

American culture for perpetuating the imagery of the damaged Black psyche. The principal culprit, the neoconservatives now charged, was the liberal and/or welfare state as best epitomized by the Great Society.

Scott's reading of the historical particulars does not necessarily break new interpretive ground but provides instead one of the few longitudinal assessments of the link between public policy and social science scholarship. On the strength of his own wealth of research, primarily in secondary social science literature, Scott reminds us that the imagery of the damaged Black psyche has been an enduring one. Scott's thesis argument as well as his case for the centrality of social science ideas in public policy formation are compellingly rendered and made all the more plausible by a writing style that is immensely readable and fathomable.

Contempt and Pity, because of its extensive inventory of the relevant literature, both printed and manuscript, holds particular pertinency for teachers as a bibliographical reference. Additionally, it has possible classroom application at the undergraduate level in a variety of upper-division courses, including public and social policy, race and race relations, American myth-making and cultural stereotyping, and African-American history. At the graduate level *Contempt and Pity* most assuredly has classroom application for general discussion, review, and debate or possibly as the focus of a carefully posed writing assignment--e.g., position paper. So, depending on the topical and thematic thrust of the particular course, the book has definite classroom application possibilities.

This reviewer recommends *Contempt and Pity* as an informative, engaging, and insightful read for students of African-American history, American civilization, social and public policy formation, and the sociology of ideas. The work should be welcomed by both scholars and interested lay persons who will likely view it as a timely revisitation of one of America's most enduringly recurrent racial and sociological images.

Jackson State University

Dernoral Davis

D. Clayton James and Anne Sharp Wells. *America and the Great War, 1914-1920.* Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1998. Pp. viii, 120. Paper, \$11.95; ISBN 0-88295-944-1.

In *America and the Great War, 1914-1920*, D. Clayton James and Anne Sharp Wells make a useful contribution to the distinguished American History Series from Harlan Davidson. In the spirit of the other works in the series--such as Paul K. Conkin's *The New Deal* or Arthur Link and Richard L. McCormick's *Progressivism--America and the Great War* offers a comprehensive overview of a pivotal topic in a compact package of 98 pages, well suited for introductory or upper-level

undergraduate courses that require a brief survey of the military and home front history of World War I.

America and the Great War packs a tremendous amount of detail into a remarkably tight space. The series editors note that "each of the authors seeks to restore the past as an actual present, to revive it as a living reality," and James and Wells are particularly successful at doing this with respect to the political decision makers and military leaders of the war, along with occasional poignant glimpses into the lives of ordinary Americans both in and out of the military. In four brief chapters, they offer an overview of the conflict, a treatment of the American military experience, a history of the home front, and a description of the war's diplomatic resolution and aftermath.

Military history takes a front seat in this account. In addition to a strong traditional narrative of battles and strategy, the book offers an interesting section on the "Emergence of the Citizen Soldier." The sections on the war itself reflect the military history orientation of the authors (both have taught at the Virginia Military Institute); in fairly uncritical terms they celebrate the Americans' "dash and confidence," "strength and élan," "extraordinary valor," and "daring exploits." The narrative is generally lively and peppered with anecdotes that should hold an undergraduate's attention or provide good material for a lecture.

The chapter on the home front is thorough and vivid, although, surprisingly, the bibliographic essay omits the most useful recent overview of this topic: Neil Wynn's *From Progressivism to Prosperity*. This chapter conscientiously touches on a wide variety of subjects, including the suppression of civil liberties, the conduct of the draft, the employment of women, the expansion of state capacity, the eclipse of progressivism. The positive tone of the chapter title, "Nineteen Months of Progress on the Home Front," encapsulates the authors' view that, despite some black marks on its record, the United States made it through the exigencies of war mobilization "without resorting to a militarist or overly centralized system of controls ... [and] without establishing large permanent central bureaucracies with sweeping powers."

It is inevitable that in a book of this short length, specialists will find gaps or oversimplifications in the discussions of the many topics that can only be treated briefly. This does not negate the utility of having a short, capable synthesis of recent scholarship that provides a solid narrative of the events both at home and overseas in this critical period in American and world history. For a clear account in a short volume that could easily be digested by undergraduates as a weekly reading assignment, *America and the Great War* has few competitors.

Union College

Sarah M. Henry