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## The War That Wasn't: Religious Conflict and Compromise in the Common Schools of New York, 1865-1900 (Book Review)

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little-known aspect of Canadian Aboriginal history. In so doing, he shows how the introduction of print literacy and the 19th-century development of Indian day school libraries are other locations of colonizing efforts by missionaries and Indian Affairs bureaucrats. The author also shows Aboriginal resistance to that colonization and describes acts of self-determining foresight by the Aboriginal peoples who did want to address literacy in order to adapt to emerging Canadian culture. Excerpts from government memoranda, missionary correspondence, Aboriginal newspaper articles, and photographs provide clear examples of the kinds of print culture that emerged from the period in question. Numerous footnotes elaborate anecdotes or analyses too abstruse to include in the main text. The conclusion includes brief reference to the growth of Aboriginal libraries since 1960, which is a nice touch. Edwards does what good historians do, and that is to speak to gaps in the story and offer deeper understanding. However, his book's strength is also a kind of minor limitation: it concerns an aspect of history that is too esoteric or specific for most students of Aboriginal history in Canada. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*G. Bruyere, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology*

**43-1785** F869 2004-18017 CIP  
 Flamming, Douglas. **Bound for freedom: black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America.** California, 2005. 467p bibl index afp ISBN 0520239199, \$29.95

African Americans have lived in Los Angeles since its founding in 1781; despite its distance from the segregated South, it served as a beacon to those seeking freedom. Southern middle-class, urban blacks moved to southern California for its openness and weather rather than for employment opportunities. Even though conditions started out well, they quickly deteriorated as more blacks moved west. Segregated housing became the norm, with the black community laying claim to Central Avenue. As the city divided, black middle-class leaders—"race" men and women and club women—believed civic action the best way to battle for civil rights. One of this book's strengths is its in-depth analysis of black LA through the eyes of its leading African American citizens. Flamming (Georgia Institute of Technology) uses these local figures and their successes and failures with integration to explore civil rights activity in the US. More than just an excellent history of black Los Angeles, Flamming has written a fascinating study of post-Reconstruction black history that will appeal to scholars and generalists alike. It compares favorably to James Oliver Horton's *Hard Road to Freedom* (CH, Jul'01, 38-6388) and complements Josh Sides's *L.A. City Limits* (CH, Oct'04, 42-1124a). **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.—*D. R. Jamieson, Ashland University*

**43-1786** E445 2004-22416 CIP  
 Follett, Richard. **The sugar masters: planters and slaves in Louisiana's cane world, 1820-1860.** Louisiana State, 2005. 290p bibl index afp ISBN 0807130389, \$54.95

Follett (Univ. of Sussex) presents an informative, cogent, and interesting analysis of the predominant labor management system employed on the antebellum sugar plantations of south Louisiana. Based on extensive research in primary source collections, the book describes the economic, geographic, racial, and social environments in which these sugar planters operated. The author reveals how the planters' managerial philosophy affected the demographic profile of their labor force, resulting in a slave population that was disproportionately male and young. Additionally, Follett's analysis demonstrates how these planters developed and implemented a combination of benefit and coercion that more often than not "induce[d] slave[s] to act in the planters' interest." *The Sugar Masters* joins John Heitmann's *The Modernization of the Louisiana Sugar Industry 1830-1910* (CH, Dec'87) and John Rodrigue's *Reconstruction in the Cane Fields: From Slavery to Free Labor in Louisiana's Sugar Parishes 1862-1880* (2001) as must-read books on the Louisiana sugar industry. Collegiate and research libraries collecting in African American, agricultural, or southern history should own this work. **Summing Up:** Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*B. M. Banta, Arkansas State University*

**43-1787** E183 2004-23690 CIP  
 Glantz, Mary E. **FDR and the Soviet Union: the President's battles over**

**foreign policy.** University Press of Kansas, 2005. 253p bibl index afp ISBN 070061365X, \$34.95

Finally, a book about Robert F. Kelley, Joseph Michela, and Philip R. Faymonville. Flippancy aside, this case study in diplomatic history explains how military attachés and other career foreign service officers worked to undercut President Franklin D. Roosevelt's policies of cooperation toward the Soviet Union. Most had opposed establishing diplomatic relations with Joseph Stalin's regime in 1933, and they recommended setting conditions on Lend-Lease aid both before and after US entry into WW II. While ambassador Joseph E. Davies was loyal to Roosevelt's policies during his years in Moscow (1936-38), his predecessor William C. Bullitt and successors Laurence Steinhardt and W. Averell Harriman came to share misgivings about Soviet ambitions, as did lower-level staff members. Believing that wartime victory and postwar peace depended upon close US-Soviet ties, Roosevelt frequently employed special envoys committed to his vision and at times attempted, with very limited success, to restructure the foreign policy bureaucracy. After his death, however, hard-liners became the architects of President Harry S. Truman's containment policy. Meticulously researched, scholarly, well organized, and crisply written in a style free of jargon, this work clearly implies that Roosevelt's worldview was more realistic than those whose anti-Soviet attitudes set the stage for the costly Cold War. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.—*J. B. Lane, Indiana University Northwest*

**43-1788** LC112 2004-13799 CIP  
 Justice, Benjamin. **The war that wasn't: religious conflict and compromise in the common schools of New York, 1865-1900.** State University of New York, 2005. 285p bibl index afp ISBN 0791462110, \$55.00

Justice's lucid book on education in late-19th-century New York is a welcome contribution and correction to existing scholarship for its attention to religious discussions at the local level, not least because of its attention to previously unused sources. Justice (education, Rutgers Univ.) argues that, despite a few noteworthy exceptions, religious conflict was rare in the transition from the dominantly Protestant to the religiously plural common school system. Public schools, rather than inciting sectarian rivalries, were remarkable in their ability to embody the best of democratic practice. The author attributes such educational democracy principally to the fact that most Americans understood the school system as a "locally based, political system." This localism proved surprisingly immune both to heavy-handed majorities and recalcitrant minorities. Beginning in the 1890s, however, school reformers began to press for a professionally managed educational system, thereby undermining localism, democratic control, and religious compromise. The school systems that emerged in the 20th century largely eschewed religion, rather than allow for local democratic religious compromise. **Summing Up:** Recommended. History graduate students and faculty.—*R. B. Bademan, Sacred Heart University*

**43-1789** E184 2004-7153 CIP  
 King, Desmond. **The liberty of strangers: making the American nation.** Oxford, 2005. 229p bibl index afp ISBN 0195146387, \$29.95

Historically, Americans have subscribed to a one-people ideology where individualism erodes racial and ethnic group distinctions, creating a unified national culture. Although the assimilation process was imperfect and exclusionary, minority groups were given full membership into the polity. King (Oxford) argues that the one-people concept is mythical. Examining US nationalism throughout the 20th century, he argues that the nation is best characterized by its relentless racism. During the Cold War, the US's flaws were exposed by the UN and the USSR. Forced to synchronize its international image as the defender of liberal democracy with its racist domestic impulses, the US was pressured into advancing civil rights. By acknowledging its racist nature, the nation's one-people ideology was shattered and replaced by a post-multicultural one. This turgidly written book has numerous flaws. The notion that the antidemocratic UN and the totalitarian Soviet Union, not the moral good sense of the American people, were responsible for the Civil Rights Movement is ahistorical. Moreover, King seriously overestimates group solidarity by conflating racial advocacy group rhetoric with the attitudes of the group at large. **Summing Up:** Not recommended.—*P. G. Connors, Michigan Legislative Service Bureau*