

# NEWS



*of the History Department at Boston University*

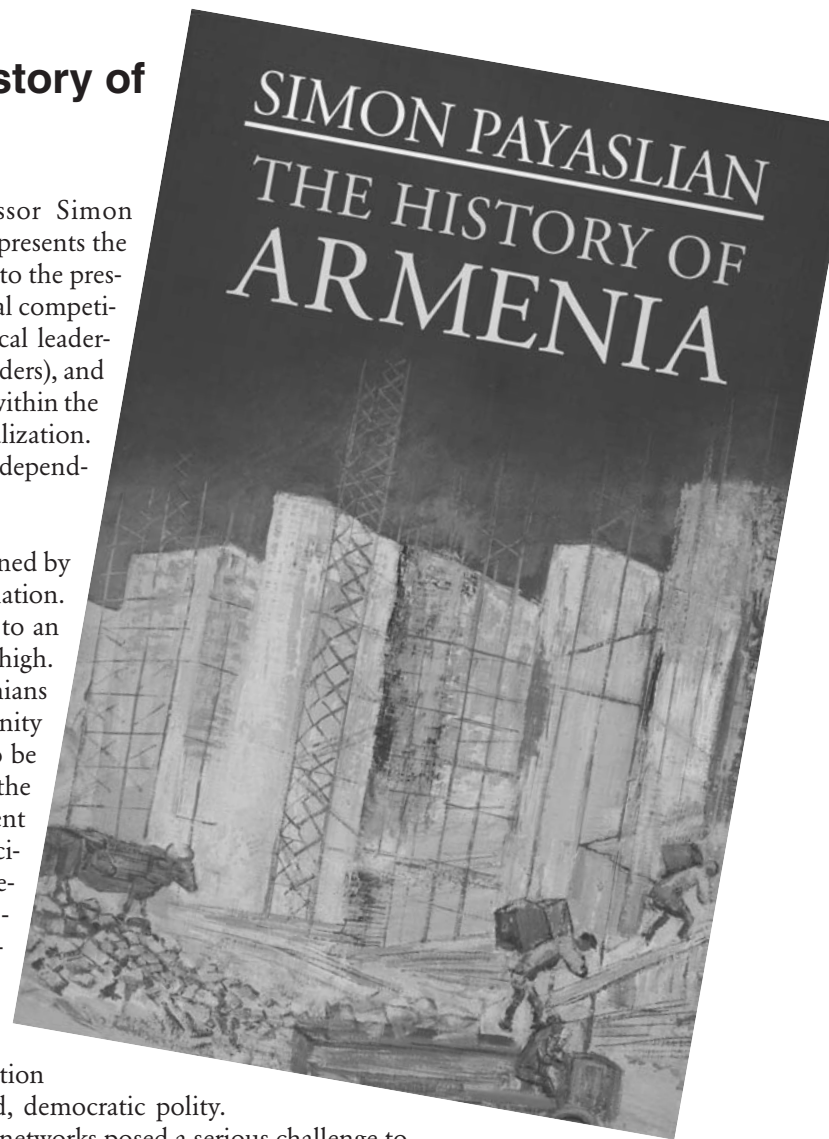
January 2008

## Simon Payaslian authors new history of Armenia

In December Palgrave Macmillan published Professor Simon Payaslian's *The History of Armenia*. In his Preface, the author presents the volume as a survey of the history of Armenia from antiquity to the present, with a focus on four major themes: East-West geopolitical competitions, Armenian culture (e.g., language and religion), political leadership (e.g., *nakhbarars* or the nobility, intellectuals and party leaders), and the struggle for national survival. It places Armenian history within the broader context of secularization, modernization, and globalization.

