

and Hosoya Chihiro. R.A.C. Parker, Stephen A. Schuker, Arnold A. Offner, and Michael A. Barnhart contribute to "Great Britain, France, and the United States: The Democracies at War." The studies by Scott Newton, Williamson Murray, John Erickson, and Philip M. Taylor contribute to "Beyond Diplomacy: Economics, Strategy and Opinion." The final section, "The Approach of War," features selections from Willard C. Frank, Jr., Gerhard L. Weinberg, Anna M. Cienciala, and David Reynolds.

One of the Arnold Readers in History series, this book provides a starting point from which to synthesize the post-1960s historiography of the origins of the Second World War. Although useful as a reader for an undergraduate course on World War II, this work would also enable a United States history survey instructor to quickly glean notes for a lecture on the origins of World War II in that it provides a basis for understanding the issues surrounding the war's origins from a multinational perspective in a thematic framework. It would also be useful in a graduate readings course on the interwar years. Moreover, each section is prefaced with an excellent introduction and literature survey. The edited bibliography and notes are also quite good.

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**Robert D. Marcus and David Burner, eds. *America Firsthand*. Boston: Bedford Books, 1997. Vol. 1—*Readings from Settlement to Reconstruction*. Pp. xv, 308. ISBN 0-312-15349-X. Vol. II—*Readings from Reconstruction to the Present*. Pp. xv, 336. ISBN 0-312-15348-1. Paper, each \$27.32.**

The fourth edition of *America Firsthand* delivers exactly what it promises. It "gives voice to ordinary Americans," providing a wide range of eyewitness accounts that permit students to sample "a broad range of human experience." The selections are substantial enough, ranging from six to eight pages each, to allow students "to immerse themselves in each writer's perspective." *America Firsthand* is intended to help meet "the challenge of connecting traditional chronology with the new materials of social history." Both volumes are organized in accordance with "the traditional markers of United States history" and include accounts of the American Revolution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the two World Wars, the Great Depression, and the Vietnam War. The editors' introduction to each part announces the theme and briefly explains the relationship of each selection to that theme. The equally concise headnotes preceding each reading are very informative and help contextualize the subject matter for the beginning student.

For instructors wishing to assign primary source readings, this reviewer has no hesitation in recommending that *America Firsthand* be given careful consideration. Of

the 44 selections contained in the first volume, I identified six that I thought most students would find fascinating--writings of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, letters from Abigail Adams to her husband, John, and son, John Quincy, a Mexican account of the Battle of the Alamo, the journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the autobiography of a female slave, Harriet Jacobs, and the autobiography of a Lowell mill girl, Harriet Hanson Robinson. I counted nine other selections that I believe most students will find very interesting. There were only five or six selections, primarily those in Part one, "Indians and Europeans: Cultural Conflict," that I thought my students might find uninteresting or difficult to move through.

Not surprisingly, I found the anticipated level of student interest in the selections in the more recent second volume even higher. I would rate eight of the 45 selections in the second volume truly outstanding, including the journal of slaveowner Henry William Ravenel at the end of the Civil War, James Rusling's description of Chinese immigrant life in the Far West in the early 1870s, J. Robert Oppenheimer's reflections on the Manhattan Project, the reminiscences of Fanny Christina Hill, an African American "Rosie the riveter," letters to the author of *The Feminine Mystique*, Betty Friedan, and conflicting perspectives on "The My Lai Incident (1968-70)." I think my students would probably find eleven more of the selections very interesting and only three or four difficult or uninteresting.

Each of the six parts of each volume begins with two differing "points of view" on a significant event or issue. As with any collection, these sections vary in quality and interest level from two fascinating accounts of the Battle of the Alamo (1836) to the more pedestrian descriptions of Sherman's "March to the Sea." One of the highlights of volume II is the section at the beginning of Part Six, "New Boundaries: Discontent and Yearning for Security," which presents the conflicting views on My Lai. The points of view on the building of the Atomic Bomb, which introduce Part Five, "Global Reach: War, Affluence, and Uncertainty," are also very interesting and informative, helping to make the section on the period 1942-1960 the strongest in either volume in my estimation.

As with any collection of primary sources, some parts of *America Firsthand* are more captivating and informative than others. Although Part Two of volume I contains several interesting selections from the late seventeenth and mid-eighteenth centuries, it is only with the section on the American Revolution and the Constitution, Part Three, that it really hits its stride. Part Four, which focuses on westward expansion, contains a few writings of very high interest (the journals of Lewis and Clark and the Mexican account of the Battle of the Alamo), but lacks thematic unity. Part Five, "An Age of Reform," excels in its accounts of slavery and women's rights. Part Six, covering the Civil War and Reconstruction, was the most disappointing of volume I, given the abundance of interesting source materials available for this period, through the Freedmen and Southern Society Project, for example.

Most of the selections in Part Six of volume II, which begins with the Port Huron Statement of the Students for a Democratic Society (1962) and ends with a piece about the Internet written in 1996, are also well worth assigning to students, although they are not closely related thematically. The remainder of volume II, although it contains a few outstanding selections such as Ravenel's reflections on the impact of emancipation and Rusling's description of Chinese immigrant life, does not live up to that high standard. For those instructors who wish to use the example of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire (1911), part Three "Industrial America: Opportunity and Exploitation" presents two complementary perspectives. It also contains sage advice from Andrew Carnegie on how to succeed in business and a pointed critique of the Standard Oil Company by a competing oil refiner who was put out of business. However, the other three parts of volume II contain few selections which would awaken strong interest in my students.

As with any collection of primary sources, each instructor will have to decide how many of the readings in *America Firsthand* he or she finds suitable for the survey course. For those instructors who devote considerable attention to the institution of slavery and who wish to emphasize the everyday lives of African Americans and women, volume I deserves serious consideration. For those desirous of going into considerable depth about the United States since World War II, volume II offers an abundance of excellent sources. Those teachers fitting neither of the preceding descriptions should probably do their own detailed inventory in order to decide whether these carefully edited volumes should be added to their list of required reading.

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**Richard S. Dunn and Laetitia Yeandle, eds. *The Journal of John Winthrop, 1630-1649*. Abridged Edition. Cambridge, MA & London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1996. Pp. xxii, 354. Paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-647-48427-4.**

Rather than a collection of daily introspections, John Winthrop consciously wrote his *Journal* as a history, with entries that sometimes follow a daily course, and others that omit large periods of time. Some occurrences are more fully treated than others, based on the importance accorded them by Winthrop. As a central character in the political events of the Massachusetts Bay colony, he often offered accounts that either defended or justified his position. Nonetheless, the journal does offer an intriguing view of the society of early Massachusetts.

Winthrop's journal often fails to provide a full account of the events it refers to. The fact that this is an abridged edition, representing approximately forty percent of