of the American presidency. *A Higher Purpose: Profiles in Presidential Courage* clearly depicts the events surrounding these presidential actions, whereas one of the work's subjects Andrew Jackson once remarked that "one man with courage

makes a majority." Whalen's sections include the well known stories of Jackson's war against the Bank of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt's trust busting of J.P. Morgan's Northern Securities Company, and Franklin Roosevelt's foresight in aiding Great Britain against Nazi Germany's aggression. The author also gives detailed attention to describing the political factions and forces faced by chief executives such as Abraham Lincoln when writing and advocating the Emancipation Proclamation and Gerald Ford before and following his Sunday pardon of Richard Nixon after only one month in the Oval Office. Whalen is to be applauded for his efforts to include the lesser studied tribulations of Chester Arthur's civil service reform and Grover Cleveland's stand against forced Hawaiian annexation.

The book is at its best when discussing Harry Truman's dismissal of the insubordinate General Douglas MacArthur. Whalen also includes John Kennedy's decision to promote civil rights, yet falls short in his analysis for not fully exploring some of the president's missteps, such as wiretaps placed on leaders of the civil rights movement during that pivotal time. Although currently in the United States, only a minority of Americans approve of their president's handling of the war in Iraq, the associate professor of social sciences at Boston University's College of General Studies does not include President George W. Bush in these assessments of courageous chief executives. Instead he finds Bush to be of "personal recklessness."

The eloquent Whalen weaves together a brief biography of each president in their stories of political courage. The author's work appeals to a wide audience, including the general public, students, and educators. This work would nicely complement a textbook on American history or U.S. government for both advance high school courses or undergraduate survey courses. Professionals will be impressed with the eight pages of sources yet frustrated by the absence of academic source citations. Whalen's entertaining and well written study of presidential courage is best suited for an audience not familiar with these facts as specialists will not find any new information or insight. As with any list, Whalen's readers will question some of his choices and omissions.

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**Blaine T. Brown and Robert C. Cottrell. *Modern American Lives: Individuals and Issues in American History Since 1945*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2008. Pp. 384. Paper, \$32.95; ISBN 978-0-7656-2223-5.**

*Modern American Lives* was conceived as a college text, meant to supplement the usual survey textbooks. It is composed of thirteen chapters, each focused on two individuals and a key issue. The chapters are grouped into three chronological sections (1945-60, 1960-80, and 1980-present) and cover a broad range of topics: national politics, foreign policy, social and political activism, popular and literary culture,