We are pleased to reprint a section from a chapter on "Independence and Democracy: The Second Republic":

**A**rmenians worldwide greeted the independence regained by the Republic of Armenia with great fanfare and jubilation. Seven decades of Soviet hegemonic rule had come to an end, and Armenian expectations and imaginations soared high. National sovereignty strengthened national pride, and Armenians once more considered themselves as belonging to the community of nation-states. And the Republic of Armenia had much to be proud of, for it had built a modern country, even if under the shadow of the Stalinist legacy. Clearly the newly independent republic in 1991 appeared infinitesimally different from the society that had fallen to the Bolsheviks in 1921. Soon after independence, however, it became apparent that domestic systemic deficiencies would not permit the immediate introduction of political and economic policies predicated on principles of democratization and liberalization. The obsolete institutions, bureaucratic customs, and the political culture as developed under the Communist Party hindered the transition from the centrally planned system to a more decentralized, democratic polity. Moreover, the absence of the Soviet interrepublic industrial networks posed a serious challenge to the emerging Armenian economy. The republic hardly possessed the infrastructure necessary for independent economic development and long-term financial stability. The deplorable conditions inherited from the Soviet regime in the aftermath of the earthquake in 1988 and the military conflict in Karabagh further exacerbated the situation. President Levon Ter Petrosyan sought to enlist the support of the diasporan communities to ameliorate the conditions, but widespread corruption, poverty, unemployment, and irreconcilable disagreements on foreign policy (e.g., Karabagh) undermined the legitimacy of the government and led to his resignation in 1998. The government of Robert Kocharyan, the second president since independence, has developed a more balanced approach to domestic and foreign policy issues, particularly in relations with the dias-



pora. By 2000, conditions appeared to be improving somewhat, albeit slowly. The Soviet regime had failed to develop democratic institutions even decades after Stalin's death, but Armenians were determined to create and cultivate them in the new atmosphere of long-awaited freedom and heretofore untapped potentials and opportunities.

### THE TER PETROSYAN GOVERNMENT

The collapse of the highly centralized regime and the transition to independence required the institutionalization of democracy and therefore a complete rearrangement of the political structure and a metamorphosis of political culture. The newly independent state faced enormous challenges in nearly all aspects of political economy. Expectations for a system based on principles of political and market liberalization could not be disengaged from the geopolitical and economic realities on the ground as inherited from the Soviets; moreover, the new republic was mired in the military crisis in neighboring Karabagh.

The task of institution building required a viable constitution, which was adopted by a national referendum in July 1995. The newly independent government, emulating the western tradition, established three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judiciary. Within the executive branch, the presidency represents the chief of state while the prime minister is head of government. The president is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. He appoints the prime minister, who in turn appoints the members of the cabinet, the Council of Ministers. The legislative branch, the National Assembly, or Azgayin Zhoghov, is unicameral, consisting of 131 members elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The judicial system is headed by the Constitutional Court composed of nine members. The presidency, as developed under Ter Petrosyan since 1991, emerged as the most powerful office. The National Assembly has oscillated between loyalty to the president and paralysis because of internal factional divisions and

has failed to institutionalize effective means to check and balance presidential authority. The Constitutional Court only recently has begun to gain independence from political leaders and politics; as a result, it has lacked a sufficient degree of credibility and legitimacy necessary for a democratic society.

In forming his new government, President Ter Petrosyan sought to establish close relations with the large diasporan communities, especially those in the United States, and invited a number of diasporan Armenians to serve in ministerial posts and as close advisers. These included: Raffi K. Hovannisian, the first minister of foreign affairs of the post-Soviet republic; Sepuh Tashjian, minister of energy; Vardan Oskanian, deputy minister of foreign affairs and later minister of foreign affairs; Gerard J. Libaridian, senior adviser to the president and secretary of the Security Council and later deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Matthew Der Manuelian, chief of the North American diplomatic desk. Despite the difficult conditions in the republic, the entire nation at home and across the diaspora was ready to serve the homeland, to give concrete shape to its dedication to the imagined independent republic that it had yearned for, from afar, for decades, to transform long-held aspirations into realities. The first term of the Ter Petrosyan government had begun with exhilarating energy, albeit in the midst of crises. ♦

The Boston University International History Institute presents a lecture by

### Thomas Nichols

Professor of Strategy and Forrest Sherman Chair of Public Diplomacy at the Naval War College

