

There is a great deal in this book about the daily lives of Puritans. They emerge as people trying to balance a demanding view of the world and of man's relationship to God with the human impulses to love, provide for children, relax, and enjoy the many good things life offers.

The book will serve well as an introduction to Puritanism in a survey course or an upper-level colonial history course. It is engagingly written and informed by an impressive command of both the literature and sources on colonial New England and Puritanism.

Murray State University

William H. Mulligan, Jr.

Don Nardo. *The Bill of Rights*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 1998. Pp. 128. Paper, \$12.95; ISBN 1-56510-740-3.

Opposing viewpoints readers are among the most established of all forms of supplementary reading in the history classroom. By presenting history in the form of discourse, and demonstrating the steps in the process through which we move in constructing an interpretation of the past, a good interpretive reader can help students appreciate historical method. This type of assignment often facilitates student participation, from one-on-one discussions to teams in mock legislatures, conventions, and courts. With a bit of guidance from a good moderator, it's a proven path to student involvement.

The Bill of Rights is part of a larger series of digests being produced by Greenhaven Press. Style and length suggest a target audience of high school and community college readers, although the author is careful not to speak down to the audience. Nardo first devotes some fifteen pages to summarizing the ideas and events that surrounded James Madison as he led the fight to amend the Constitution between 1788 and 1791. Then Nardo moves through six point/counterpoint debates, each about ten pages in length, where he separately summarizes the pro and con arguments on the need for a written Bill of Rights, the limitation on free speech, the censorship of the press, the inclusiveness of due process, the death penalty as cruel and unusual punishment, and the restriction of civil liberties in wartime. Each section thus contains two briefing sheets, each with short documentary quotations, that a student could present with little editing in class discourse. A thirteen-page appendix provides the text of the Bill of Rights and excerpts from ten other documents, four of which were considered by Madison in preparing his proposed amendments and five of which relate to twentieth-century legal cases. Both the text and the more modern documents lean strongly toward debates on civil rights and liberties in wartime and other emergency situations. A short chronology, a list of study questions, and two brief bibliographies complete the supporting materials.

The volume strives to suggest the role historical understanding can contribute to debates over contemporary issues. Thus, while it devotes a fair portion of its content to eighteenth-century affairs, it will probably be more useful if used in connection with course modules where twentieth-century figures are placed in the situation of looking back in time to debate the extent and meaning of original intent within the Constitution. If you enjoy drawing your students into discussions of the contemporary relevance of the Madisonian view of politics, this could serve you well. Be cautioned, however, that Nardo's summaries presuppose that each question has one basic positive and one basic negative argument--presented in summaries so carefully prepared that students may be tempted to deliver, rather than to formulate, a position. In that important sense the book may serve debates better than discussions.

Butler University

George W. Geib

Eve Kornfeld. *Margaret Fuller: A Brief Biography with Documents.* Boston & New York: Bedford Books, 1997. Pp. xiii, 252. Paper, \$8.50; ISBN 0-312-12009-5.

Margaret Fuller was well known in early nineteenth-century America as a writer, philosopher, feminist, and activist. She was part of the Transcendentalist movement, a friend and colleague (and often a critic) of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the first editor of the Transcendentalists' journal, the *Dial*, and the first American woman journalist to serve as a foreign correspondent. Yet she remains virtually unknown to Americans today. In this brief biography, Eve Kornfeld, professor of history at San Diego State University, attempts to convey the essential elements of Fuller's life and her struggle to create a personal identity that would enable her to live a "fully human life" without what she considered to be artificial constraints based on gender, class, or race.

The first seven chapters of the book describe Fuller's childhood and education, her involvement with the Transcendentalists, the development of her feminist social vision, her work as literary critic for the *Dial* and Horace Greeley's *New York Daily Tribune*, and her sojourn in Rome during the Italian Revolution. Kornfeld admirably weaves background information about the time period together with an analysis of events in Fuller's life to produce a balanced account that still allows for diverse interpretation. Yet, because this is a brief biography, several areas of her life and times are not fully covered, leaving open possibilities for inquiring students to do further research. The second half of the book contains samples of the letters and writings by Fuller and contemporary responses to her.

Clearly, Kornfeld wrote this book for use in undergraduate classes. Her crisp, precise, jargon-free writing conveys the complexity of Fuller's philosophy without sounding patronizing. In particular, Kornfeld's excellent summary of Transcendental philosophy and Fuller's feminist critique of the central core values of