

*Race, War, and Surveillance: African Americans and the United States Government during World War I.* By Mark Ellis. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001. Pp. xx, 325. Notes, selected bibliography, index. \$45.00.)

This timely book is meticulously executed. It will become a staple monograph on the history of the domestic surveillance of African Americans during World War I and the history of the black leadership's response to the "war to end all wars." Ellis exhibits an uncanny ability to peruse and then tease out an epic narrative of African Americans both as objects and agents that is truly extraordinary and is testimony to his impressive command of government intelligence files, archival sources that center on both black and white racial activists, an array of newspapers that give insights into the struggles and dilemmas, and the standard collected primary and secondary sources.

This excellent work covers the history of African Americans' reactions to the war from W. E. B. DuBois's early hawkish articles in *The Crisis* in 1917, referring to its presumably transformative effects on American democracy and government, to the extinguishing in 1919 of most "hopes that the war would rapidly advance the cause of black freedom" (p. 225).

Between these enclosures, Ellis makes his readers aware of the Wilson administration's reluctance to alienate its southern constituencies by refusing either to address the odious domestic problem of lynching forthrightly or to confront—to use Ellis's wording—"the profound sense of alienation which very many African Americans felt from most aspects of American society, at a time when they might have expected to alter their opinions or at least moderate their complaints, for the sake of the war effort" (p. 229).

The drama of the recalcitrant Wilson administration, which detected unrest among a supposedly docile and impressionable black population believed to be peculiarly susceptible to pro-German propaganda and other forms of instigation, and conservative black racial leaders (such as Bookerites as Emmett J. Scott and Robert Russa Moton) are pitted against radical editors and activists, such as William Monroe Trotter, A. Philip Randolph, Chandler Owen, Cyril Briggs, and Hubert H. Harrison. Floating somewhere between these oppositional groups are W. E. B. Du Bois, Joel Springarn, and Walter Howard Loving.

If the book has a hero, it is Loving, who looms over the work in a shadowy way. A former military officer who worked for the Military Intelligence Branch, Loving tried "to bring about adjustments in the tone of black protest so that it would not be misconstrued and suppressed, while at the same time [he tried] to minimize the gross insensitivities of the government—virtually impossible objectives in the dual contexts of fundamental racial discrimination and increasing race

consciousness." Ellis astutely points out that "Loving appears to have some small, but tangible effect on both of his audiences" (p. 119).

Of particular significance for persons interested in Indiana history is Ellis's sketch of Madame C. J. Walker's International League of Darker Peoples that, because of its embrace of Japanese radicals, came under surveillance and later failed to affect the Paris Peace Conference.

In short, Ellis has given us a thorough, judicious work that all serious students of United States history in the twentieth-century should read.

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*Sojourner in the Promised Land: Forty Years Among the Mormons.*

By Jan Shipps. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000. Pp. xiii, 400. Notes, tables, figures, index. \$34.95.)

To those who follow religion in America, Jan Shipps is perhaps the best-known non-Mormon historian of and commentator on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Shipps has "sojournered" among the Mormons literally, intellectually, and spiritually for the past forty years. As a consequence, her remarks have a ring of truth that has long resonated with readers both inside and outside the faith. This book offers a cornucopia of observations and insights in nearly twenty essays culled from previously published classics as well as heretofore unpublished gems. It is the harvest of a long and fruitful career. Not surprisingly, this volume won the annual "Best Book" award from the Mormon History Association.

The book considers a delightful array of topics on both historical and contemporary Mormonism. Shipps's writing style is accessible and engaging, all the more so in this volume because of the conscious insertion of autobiographical material as she reflects on her experiences. One does not have to be a university professor to enjoy this book. The nonspecialist simply curious about the religion of the clean-cut and pleasant young Mormon missionaries who pass through our neighborhoods will learn much by reading *Sojourner in the Promised Land*. The chapter "Is Mormonism Christian? Reflections on a Complicated Question" (pp. 335-57) alone is worth the price of the volume. Similarly helpful is "Joseph Smith and the Creation of Mormon Theology" (pp. 289-301), which was hammered out on the anvil of Shipps's public communication experience as she attempted to "get all the basic information across without creating confusion and misunderstanding" (p. 283). In the same useful cate-