### "The Coming Age of Preventive War"

Thursday, January 31, 4 p.m., SMG 406, 595 Commonwealth Avenue

## Charles Capper wins Humanities Foundation fellowship

In December Professor Charles Capper learned that he had received a



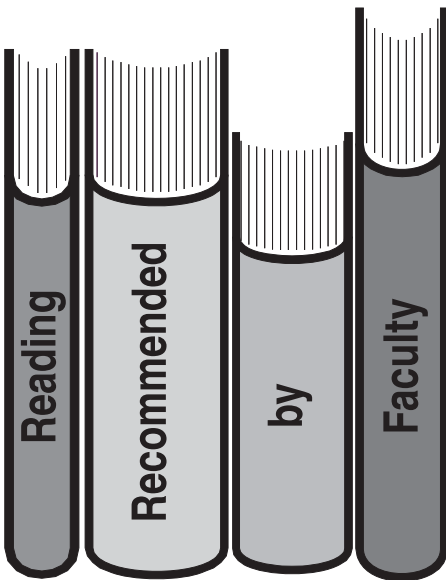
Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship in the Humanities for the academic year 2008-09. As part of the

award, he will have a semester of leave during which he will continue work on his next book, tentatively titled "The Transcendental Moment: Romantic Intellect and America's Democratic Awakening."

In the book Capper plans to focus on the Transcendental movement's leaders and their writings, while placing them within a narrative of connected episodes embedded in overlapping networks of their followers, publics, and milieus. At the story's center is a coterie of self-conscious and articulate figures who wrote voluminously and revealingly to and about each other and themselves. Capper intends to bring the Transcendentalists into historical view by two means. One is to narrate their story around the major episodes that brought them into public view—their battles with Unitarians over the biblical miracles, their struggles to found their avant-garde literary magazine the *Dial*, their efforts to build a socialistic community at Brook Farm, and their intellectual leadership in the antislavery movement. The other way is to show how all these projects, often seen as wildly contradictory, were driven by a varying but still single impulse: the intellectual invention of idealist individuality in America—or the notion that contained within the self lay an infinity of meaning and value traditionally identified with the divine.



Professor Thomas Glick was in Rome in early December to participate in a memorial to Mariano Artigas, co-author (along with Glick and Rafael Martínez—at left and center of photo) of *Negotiating Darwin: The Vatican Confronts Evolution, 1877-1902*. The homage was presided over by Cardinal Poupard (at right in photo), who had been chair of the commission appointed by John Paul II to revisit the Galileo case and whose report of 1992 led to the famous exoneration of Galileo. Father Artigas, a notable Galileo scholar, had served the commission as consultant. While in Rome, Glick also lectured on “The Comparative Reception of Darwinism” in Rafael Martínez’s course on Science and Religion.



Earlier this academic year an alumnus of the department e-mailed with a suggestion that seemed too good to ignore:

*One of the things I enjoyed about majoring in History at BU was that my classes would always point me in the direction of new and interesting books to read. However, since it has been several years since my graduation, I find it increasingly more difficult to find out which are the cutting-edge new books that are being published. Is there some sort of list that is currently compiled by the department that captures this information? If not, let me recommend that such a list be compiled every so often. It would only take up a few minutes of the faculty’s time to suggest one or two new books coming out in their field that they think are worth reading. Also, it’s a great way to keep the alumni connected to the department.*

So we have polled the department faculty and are pleased to provide the following suggestions:

**From Betty Anderson (history of the Middle East):**

- *Cairo Cosmopolitan*, edited by Diane Singerman and Paul Amar (American University of Cairo Press, 2006)
- *The Yacoubian Building* (American University of Cairo Press, 2004)

In my opinion, the best books to come out in my field in the last few years are those that have investigated what I can only describe as the “real life” of the Middle East. *Cairo Cosmopolitan* brings together brilliant articles about the globalized zones proliferating throughout Cairo, from coffee shops to movie theaters. While the book focuses on Cairo, the analysis can be used in cities like Beirut, Amman, Istanbul, and Dubai because these new arenas have polarized all of these societies in new kinds of ways. *The Yacoubian Building* brings these societal divisions to life in a fictionalized version. The novel has quickly become a staple on every syllabus about the Arab Middle East.

