

Think Anew, Act Anew is a volume of exceptional value. It gives readers a chance to "crawl into Lincoln's head," and see how he understood and wrestled with the important political issues of antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction America. Readers of this impressive volume, according to Simpson, might choose to celebrate or to criticize Lincoln's responses, or both, but *Think Anew, Act Anew* provides them with some of the essential material to realize how Lincoln wrestled with the fundamental issues of his time. If his book contributes to a more informed discussion of "Lincoln the man" and the challenges he faced, then Simpson has done his job. In this reviewer's opinion, he has. College students taking U.S. History to 1877 and Civil War and Reconstruction courses, and their instructors, will find it most useful.

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Louis A. Perez, Jr. *The War of 1898: The United States and Cuba in History and Historiography*. Chapel Hill & London: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. Pp. xvi, 171. Cloth, \$34.95; Paper, \$16.95.

The War of 1898 juxtaposes historical content surrounding the 1898 U.S. war against Spain in Cuba, mistakenly referred to as the Spanish American War, with one hundred years of historiography in a fashion desirable for both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In order to address serious shortcomings in the traditional U.S. account of the Spanish American War story, Louis A. Perez, Jr. incorporates a wide array of primary and secondary sources in each of his five chapters. By carefully weaving each source together, Perez successfully presents a more complete picture of what happened in 1898, as well as a much needed analysis of one hundred years of U.S. historiography.

To begin his book, Perez incorporates into his first chapter, "On Context and Condition," the words of U.S. presidents and politicians from the early part of the nineteenth century to demonstrate U.S. preoccupation with Cuba. While the U.S. preoccupied itself with Cuba, Perez details in chapter two, "Intervention and Intent," how the U.S. responded when Cuba experienced its own preoccupation--ridding the island of Spanish rule. Newspapers, songs, poems, and various secondary interpretations form a persuasive element illustrating the dynamics involved with the U.S. intervention in Cuba. Perez makes it very clear that U.S. officials considered Cuba vital to U.S. interests, and, subsequently, developed the propaganda necessary for American public opinion to support U.S. intervention.

In chapter three, "Meaning of the *Maine*," Perez devotes an entire chapter to the 15 February 1898 explosion of the battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor. This process allows him to highlight one of the specific dynamics of U.S. intervention. Graduate students in particular should find the chapter's combination of primary source

evaluation with various secondary interpretations a model of historical exposition. Following his discussion of the *Maine*, Perez addresses the lacuna of Cuban material in U.S. historiography in chapter four, "Constructing the Cuban Absence." Transcending a simple criticism of U.S. scholars, Perez cites manuscripts and other primary source material to argue persuasively that Cubans played an important role during the U.S. war against Spain.

Perez saves his harshest criticism, however, for his last chapter, "From Memory to Consciousness," as he surveys the place of 1898 in U.S. memory. By analyzing the receptions U.S. historians received over the years upon the publication of their works, Perez convincingly argues that "a vast body of scholarship has been distinguished principally by the persistence of formulations developed at the turn of the century, to which have been added few new insights or significant new information." The failure of U.S. scholars to innovate new approaches or investigate new avenues of research provide all the evidence Perez needs to successfully argue that U.S. scholarship demonstrates a high degree of consensus and conformity. He concludes his text with a well written and descriptive bibliographical essay. Students and teachers alike on any level will find the twenty plus pages a valuable tool that they can refer to time and again. *The War of 1898* belongs in every history classroom on the undergraduate and graduate level and should form a basis of evaluation for U.S. imperialism. Perez provides a great service to historians and deserves a high degree of recognition.

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Daryl Michael Scott. *Contempt and Pity: Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996.* Chapel Hill & London: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. Pp. xix, 269. Paper, \$14.95; ISBN 0-8078-4635-X.

Societal-generated images and perceptions of a population group invariably exact a price. Even when such images are the handiwork of scholars and experts, a toll results nonetheless, often with social and public policy implications. African-Americans are arguably the most glaring population group example of this scenario. Certainly the scholarly debate continues regarding the historical origins of popular perceptions of and about African-Americans. There is as well an ongoing scholarly debate about the social and public policy ramifications of popular images of African-Americans, both historical and contemporary.

In his recent publication, *Contempt and Pity: Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996*, Daryl Scott of Columbia University endeavors to isolate and identify specific bodies of social science scholarship that have given historical currency to notions of pathology in Black life. Indeed, as to his own scholarly intent, Scott leaves little, if any, doubt. It is "to make a contribution to the