

mountains is about." So is Eller's *Uneven Ground*. This work just might be Eller's disquieting parable for his long career as well.

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**J. M. Dempsey, ed. *Sports-Talk Radio in America: Its Context and Culture*. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, 2006. Pp. 222. Paper, \$17.95; ISBN-10: 0-7890-2590-6.**

The obsession with sport in America is responsible for the growth of sports-talk radio, an often crude and ugly manifestation of the national sporting culture extolling sexist and racist attitudes. With professional athletes and coaches earning enormous sums of money, frustrated fans seem to believe that as the ticket-buying public it is their prerogative to verbally assault athletes, and this activity is encouraged by radio personalities. While sports-talk radio does not include a large audience, the demographic of males between ages 25 and 54 is an attractive one for advertisers.

The phenomenon of sports-talk radio is addressed by J.M. Dempsey, an associate professor of radio/television at Texas A&M University-Commerce, who also serves as a play-by-play announcer for the university. Dempsey's collection of ten essays, prepared by academics from communications and journalism departments, analyzes the format of successful sports-talk radio stations across the country. These essays indicate that there is a degree of diversity within this niche market. For example, KTCK in Dallas-Fort Worth does not hold broadcasting rights for any big-league sports franchise and relies upon a format of man talk extending beyond the realm of sport, while WEEI in Boston, headed by a rare female general manager, prides itself as providing more sophisticated "adult" sports commentary for its audience. Nevertheless, WEEI radio personalities were censured in October 2003 for comparing a gorilla escaping from a local zoo to an African-American student.

In July 1987, WFAN in New York City became the nation's first all-sports radio station, carrying New York Mets baseball and the controversial *Imus in the Morning*. The success of WFAN encouraged such stations as KOZN in Omaha, KJR in Seattle, WIP in Philadelphia, WGR and WNSA in Buffalo, WHB in Kansas City, WWLS in Oklahoma City, and WQTM in Orlando, all of which form case studies for the Dempsey volume. Despite the growth of national programming such as ESPN Radio and the syndicated *Jim Rome Show*, this collection of essays suggests that localism remains a significant factor in the sports-talk radio format. Dempsey concludes that sports-talk radio will continue to play an important role in the market, but he implores program directors to keep tighter reins on their radio personalities to restore a degree of civility to the nation's air waves.

The essays in *Sports-Talk Radio* tend to rely upon interviews with radio personnel and will constitute a relatively easy read for students. Accordingly, *Sports-*

*Talk Radio in America* should make for a lively text in media and sport history classes. The volume, however, lacks the sustained critical analysis of a cultural studies approach that would place the phenomenon of sports-talk radio in broader historical and cultural context.

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**Gary W. Reichard and Ted Dickson, eds. *America on the World Stage: A Global Approach to U.S. History*. Urbana, IL: The University of Illinois Press, 2008. Pp. 352. Paper \$25.00; ISBN 978-0-252-07552-0.**

After reading *America on the World Stage: A Global Approach to U.S. History*, one might feel depressed and excited simultaneously. Depressed at how little you might be covering in your own survey course, but excited at the prospect of incorporating many of the concepts and teaching strategies contained in the book. Fourteen essays, all previously published in the Organization of American Historians *Magazine of History*, accompanied by teaching strategies that offer practical approaches to incorporate the essay's content into the survey class urge historians to rethink American history in a global age and how they teach the survey course.

Using a loose chronological and thematic approach, the book provides us an uneven breadth of coverage. The first three chapters dealing with the Atlantic world, the Declaration of Independence, and the origins of slavery are all wide ranging in scope and cover the colonial era. The next four essays explore the global nature of religion, the West, urbanization and industrialization, and the Civil War and Reconstruction in nineteenth-century American history. Rounding out the volume for twentieth-century American history are the themes of reform, migration, civil rights, race and citizenship, popular culture, women, and the Cold War. All of the essays, written by historians with extensive expertise in their respective areas, provide excellent content summaries and connect the most recent research in the field with traditional approaches. True to their charge, each essay reiterates the theme that American history has not occurred in a vacuum but is intertwined with ideas, events, and people from all over the globe.

The teaching strategies that accompany the essays offer a wide variety of methods to integrate the theme of globalization into survey courses. For example, suggestions include using tea and sugar as focal points for the global nature of the Atlantic world, exploring the Ellis Island website for migration history, analyzing posters portraying women during World War II from several different nations, and comparing independence movements and declarations from different locations and dates. Historians will find clear and detailed information on where to locate the teaching materials and how to apply any of the pedagogical techniques. Yet, many might question whether incorporating too many of these techniques would take away from covering the basic material standard to any survey course.