- Saba Mahmoud, *Politics of Piety* (Princeton University Press, 2005)  
Examines the role women have played in Islamist circles in Egypt.
- Robert Vitalis, *America’s Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (Stanford University Press, 2006)  
Looks at America’s relationship with Saudi Arabia and its oil industry. Many books have investigated the oil industry throughout the Gulf region, but this one looks at the personal relationships and the working conditions in the different oil camps. Vitalis, for example, examines the Jim Crow laws established by Aramco, the largest of the oil companies, from its earliest days.

**From Andrew Bacevich (US diplomatic history):**

- Michael H. Hunt, *American Ascendancy: How the United States Gained and Wielded Global Dominance* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2007)  
This is the best recent history of US expansionism, with acute relevance to the dilemmas facing the United States today.

*more recommended reading:*

**From Clifford Backman (medieval history):**

■ Chris Wickham, *Framing the Early Middle Ages: Europe and the Mediterranean, 400-800* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

This is the most ambitious and challenging of the three books I have listed, since Wickham looks at the whole of the continental and Mediterranean worlds, from Denmark to Egypt. He argues that scholars have consistently misread early medieval history by looking at it backwards, from the standpoint of the nation-states that emerged much later. What mattered instead, he says, were the geographic and economic structures within which all the long-resident peoples and the invading/conquering hordes moved. These structures did more to “frame” later medieval development than the confusing narratives of politics and Church did.

■ Michael McCormick, *Origins of the European Economy: Communications and Commerce, AD 300-900* (Cambridge University Press, 2002)

*Origins* is somewhat mis-titled, for it’s not a study of the European economy as a whole, but is focused on the single issue

of international trade. The surviving commercial records have been studied many times, but McCormick has enlarged the data pool enormously by combing through the vast non-commercial records of the era (diplomatic records, personal letters, sermons, travel guides, saints lives, etc.) and plucked out the hidden nuggets of commercial information buried inside them. With this huge pile of new data, he maps out elaborate communications networks and shows that there was far more maritime movement in these centuries than previously recognized. Assuming that ships carried goods as well as people, McCormick suggests that Mediterranean commerce did not decline after Rome’s fall but, if anything, increased.

■ Peter Heather, *The Fall of the Roman Empire: A New History of Rome and the Barbarians* (Oxford University Press, 2005)

Heather is sort of the Niall Ferguson of ancient historians, a champion of intelligent imperialism. He argues that the fall of Rome is due overwhelmingly to the external pressures placed on it by the barbarians, instead of the internal factors of economic decline and social decay; but he puts a new twist on the old

Gibbonesque thesis: he shows how the long centuries of contact with Rome turned the Germanic tribes into precisely the kind of multi-national force needed to break through Roman defenses. Thus the Romans inadvertently created the very enemy that defeated them, and they should have seen it coming.

*Framing* and *Origins* are each 1000-page behemoths. *Fall*, a mere 560, is the most accessible.

**From Brooke Blower (US cultural history):**

■ Sarah E. Igo, *The Averaged American: Surveys, Citizens, and the Making of a Mass Public* (Harvard University Press, 2007)

A lively new history that explores the ways in which Americans began to imagine themselves as Americans—with certain norms, standards, and “average” ideas and practices—by engaging with social scientific research (the Lynds’ study of Middletown, Gallup polls, Kinsey reports, etc.) during the middle decades of the twentieth century.

■ Victoria de Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America’s Advance through Twentieth-Century Europe* (Harvard University

Professor Allison Blakely has spent the first part of his sabbatical year as a Visiting Fellow at the Dutch Royal Institute of Anthropology in Leiden, continuing ongoing research for his book project tentatively titled “The Emergence of Afro-Europe.” From Leiden, in addition to other cities in Holland, he has made research visits to Paris, London, Lisbon, and Hamburg. In all of these he has been visiting predominantly Black African neighborhoods where they exist, interviewing community leaders, politicians, and scholars, and collecting the latest relevant books, articles, and other literature. He has also presented related guest lectures in The Netherlands at the University of Utrecht, the Royal Institute of Anthropology, and the University of Groningen. In January he will take up residency as a Visiting Fellow at Harvard’s Du Bois Institute, where he hopes to begin the writing phase of the project.



