

with a very limited view of the changes required to reform the Soviet system, the ruling elite, and the party. He accelerated the efforts to streamline and modernize the system but did not want to change direction. When these policies made matters worse, Gorbachev looked beyond the party and the ruling elite to a role for the Soviet people. In doing so, Gorbachev broke with the decades-old policy of stressing party leadership. Galeotti concludes that Gorbachev grew as an evolutionary political leader who accepted the new realities that required reforms much more radical than he imagined initially.

Galeotti's account of Gorbachev's revolution will make an excellent text for twentieth-century Soviet history courses. There are helpful charts and diagrams, useful reading lists of works in English following each chapter, a bibliography for further reading, and appendices providing a chronology of events and capsule biographies of the main personalities. On the other hand, Tompson's political biography can be used as collateral reading for advanced courses and will be helpful in fleshing out lectures for nearly any twentieth-century history course.

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**John W. Young.** *Britain and the World in the Twentieth Century.* London & New York: Arnold, 1997. Pp. xi, 250. Paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-340-54013-3. Cloth, \$59.95; ISBN 0-340-69174-3.

*Britain and the World in the Twentieth Century* is a fine book. It is well written, well organized, and very informative. The work is part of a series titled "International Relations and the Great Powers," a series that includes *Japan and the World since 1868*, with titles such as *France and the World in the Twentieth Century*, and *The United States and the World in the Twentieth Century* forthcoming.

The author of *Britain and the World in the Twentieth Century*, John W. Young, Professor of Politics at the University of Leicester, also wrote *Britain and European Unity, 1945-92*, *Winston Churchill's Last Campaign*, and *Cold War Europe*. Professor Young has a firm grasp of the material and the ability to present it clearly. The author does presuppose a slight knowledge of twentieth-century English and European history on the part of the reader, but a detailed knowledge is not necessary.

After an excellent introduction to Britain at the turn of the century, the various chapters discuss the major divisions of English foreign policy from 1905 to 1997. Some examples: "Entente and Anglo-German Rivalry, 1905-1914," "Great War and Imperial Crisis, 1914-1924," "Third Power, 1945-1956," and "Reluctantly European, 1973-1997." Each section looks at the major policy makers, be they Foreign Secretary or Prime Minister, and those things that have tended to influence their decisions. The author discusses those aspects of English society that determine foreign policy



(psychological, social, historical, economic, etc.) and the policy itself. The contention is that Great Britain has not, as Dean Acheson said, become a country that "has lost an empire ... and not yet found a role," but a country whose role has changed over the century. Especially strong are the parts of the book in which the author discusses the difficulties England had in giving up her position as the world's major imperial power, her relations with the United States, and how hard it has been to decide what approach to take concerning the European Union and what role Britain should play in that Union.

The work contains a two-page list of abbreviations and what they stand for; in the modern world of "alphabet soup," this eliminates the difficulty of trying to remember what a certain collection of letters means. A very fine bibliographical essay discussing the major works on the topic of twentieth-century English foreign policy is included. This is a minor point, but it would be helpful if the author had provided a basic chronology and a list of Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers with their party and dates.

The work is on too specific a topic to be used in high school or in a general college survey on England, but it is strongly recommended for any detailed course on modern England, English foreign policy, or modern European foreign policy. The book should be in the library of any historian who teaches English or European history and it will make a wonderful source for lecture notes. The work is a must-have for all college libraries.

*Britain and the World in the Twentieth Century* is a most impressive achievement. Hopefully the other books in the series will be as clear, concise, and informative as this one.

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**Patrick Finney, ed. *The Origins of the Second World War*. London & New York: Arnold, 1997. Pp. xviii, 461. Cloth, \$59.95; ISBN 0-340-67641-8. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-340-67640-X.**

This collection of readings, based upon recent research into various German, Japanese, Italian, Chinese, French, British, and American documents that were still classified during the 1960s, presents the basis for Finney's observation that the origins of World War II were very much more complex than the traditional Eurocentric or nationalistic scholarship written largely by the victors. The readings come from a selection of works by such historians as David Dilks, Sidney Aster, Anthony Adamthwaite, Tim Mason, and R.J. Overy in the section entitled "Interpretations and Debates." In "Germany, Italy, the USSR and Japan: Dictatorships and Revisionism," there is a sampling of the works of Ian Kershaw, MacGregor Knox, Teddy J. Uldricks,