

South. In Cuba, Berlin, and Laos he accepted Eisenhower's premises about monolithic Communist encroachment, and his actions were in large measure an extension of the general's strategy both military and covert—using the CIA. He kept the former president informed about foreign affairs and from time to time sought his support, though not his advice. Unfortunately he lacked the Republican president's ability. His handling of the Bay-of-Pigs incident and the situation in Vietnam were inept.

The few weaknesses of the book include instances of carelessness, such as calling Eugene Zukert the secretary of war instead of the secretary of the air force (p. 140) and the Skyhawk fighter airplane the Skylark (p. 171). There are also periodic excursions into side issues or wordy nonsense, such as "Kennedy's only real recourse on Laos was to maneuver between what he was actually doing and what he appeared to be doing" (p. 136). The author clarifies some important issues but obscures others. He is persuasive in showing the coolness between JFK and Jacqueline because of her lack of interest in politics and his affairs with other women, the strength of the president's commitment to an independent South Vietnam (he probably would have kept American troops there), and the lack of evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a conspiracy. He is less convincing when he fails to discuss the possibility that Soviet offensive weapons in Cuba were a response both to Kennedy's continuing buildup of strategic weapons after finding out that the "missile gap" was a myth and to his apparent lack of resolve at the Bay-of-Pigs and at the summit meeting in Vienna, Austria. Parmet emphasizes instead that the president had no choice after discovering Soviet missiles in Cuba but to act militarily and publicly. Khrushchev had lied. Kennedy had vowed not to allow offensive weapons into the hemisphere, and there were pressures on the White House with Republican Senators Kenneth B. Keating of New York and Homer E. Capehart of Indiana calling for an invasion of the island with a communist dictator just ninety miles from Florida.

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Scholars and the Indian Experience: Critical Reviews of Recent Writing in the Social Sciences. Edited by W. R. Swagerty. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, for the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian, Newberry Library, 1984. Pp. x, 268. Notes, index. Cloth-bound, \$22.50; paperbound, \$9.95.)

Since the 1960s the study of Native American history has undergone major changes. Once envisioned as part of a more

general field in the history of the American West, Indian history has recently emerged as a viable, separate field of historical inquiry. Incorporating an ethnohistorical approach, the "new Indian history" now focuses more sharply upon the Indians. The D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian at the Newberry Library has been instrumental in championing this new approach, and this volume is part of their continuing bibliographical series.

The volume contains ten historiographical essays focusing on the broad spectrum of the Indian experience. In chapter one Dean Snow surveys recent writing on North American prehistory, while chapter two contains Henry Dobyns's discussion of current reappraisals of Native American demography. Editor William R. Swagerty devotes the third chapter to a broad discussion of Spanish-Indian relations, and Frederick Fauz discusses contemporary investigations of British-Indian relations. Fauz's essay, which describes the evolution of ethnohistorical inquiry and its impact upon the history of the northeastern tribes, is one of the most perceptive chapters in the volume. Frederick Hoxie surveys the literature of Indian-white relations between 1790 and 1900, while Donald Fixico focuses upon federal Indian policy in the twentieth century. Fixico's chapter contains a good discussion of the historiography pertaining to legal issues that have plagued the tribes since 1900. In chapter seven Russell Thornton, a sociologist, discusses recent literature on subjects such as Indian education, urbanization, health, and economic development. Richard White focuses his essay on Indians' relationship to their environment, while Peter Iverson surveys recent developments in tribal histories. Finally, Jacqueline Peterson and John Anfinson conclude the volume with a perceptive analysis of the recent literature on Indians in the fur trade. Peterson and Anfinson chronicle the shifting emphasis away from depicting Indians as foils for white fur traders and illustrate that new studies present a more sophisticated investigation of the role that both Indian men and women played in this commerce.

The volume has some predictable flaws. As with any survey of "current" literature, the essays are somewhat dated before the volume reaches print, and some of the subject matter in the separate chapters overlaps. These minor problems aside, this is a very useful study that describes the modern "state of the art" in Native American historiography. It should be well received by both historians and anthropologists and should be required reading for any graduate courses in Indian history or historiography.

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