family: public versus private power, Christian and legal "theory" versus actual experience, marriage practices and politics. Students will further benefit from seeing how historians carefully use disparate types of sources (art, chronicles, charters, literature, ecclesiastical treatises) to construct a history of women. The book's illustrations are especially helpful. The articles provide models for the interpretation of primary texts concerning women of all social strata. For undergraduates (probably above the introductory level), *Medieval Queenship* is accessible and readable, yet demonstrates attention to language and detail that enables historians to piece together a portion of medieval experience. As an exercise, students can examine through discussion or in writing the boundaries and controversies that characterize the study of medieval women.

Students of all levels can appreciate the lengthy and current bibliography that accompanies the collection. Teachers preparing their lectures will no doubt benefit from the sometimes poignant, other times startling anecdotes that appear throughout the book. It is a particularly good text for use in an undergraduate course on the aristocracy, family, and/or women.

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Christopher Haigh. *Elizabeth I.* London & New York: Longman, 1998. Second edition. Pp. viii, 209. Paper, $16.95; ISBN 0-582-31974-9.

If Elizabeth I is on your mind, avoid the unfortunate 1998 film bearing her name and direct your attention to this readable assessment of how she exercised power. Haigh's approach is to explore Gloriana's relationship with the people who orbited around her and to key political institutions, including the official Church, the nobility, her Privy Council, the Court, Parliament, the military, and her subjects. In the process, he reveals the means by which Elizabeth survived as a ruler, especially as a female ruler. We also learn about the woman behind the mask of royalty who concentrated her energies not on analyzing and solving national problems but on surviving. Haigh's is an insightful, sometimes critical study of England's greatest icon since King Arthur.

Elizabeth began her existence under tenuous circumstances. She was conceived before her parents wed, while her father was still legally married to his first wife. Before her third birthday, she lost her claim to the throne with the stroke of a pen and her mother to the swing of an ax. Years later, we are told, she certainly reflected upon these events as examples of the power of Tudor monarchy and of the forces and factions capable of manipulating that power. Actually, the word "certainly" is at best educated speculation, but that is a vital ingredient in Haigh's approach and a useful technique for moving the story along effectively. It also presents the teacher with an opportunity to engage students in the nature of the historian's craft. We don't know,

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for example, precisely what Elizabeth learned from her mother's fate, her father's actions, or her years as a subject, but we are made privy to myriad intriguing facts and the author's interpretations. That Elizabeth learned her lessons well is a plausible conclusion, but not the only one. In addition, we discover how Elizabeth, before and after her accession, walked a political tightrope, how political spin was used to fashion the image of a golden age, what limitations to her power she labored under, and what it meant to be a woman ruler and to be ruled by a woman--to be caught up in the contradiction that monarchs should rule and women should obey. Haigh's judgments will make for wonderful class discussion.

Haigh is adept at helping us understand Elizabeth: "... fury made her councillors fear her, but by her attentiveness she also made them love her." An ill Burghley, for example, was not only sent the queen's physician, but she personally fed him soup. In the marriage game, "she offered herself to the highest diplomatic bidder, but since no one could afford her price she became a royal tease rather than a royal tart." The queen's well-known vanity was even evident toward the end of her reign when, at age 64, she received the new French ambassador in her dressing gown and then kept opening it until he realized he was expected "to peep admiringly down her front."

The narrative is generously spliced with quotations from documentary sources that lend authenticity without interrupting the flow. In 1564, for example, upon learning that Mary Queen of Scots was taller than she, Elizabeth said: "Then she is too high! I myself am neither too high nor too low!"

The changes in this second edition are relatively minor, consisting primarily of occasional bits of new information and the addition of views from historians who, in the last decade, have contributed something to augment or bolster the author's interpretation. This is reflected, too, in the updated bibliography. This edition, then, refines the qualities that made its earlier incarnation successful: It presents us with a portrait of a ruling queen, warts, wigs, make-up, and all, a great queen with shortcomings and failures.

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T.C.W. Blanning. *The French Revolution: Class War or Culture Clash?* St. Martin's Press, 1998. Second edition. Pp. vii, 87. Paper, $10.95; ISBN 0-312-17521-3.

T.C.W. Blanning's *The French Revolution: Aristocrats versus Bourgeois?* first appeared in 1987. In his second edition, the subtitle has been changed to *Class War or Culture Clash?* The difference shows the dramatic evolution in French Revolution and *Ancien Régime* scholarship over the course of the past decade. Fortunately the