

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.

This brief summary does not do justice to the essays or the teaching strategies. The content of the essays might contain little that is new for those who keep abreast of recent scholarship, but the extensive bibliographic material and detailed teaching strategies should provide innovative material for lectures and discussions. Considering the breadth of an American history survey, not all topics could be included in this volume: Economic, military, and political histories play less of a role here than social, cultural, and diplomatic history, and those who stress American colonial history might be disappointed at the emphasis on nineteenth and twentieth-century history. Yet this criticism should not detract from the book. *America on the World Stage: A Global Approach to U.S. History* should be required reading for all of us who teach American history survey courses at the secondary and college level.

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Peter F. Nardulli, ed. *Domestic Perspectives on Contemporary Democracy*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2008. Pp. 192. Paper, \$23.00; ISBN 978-0-252-07521-6.

This collection of original essays concerning democracy and the challenges it faces throughout the world is the result of events beginning with the establishment of an endowed center, The Cline Center for Democracy, at the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois. The intentional focus is on “the big picture” for democracy in the world in view of increasing diversity and “Information Age innovations.” The essays originally presented at a conference in 2004 generated discussion among attending scholars representing “a variety of subdisciplines.” Revisions based upon scholarly input resulted in the final collection presented here. The collection is invaluable as a tool to evaluate democracies at their various stages in the world today, to offer learned considerations and options for improving or stabilizing existing democracies and to offer best chance scenarios for establishment of lasting democracy in transition countries such as Iraq. (It is worth noting that “the companion volume, *International Perspectives on Contemporary Democracy*, deals with ... the prospects for a fourth wave of democratization and the challenges that globalization poses for democratic governance.”)

This text is for serious scholars of democracy and those involved in policymaking for governing authorities. It would be better used in upper-level courses as a text. However, it is a wonderful source for an instructor of lower-level courses. Various chapters could be assigned for students to write essays on or an instructor could enrich his own knowledge and capacity to expand discussion by reading this.

The focus is on government, politics, and the future. While historical examples are frequently examined, the main emphasis is not historical. The research presented and discussed is extensive. Essays cover challenges to democracy presented by demography, technology, transition in divided societies, citizenship and identity in