

together only tenuously by some connection to "the great mentor." All scholars are aware of the reviewer's favorite "collection cliché": "The essays are uneven in their quality." Finally, many editors are woefully unsure of their audience: expert or undergraduate? doctoral candidate or generalist? (Few scholarly collections ever dare aim at the layperson.)

Fortunately, *American Choices* largely overcomes these problems. For this work the editors specifically commissioned nine original essays from leading scholars concerning the recent American past. Moreover, the essays are tied to a coherent theme—social and economic impacts on policy decisions since 1960—and each serves as an interpretative overview of basic problems, tensions, and trends rather than a foray into arcane original research. The essays are also basically uniform in quality, style, and coverage in spite of the multitude of facets included: poverty, civil rights, the women's movement, education, nuclear issues, the national economy, energy transitions, America and the world economy, and the Vietnam generation.

There is some minor confusion over audience, more the result of modern educational disparities than the fault of the editors. Specialists will find little in these essays that is new or surprising, while some generalists may have rough sledding with the sections on economics. First-rate graduate students and weak undergraduates may react similarly. The work is probably best suited for use with upper-level undergraduates and master's candidates. One only hopes that the publishers will bring out a paperback edition of this fine collection for such courses.

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Peace Heroes in Twentieth-Century America. Edited and with an introduction by Charles DeBenedetti. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986. Pp. 276. Notes, illustrations, index. \$22.50.)

At a time when the superpowers appear unable to limit the nuclear arms race, Charles DeBenedetti has put together a useful book, *Peace Heroes in Twentieth-Century America*, that recalls earlier opponents of war and its grim devastation. Religion, a commitment to social justice, and abhorrence of war unites these peace heroes, who deserve respect although many failed to halt the wars they feared.

The peace advocates are a diverse lot. Jane Addams moved from concern about the poor community surrounding Hull House in Chicago to efforts to end World War I. Indiana native Eugene V. Debs broadened his horizon from railroad workers to workers throughout the world and urged working Americans to avoid kill-

ing their brother workers in other countries, hence landing Debs in jail. Norman Thomas worked for the cause of peace in years marked by the coming of World War II, the war years themselves, and then the ensuing Cold War. Albert Einstein could urge President Franklin D. Roosevelt to develop an atomic bomb before Nazi Germany; yet, he campaigned after the war for a supranational organization to control this weapon of overwhelming destruction. A. J. Muste served as a conscience for the peace movement until his death in 1967. Norman Cousins, for many years editor of *Saturday Review*, sought to balance his abhorrence of war and distrust of government with a desire to affect the course of government actions, especially during the debate for the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963 and the deepening United States involvement in Vietnam shortly thereafter. Martin Luther King, Jr., saw the movement for civil rights inexplicably linked with and retarded by America's conflict in Indochina. And the Berrigans, Daniel and Philip, justified more violent antiwar opposition from their view of God and morality.

The essays are mostly well written and informative. The introduction at times uses phrases and concepts beyond the comprehension of many college students, and some of the essays are less well researched than others. Still, by bringing together antiwar opponents from the twentieth century and recounting their stories, the book's strengths outweigh its rather slight weaknesses.

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Generations and Change: Genealogical Perspectives in Social History. Edited by Robert M. Taylor, Jr., and Ralph J. Crandall. (Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1986. Pp. xv, 332. Notes, figures, tables, map, appendixes, index. \$28.50.)

The intent of this book is to show the mutual utility of genealogy and social history. The editors, Robert M. Taylor of the Indiana Historical Society and Ralph J. Crandall of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, are both experienced public historians and are well versed in this subject. Their cogent introduction states, accurately, that "the volume familiarizes the reader with highlights of past and present genealogical activity, gauges genealogy's strengths and weaknesses as a reservoir of personal data, and provides examples of genealogies [and genealogical methods] employed in serious historical inquiry" (p. xiii). They also provide a first chapter that includes a brief history of genealogical practice in the United States, as well as a very helpful bibliography embedded in the footnotes.

Besides Taylor's and Crandall's opening chapter, the book includes fifteen others, some of which have appeared previously in