

subject articles, inset quotations, generous illustrations, color in both illustration and paper, and expert typographic layout to produce a book which is a pleasure to read. For those who can handle history with some advocacy, who want a review of American church history capable of keeping a reader awake and occasionally aggravated, who welcome more understanding of the manifestations of religious life so visible on America's skylines and roadside signs and radio and television, this book is warmly recommended.

Indiana University, Bloomington

L. C. Rudolph

John Foster Dulles: The Road to Power. By Ronald W. Pruessen. (New York: Free Press, 1982. Pp. xiv, 575. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$19.95.)

If this first volume of his projected two-volume biography of John Foster Dulles is an accurate indicator, Ronald W. Pruessen's work should be considered definitive, at least for this generation of historians. Analyzing Dulles's life and thought from his birth in early 1888 until shortly before his appointment as Dwight D. Eisenhower's secretary of state in late 1952, Pruessen has produced a carefully researched, authoritatively argued study that deserves to be read not only by United States diplomatic historians but also by anyone interested in the international political economy, in international organization, or in Republican politics in this century. This book is so impressive, in fact, that Hoosiers can forgive the author for the inclusion of a humorous but derogatory story about practicing law in Indiana in the 1880s, in which the lawyers "earnestly engaged before the judge in contesting the ownership of a hog!" (p. 6).

When he began his research, Pruessen expected "to fill in the details of a rough sketch of Dulles as a rabid and unbalanced anticommunist, a megalomaniacal Presbyterian preacher, a viciously partisan Republican, and a McCarthyite pushover" (p. 2). Instead, the "Dulles who finally took form for me is a complex amalgam, many of whose characteristics have not really been understood before" (p. 2). Pruessen convincingly portrays Dulles as a person whose concern about world affairs "evidenced always a keen interest in the forest as well as the trees" (p. 134), a leader with "a capacity for vision that was broader and deeper than that of many in similar positions . . ." (p. 509).

In numerous articles and speeches from the 1920s onward, in books like *War, Peace and Change* (1939), and in his leadership during World War II on the National Council of Churches' Commission on a Just and Durable Peace, Dulles sought to understand and explain the causes of the world wars and economic crises of

his era and to devise ways to prevent their recurrence in the future. The experience with the high tariff policies of the interwar years, combined with his role as a Wall Street lawyer specializing in international business, convinced him of the value of free trade and stable currencies. The experience of World War II, combined with an abiding admiration for Woodrow Wilson, convinced him of the need, in Pruessen's words, for "a strong mature United States to accept its responsibilities. Americans, he felt, could lead others away from economic autarchy and its inevitable political and military repercussions, could lead others toward a more integrated and rational community of nations" (p. 263).

Pruessen generally praises Dulles for his thinking about world affairs in the 1930s and early 1940s, a time when Dulles emphasized the economic causes of war and warned of the dangers of moralism and chauvinism in describing the Axis powers. The author is much more critical of Dulles's stridently anti-Soviet stance in the late 1940s, of his "increasing tendency to fall prey to the classic trap of confusing national interests with universally desirable goals" (pp. 505-506). In an excellent chapter that analyzes the reasons for Dulles's shift to the Cold War position in 1945-1946, Pruessen suggests the importance of peer pressure among policy makers in lining up against Russia. He also emphasizes Dulles's belief "that Moscow was resisting, and blatantly resisting, the kinds of international reforms which he wanted to see accomplished in the postwar era" (p. 289). While in his diplomatic work for the Harry S. Truman administration Dulles "went far beyond any simplistic Cold Warrior's style" (p. 337); in his speeches and articles he dealt with East-West relations in black/white terms—a pattern that he would continue as secretary of state in the 1950s.

Unfortunately, Pruessen's otherwise excellent work is less than carefully edited. The book is wordy and repetitive in places; symptomatic of the problem is that at least three quotes from Dulles are used twice, and frequently the reader has the sense of having encountered a specific point before. Properly edited, the volume would have been more impressive at 409 pages than it is currently at 509. More awareness of the findings of other scholars, especially for the 1940s, might also have strengthened the author's conclusions.

Earlham College, Richmond, Ind.

Ralph B. Levering

The Troubled Crusade: American Education, 1945-1980. By Diane Ravitch. (New York: Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1983. Pp. xiii, 384. Notes, note on sources, index. \$19.95.)

Diane Ravitch concludes her survey of American education since World War II on an upbeat note: "Those who have labored