In the photo, Professor Blakely is second from left, and next is President Jose Amari Queta, head of the African community center in the district called Quinta do Mocho—most of whose residents are from Angola, Guineau-Bissau, Mozambique, and Cape Verde—in Sacavem, a suburban parish near Lisbon.

### more recommended reading:

Press, 2005)

A well-researched history of Europeans' resistance to, as well as appropriation and adaptation of, American models of production and consumption in the twentieth century.

#### From Charles Capper (US intellectual and cultural history):

- Stefan Collini, *Absent Minds: Intellectuals in Britain* (Oxford University Press, 2006)

A magnificent study by one of England's most distinguished intellectual historians. Nor only does he show, in his usual sparkling prose, the *existence* of an intellectual class in Britain—something long denied by many British “exceptionalists”—but he has much fascinating comparative light to shed on Continental and American intellectual life in the twentieth century.

- Leslie Butler, *Critical Americans: Victorian Intellectuals and Transatlantic Liberal Reform* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007)

An important revisionary book by a talented young intellectual historian. With solid research and elegant writing, Butler shows that rather than slumbering complacently through the Gilded Age, leading American Victorian intellectuals—often denominated as the chief conduits of the “Genteel Tradition”—were both deeply engaged in transatlantic exchanges with the era's leading liberal intellectuals in Britain and profoundly committed to developing a critical-minded democratic culture and polity.

- Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

The masterwork of the leading intellectual historian of Early America. In his sweeping narrative of these culturally rich and politically volatile decades, Howe shows that there was a lot more to the emergence of an American democracy than merely the marketplace. He's especially good at connecting religious revivalism, democratic politics, and the literary “American Renaissance” and using them to illuminate rather than displace the important discourses of race and gender in this period. There is an interesting backstory on the controversy over the production of this volume in a recent issue of the *New Yorker* (in an article by former BU faculty member Jill Lepore).

#### From Houchang Chehabi (central Asian history):

- Barbara Slavin, *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies* (St. Martin's Press, 2007)

A book on US-Iranian relations by a very well-informed journalist.

#### From Arianne Chernock (modern British history):

- Linda Colley, *The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh: A Woman in World History* (Pantheon, 2007)

The book traces the transnational travels of eighteenth-century Englishwoman Elizabeth Marsh, skillfully using biography to shed light on world history (the Seven Years' War, American Revolution).

#### From Barbara Diefendorf (early modern French history):

- Benjamin Kaplan, *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe* (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007)

A refreshing new interpretation of the problems of religious conflict and coexistence that troubled Europe after the unity of western Christendom was broken by the Protestant Reformation, this book speaks to many current questions about the origins and nature of religious tolerance and the prospects for peaceful coexistence among competing faiths.

#### From Thomas Glick (medieval history, Spanish history, history of science):

- Iván Jaksic, *The Hispanic World and American Intellectual Life, 1820-1880* (Macmillan Palgrave, 2007)

Near-definitive account of the activities of George Ticknor's Circle of Hispanophile Boston Brahmins, including Prescott and Longfellow.

- Carol Gold, *Danish Cookbooks: Domesticity and National Identity, 1616-1901* (University of Washington Press, 2007)

How the standardization of cuisines in the first half of the nineteenth century was a nationalist project, as were the making of dictionaries and grammars and collecting national folklore.

#### From Marilyn Halter (US social and immigration history):

- Reed Ueda, ed., *A Companion to American Immigration History* (Blackwell Publishing, 2006)

- Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*

(Princeton University Press, 2005)

- Erika Lee, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943* (University of North Carolina Press, 2003)

- Eric Goldstein, *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race and American Identity* (Princeton University Press, 2006)

- Irene Bloemraad, *Becoming a Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada* (University of California Press, 2006)

- Nancy Foner, *In a New Land: A Comparative View of Immigration* (New York University Press, 2005)

- Violet Showers Johnson, *The Other Black Bostonians: West Indians in Boston, 1900-1950* (Indiana University Press, 2006)

