

The Making of the Modern World, from the Renaissance to the Present. By Richard M. Brace. (New York: Rinehart and Company, 1955. Pp. x, 899. Maps, illustrations, appendix, and index. \$6.50.)

Richard M. Brace's *The Making of the Modern World* was published as a companion volume to Stewart Easton's *The Heritage of The Past* and covers the period from the Renaissance to the present. In keeping with a current trend in texts of this kind, Professor Brace has greatly expanded the material in the "non-European" chapters—e.g., those on Asia and America—in an attempt to give the "European" chapters a more adequate and proper frame of reference. Moreover, an effort has been made in this text to arrive at a better balance between purely political developments and those of a social, economic, or intellectual nature. In this respect, however, it is this reviewer's opinion that Easton's *Heritage* is superior to Professor Brace's volume.

Considered as a textbook *The Making of the Modern World* may well prove to be a strong contender in the "second-semester European Civilization" field. There is an introductory chapter entitled "Europe's Inheritance in 1500" which, in thirty-odd pages, concisely and helpfully sets the stage for the main themes of European history of the last four and a half centuries. Most instructors who are familiar with the retention curve of students between the first semester's final examination period and the opening lecture of the second semester will probably feel that chapters of this kind have a definite place in college history textbooks. In addition, *The Making of the Modern World* has illustrations which actually *illustrate* the text material, adequate bibliographies at the end of each chapter, and a series of excellent maps, many of which do more than simply indicate boundary changes at the conclusions of wars—e.g., one captioned "The Expansion of Political Democracy in Europe (after 1914)."

Perhaps the strongest suit of this volume, however, is the author's willingness to subordinate the traditional national and/or chronological emphasis found in "European Civilization" texts to a broader topical approach. It may be argued, on a "first things first" basis, that current freshman-student knowledge of European history demands the foundation provided by the "nation by nation, king by king"

approach. On the other hand, for the vast majority of European Civilization students, for whom the survey course is the first and last such course, it would seem preferable to expose them to more of the ideas and theories *behind* the specific episodes of European history than to count on their retaining the details of the episodes themselves. Thus, Professor Brace has devoted considerable space to discussion of such topics as "Absolutism," "Revolutionary Ideas," and "Reactionary and Liberal Tendencies," thereby providing the student with broad frameworks of ideas which are illustrated and demonstrated in those chapters which deal with separate national histories. In this way, *The Making of the Modern World* may help to solve a common problem of European Civilization students, i.e., the bewildering effect of being jerked abruptly from dynasty to dynasty and from nation to nation, with the most apparent objectives being to cover a certain number of centuries and to include the "powerful" nations.

Vincennes University

J. Robert Constantine

Grand Old Party: A Pictorial History of the First 100 Years of the Republican Party. By M. B. Schnapper. (Washington, D.C.: Public Affairs Press, 1955. Pp. 520. Illustrations, maps, and index. \$6.00.)

This volume includes more than a thousand illustrations of every conceivable type—rare prints, old engravings, posters, lithographs, daguerreotypes, photographs, and cartoons. Integrated with the illustrations are several thousand words of text which provide a narrative of the growth of the G.O.P. from its origin in 1854 to the Eisenhower administration.

The author is the political science editor of Public Affairs Press. He points out in the preface that while the work might well have been impossible without the co-operation of the Republican National Committee, it is in no sense an authorized work, and it was prepared independently of the Republican party.

The book presents the outward aspects of various stages of the development of the Republican party. It contains vivid pictorial material, and is particularly strong in portraits of presidential candidates of the G.O.P. All Republican presi-