

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

the original journal, undoubtedly magnifies this effect. The reader is aided in contextualizing the material by Dunn and Yeandle's excellent informational footnotes. Most students, unless they possess an intimate knowledge of Puritan New England, would quickly get lost in the plethora of names and places introduced by Winthrop. The notes, however, cannot fix the rather disjointed nature of Winthrop's narrative. The editors' updating of the language has made it fairly user-friendly, but the content tends to jump from one subject to the next, and a number of episodes that Winthrop raises are never satisfactorily concluded. This flaw, of course, belongs to Winthrop, but if one is looking for continuity of narrative, it is difficult to find here.

The great value of this edition of Winthrop's journal is not so much in its depiction of the standard major events such as the Pequot War or the controversies with Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson. In fact, a reader seeking definitive information on these events would be better served going elsewhere. However, the journal does shine by providing insight into Massachusetts's relations with neighboring Indian tribes and the social and political dynamics of life in New England. The kinds of interactions that usually are missing from the standard texts come to the surface in the journal. A thoughtful reading reveals the complexity of white-Indian relations in early New England, as well as the complex intersections between the secular and spiritual lives of the colonists. Another advantage of the journal is how well it reflects the Puritan conception of a God who intercedes in daily affairs. Miscarriages, storms, accidents, and other dramatic episodes are related to the reader as messages from God, lessons in the consequence of sin, or signs of God's favor. There was nothing distant about the Puritan's God.

*The Journal of John Winthrop* would be used best in advanced history courses that focus on colonial New England or devote a good portion of the semester to its study. Students would benefit, however, by using this book in conjunction with fuller treatments of colonial Massachusetts that would provide greater context and a more balanced perspective of Puritan society. From an instructor's point of view, the journal is full of material that can be used in preparing lectures on colonial Massachusetts, including numerous examples that show that the inhabitants of New England were all too human. The colonists engaged in struggles for political power, quarreled over stray pigs, committed adultery, became involved in other sexual scandals, and even committed murder. Also potentially valuable for instructors and students are Winthrop's discussions of the nature of government, and his responses to a growing population's demands for broader political representation. For those concerned with the political development of the nation, these episodes offer an interesting glimpse into the social conditions that would later lead to the establishment of a democratic republic in the United States.