For a good overview of the central themes of the last two centuries of immigration to the United States, see the recent Blackwell compilation of essays by leading scholars in the field, *A Companion to American Immigration History*. On the history of the contentious question of who has been allowed to become American and who has been excluded, see the two award-winning volumes by Mae Ngai and Erika Lee. In the field of whiteness studies, see last year's winner of the Theodore Saloutos best-book prize given by the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, Eric Goldstein's *The Price of Whiteness*. Some of the best recent scholarship in the field has taken a multisited and comparative approach. Two fine examples of such perspectives are the books by Irene Bloemraad and Nancy Foner. Finally, for those interested in local history and, in particular, the issues raised by immigrants of African descent, see Violet Showers Johnson's *The Other Black Bostonians*.

#### From James Johnson (modern European intellectual history):

- Martha Feldman, *Opera and Sovereignty. Transforming Myths in Eighteenth-Century Italy* (University of Chicago Press, 2007)

Feldman's book is brilliant (and immense), combining case studies of crucial performances, anthropologists' readings of status, myth and magic, detailed musical and plot analysis, gender studies, and evaluations of shifting political power to assess the place of opera seria—Italy's most enduring lyric form in the eighteenth century—in the breakdown of allegiance to monarchical and elite rule.

- Edward Muir, *The Culture Wars of the Late*

*Renaissance: Sceptics, Libertines, and Opera* (Harvard University Press, 2007)

Muir's book, the Bernard Berenson Lectures on the Italian Renaissance, is attractively slender, and its three chapters—"The Sceptics," "The Libertines," "The Librettists"—stylishly depict the intellectual and cultural ferment of early-modern Venice, where supporting Galileo was for many tantamount to atheism, satires against the Church could have fatal consequences, and theater audiences weren't wrong to read sharp political allegories in what they saw onstage.

#### **From William Keylor (modern French history and history of international relations):**

■ Niall Ferguson, *The War of the World: Twentieth-Century Conflict and the Descent of the West* (Penguin Press, 2006)

Ferguson's book is a bold attempt to chronicle the murderous twentieth century, during which more people perished as a result of the deliberate acts of governments than in any other 100-year period in human history. The author spares no one in his treatment of the wars, civil wars, genocides, and other lethal developments from the Boer War in 1900 to the NATO bombing of what was left of Yugoslavia in 1999.

■ Thérèse Delpech, *Savage Century: Back to Barbarism* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2007)

Written by someone who has served in the French government and the United Nations and as senior fellow at the National Foundation for Political Science in Paris, this powerful book systematically probes the historical roots of the current challenges the world faces and offers suggestions for how to meet them.

#### **From Cathal Nolan (US foreign policy and diplomatic history):**

■ Evan Mawdsley, *Thunder in the East: The Nazi-Soviet War, 1941-1945* (Hodder Arnold, 2005)

A general history, but the most up-to-date and systematic presentation of newly released Soviet archival information. Arrogant in style and dismissive of all military history of the eastern war before itself, but well-researched.

■ Ernest May, *Strange Victory: Hitler's Conquest of France* (I. B. Tauris, 2000)

Read in conjunction with *The Fall of France: The Nazi Invasion of 1940* by Julian Jackson (Oxford University Press, 2003).

■ Wolfram Wette, *The Wehrmacht: History, Myth, Reality* (Harvard University Press, 2006)

A devastatingly persuasive documentation and recounting of the Wehrmacht's intimate cooperation with the full range of war crimes (most especially, systematic murder and death by neglect of 3.5 million Soviet POWs), its deeply rooted and pre-Hitlerian anti-Semitism, its voluntary and eager support of the SS killing units, and the willing and indeed eager participation of the majority of its officers and many of its ordinary soldiers in the several genocides of the eastern theater of operations in World War II.

#### **From Jon Roberts (US intellectual history, history of religion and science):**

■ Catherine Albanese, *A Republic of Mind and Spirit: A Cultural History of American Metaphysical Religion* (Yale University Press, 2007)

An exhaustive (and exhausting) account of the "metaphysical" traditions in religion (spiritualism, "New Thought," Christian Science, etc.) that argues that it should be viewed as comparable in importance to the evangelical tradition.

