

of 1875 and ushered in Jim Crow segregation, Dr. Harvey Wiley's crusade to clean up the nation's food supply, women's suffrage advocate Alice Paul, the General Motors Strike of 1937, and the significance of immigration on the recent past.

The text is a collection of twenty-four such articles focusing primarily on the social and political history of the U.S. from 1877 to the present. The book is divided into three parts: part one contains readings covering the period from 1877 to 1900; part two focuses on the years 1900 to 1945; and part three looks at America after 1945. Each unit is introduced by a brief overview of the period with an effort made to touch upon those specific topics to be addressed in the succeeding articles.

The readings are generally written in a lively, crisp manner. A couple of them deserve special mention. John F. McCormack, Jr.'s, "Hell on Saturday Afternoon" is a brief but engaging look at the Great Triangle Fire of 1911. McCormack is not only able to capture the chaos of that tragic March day, but he also illustrates well the darker side of American industrial growth in the early twentieth century. In addition, Kenneth G. Alfors's own article "I Am Not a Crook! Corruption in Presidential Politics" succeeds in placing the issue of presidential corruption in a broader historical context than merely the past few decades.

Although these articles have the potential to encourage classroom discussion, perhaps a list of questions to consider might have been placed either in the introduction to the article or immediately following the reading. This could aid students in isolating major ideas within the readings more effectively and might further encourage them to make connections to broader themes in the time periods.

In sum, for a collection of articles to be a useful pedagogical tool, it must be readable and, at the same time, challenge students to think in historical context. *Perspectives on America* has the potential to achieve both tasks and, therefore, might be an option for instructors seeking a supplemental text for the second half of the U.S. history survey course.

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Colin G. Calloway, ed. *Our Hearts Fell to the Ground: Plains Indian Views of How the West Was Lost*. Boston & New York: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1996. Pp. xiv, 226. Paper, \$7.50; ISBN 0-312-13354-5.

Our Hearts Fell to the Ground follows the fate of Plains Indian people as they recoiled from, resisted, and accommodated the dramatic and devastating effects of military campaigns, forced removals, and cultural terrorism during the nineteenth century. Both a companion volume to Calloway's earlier *The World Turned Upside Down: Indian Voices from Early America* (1994) and a collection of native voices able to stand on its own, this latest addition to the Bedford Series on History and Culture

is clearly aimed at a community college and four-year undergraduate audience and less obviously directed at people interested in American Indian issues.

Colin Calloway, professor of history and Native American studies at Dartmouth College and author most recently of *New Worlds for All* (1998), contributes a rich collection of native voices that tell a riveting and sorrowful story about relations between indigenous people and American settlers, government officials, reformers, and missionaries. Two elements contribute to the successful presentation of Indian insights and voices in *Our Hearts Fell to the Ground*. First, there are Calloway's wonderfully-crafted thirty-page introduction and fifty-plus pages of contextual material. Considered together, these eighty pages suggest that army bullets, transcontinental railroads, and gold rushes were experienced by native people as suppressions of local autonomy, as thefts of ancestral homelands, and as deaths of friends and family members. Within the setting developed by Calloway—the American conquest of the Plains—readers can probably acknowledge the relevance of hearing and listening to native voices.

Second, there is Calloway's excellent collection of texts and images. Through these materials, Calloway captures traces of indigenous idioms elucidated in oral tales and vision stories, inscribed in native naming practices, chronicled in winter counts, buffalo robes, and sketchbooks, and mediated through autobiographical texts. Twenty-seven black-and-white illustrations add visual support to a book that privileges a native standpoint on events in the nineteenth century. Calloway's authoritative scholarly voice, the many native voices, and the several images that make up *Our Hearts Fell to the Ground* haunt the overly-congratulatory nationalistic and popular tale of how the West was won which, shamefully, too many Americans accept as the only truth. In a three-page epilogue, Calloway suggests that Indian people not only survived the extermination campaigns and forced assimilation policies of federal officials, reformers, and missionaries, but today "continue to fight to hold on to things they deem essential to their survival as a people."

Professors and teachers could (and should) make *Our Hearts Fell to the Ground* required reading in surveys of U.S. history, in beginning American Studies courses, and in advanced undergraduate seminars, such as courses that concentrate on ethnicity, manhood and nationhood, colonialism, and subaltern political and cultural struggles and resistances. The introductory materials and the documents are short and readable enough to serve as foundations for reasonable one-week assignments aimed at training students to construct arguments from primary sources. In addition, *Our Hearts Fell to the Ground*, when used with Calloway's notes and selected bibliography, might facilitate semester-long projects wherein students further investigate Plains warfare, assimilation campaigns, and forms and criticisms of native self-narrations. Calloway's work also might encourage deeper appreciation of those native voices today that admonish sport teams whose mascots lampoon real Indian people and that insist plastic

shamans and non-Indian artists continue an American tradition of robbing native people of their cultural capital.

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Robert W. Cherny. *American Politics in the Gilded Age, 1868-1900.* Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1997. Pp. Xi, 167. Paper, \$11.95; ISBN 0-88295-933-6.

Robert Cherny, a member of the Department of History at San Francisco State University, has written a comprehensive overview of American politics from the immediate post-Civil War period to the Progressive Era. In a lively prose style, he reviews major political happenings and suggests ways to interpret this spirited period.

Cherny contends that American voters principally responded to issues of ethnicity, religion, and race. At times a strong sense of class identity influenced behavior at the polls. Generally, Republicans represented a more homogeneous coalition of voters, who embraced Protestantism, promoted moral values, and endorsed a positive expectation that government could accomplish a limited number of social and economic goals. Democrats, on the other hand, showed greater religious heterogeneity, represented by Roman Catholics in the North and old-stock Protestants in the South, but they shared common opposition to the strong use of government. As Cherny suggests, Democrats were part of the "personal liberty party," carrying on the tradition of the Jeffersonian-Jacksonians. Moreover, there existed considerable popular interest in politics, resulting at times in fierce competition between the two major parties. Any effort to enact a national party agenda was doomed, given the need to win approval from two houses of Congress and the White House. After all, it was unusual for either Democrats or Republicans to dominate this all-powerful political trinity. And Cherny cogently argues that political assumptions, strategies, and events of the Gilded Age helped to establish the essential foundation for twentieth-century politics.

This is a solid piece of work. Cherny has crafted a readable monograph that is ideally suited for classroom use, especially upper-division courses on the Gilded Age or the Populist crusade. Perhaps, too, this book might find a place in a post-Civil War survey class. Cherny consistently explains complicated political events in a clear and interesting fashion; his review of the Greenback movement is a good illustration of such coverage. An imaginative appendix, which includes tables on such topics as farm production, crop prices, and popular and electoral votes for the presidency, should assist readers to understand this "watershed" period in the nation's political life. A bibliographical essay is also helpful; it is extensive and up-to-date. If there is a weakness, it surely involves some of the poorly reproduced illustrations. Nevertheless, quality and price make *American Politics in the Gilded Age* a smart choice for