■ John Carson, *The Measure of Merit: Talents, Intelligence, and Inequality in the French and American Republics, 1750-1940* (Princeton University Press, 2006)

An excellent comparative account of the changing meanings of "intelligence" in France and the United States.

■ Noah J. Efron, *Judaism and Science: A Historical Introduction* (Greenwood Press, 2006)

The first sustained treatment of this long-overlooked and important subject.

■ Ronald L. Numbers, *Science and Christianity in Pulpit and Pew* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

A collection of essays dealing with a variety of topics in the history of the relationship between science and religion.

■ Garry Wills, *Head and Heart: American Christianities* (Penguin, 2007)

A survey of the history of American Christianity using the tension between head and heart as the springboard.

#### **From Bruce Schulman (twentieth-century US history):**

■ Joseph Crespino, *In Search of Another Country: Mississippi and the Conservative Counterrevolution* (Princeton University Press, 2007)

This deeply researched, beautifully written book advances a major new interpretation of the postwar South and of recent American politics.

■ Alice O'Connor, *Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth-Century U.S. History* (Princeton University Press, 2001)

O'Connor's research lays out a substantial reinterpretation of the origins and nature of the American welfare state. She explains how conceptions of poverty in general and black poverty in particular shifted in the generation before the 1960s. The book explicates both the ideological constructs and the institutional matrices—the interlocking foundations, universities, and social service agencies—that underlay this crucial transformation.

■ Michael Willrich, *City of Courts: Socializing Justice in Progressive Era Chicago* (Cambridge University Press, 2003)

Focusing on the Chicago Municipal Court, Willrich breathes new life into the essential—but somewhat tired—issue of Progressive Reform, showing the ways that legal traditions and legal processes gave birth to the larger administrative welfare state and defined its limits.

■ Sarah Phillips, *This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America, and the New Deal* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

My favorite recent book, a startlingly original work that rethinks the fields of political history and environmental history (and the relationship between them) and does so with smarts and grace and verve.

#### **From Nina Silber (nineteenth-century US history):**

■ Chandra Manning, *What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War* (Knopf, 2007)

A book that argues that soldiers on both sides of the conflict were very much invested in the question of slavery.

■ David Blight, *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Own Narratives of Emancipation* (Harcourt, 2007)

Reprints two newly discovered and very rare first-hand accounts of slaves who escaped to freedom during the Civil War, along with an overview essay by Blight.

■ Robert Cook, *Troubled Commemoration: The American Civil War Centennial, 1961-1965* (Louisiana State University Press, 2007)

A look at how the war was being remembered at the time of its 70th anniversary, amidst the conflicts of the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War.

**From Jonathan Zatin (modern German history):**

- Götz Aly, *Hitler's Beneficiaries: Plunder, Racial War, and the Nazi Welfare State* (Metropolitan, 2007)

Written in a clear and fluent style, this controversial book argues that Germans supported the Nazi war against Europe and the extermination of the Jews not because of antisemitism, but because they benefited financially from the Third Reich's policy of plundering other Europeans and the theft of Jewish property.

- Rita Chin, *The Guest Worker Question in Postwar Germany* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Although originally invited to West Germany during the 1960s to supplement a tight labor market, millions of predominantly Turkish workers have stayed on, yet remain on the margins of a society that continues to consider them alien—not least because they are Muslim.

- Christopher Clark, *Iron Kingdom: The Rise and Downfall of Prussia, 1600-1947* (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006)

Clark's book is as long as the scope of his argument is wide: In this very long book, he makes the surprising claim that Prussia's reputation as a bastion of reactionary politics and military aggression is undeserved and that it was in reality one of the most progressive German states.

- Benjamin Nathans, *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia* (University of California Press, 2004)

This brilliantly conceived and scrupulously researched book reinterprets the position of Jews in the Russian Empire, arguing that they were more integrated into Russian society than previously thought.

- Adam Tooze, *The Wages of Destruction: The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy* (Viking, 2007)

An economic historian, Tooze nevertheless integrates political ideology—Hitler's fear of America and hatred of the Jews—into this excellent and pathbreaking (if long) account of how Hitler ended the Depression, rearmed Germany, and launched World War II.



Visiting Professor **Kathleen Dalton** had an article entitled "Finding Theodore Roosevelt: A Personal and Political Story" published in the October 2007 issue of *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*.

On December 2, Professor **Bruce Schulman** published a piece in the *Washington Post* Outlook section, marking the 30th anniversary of "Saturday Night Fever" and the continued resonance of that film today. Later in the month he traveled to Memphis to do research at the Southern Folklore Center Archives and visit the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Miss., where the collection includes the cabin in which Muddy Waters grew up.

**Al Sargis**, retired Department Secretary, dropped into Boston this past August between trips to several East Coast cities and Portugal. (He reports that Prof. Norman Bennett is right about Lisbon!) Al participated in a symposium on "China and Labor" at Harvard University's Labor and Worklife Program, giving a paper on "The Significance of the 17th Party Congress for Labor." Not one to remain topically challenged, he also delivered a lecture on "An Historical Survey of Military Resistance Struggles and the Left in Europe and the U.S." at Cambridge's Center for Marxist Education. Meanwhile, he continues to pursue his enjoyable career as retiree.

In early December, Professor **Betty Anderson** attended a government-sponsored conference in D.C. on jihadis in the Middle East. In giving her talk on Jordan, she spoke of the economic crisis the country is facing, the problems posed by the existence of almost one million Iraqi refugees in the country, and the political instability that could arise from these economic problems and the refugee situation.

An article written by Professor **Jonathan Zatin** entitled "Scarcity and Resentment: Economic Sources of Xenophobia in the GDR, 1971-1989" appeared in the December 2007 issue of *Central European History*.

Professor **Simon Payaslian** published a chapter entitled "Anatomy of Post-Genocide Reconciliation" in Richard G. Hovannisian, ed., *The Armenian Genocide: Cultural and Ethical Legacies* (Transaction Publishers, 2007). This chapter contends that truth commissions as practiced thus far in other cases (e.g., Rwanda, South Africa) are not applicable to the Armenian-Turkish case. The paper instead proposes a two-phase process, whereby Armenian-Turkish negotiations would be conducted under the auspices of a multilateral body such as the United Nations, followed by bilateral negotiations between the governments of Armenia and Turkey. He also had an article, "Hovhannes Shiraz, Paruyr Sevak, and the Memory of the Armenian Genocide," published in the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, vol. 16 (2007). This paper presents a comparative analysis of the construction of the memory of the Armenian Genocide in the literary works of Shiraz and Sevak, two of the most popular poets in the former Soviet republic of Armenia. The analysis centers on poetry as the narrative of historical memory, commemoration, and mourning. In the same journal Professor Payaslian published a book review of David Gaunt's *Massacres, Resistance, Protectors: Muslim-Christian Relations in Eastern Anatolia during World War I*. And he presented a paper entitled "The Political Economy of Genocide Denial" on a panel organized by the Armenian Students Association at Boston University.

On December 19 Professor **William Keylor** spoke to the Wardroom Club, a group of active and retired naval, coast guard, and marine officers in the Boston area, on the topic of the "Christmas Truce" during World War I. To accompany his lecture he gave a PowerPoint presentation depicting the fraternization of British, French, and German soldiers on the Western Front to celebrate Christmas eve and morn-

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ing, 1914, prior to resuming the combat that eventually resulted in more than 8 million battlefield deaths.

The Boston History and Innovation Collaborative has appointed Professor **Marilyn Halter** to serve as a Project Adviser for an initiative on “Diversity as a Driver in the Innovation Economy: A Tool for Expanding Boston’s Talent Pipeline.”

On December 13 Professor **Eugenio Menegon** presented his recent research on “Jesuit Emblematica in China: European Allegorical Images in the Late Ming Period (1630s)” at the symposium “Papers on China,” held at the Getty Center, Los Angeles. This two-day symposium marked the scholarly opening of the Getty’s exhibition “China on Paper: European and Chinese works from the late sixteenth to the early nineteenth century.” Organized by the Getty Research Institute, the symposium brought together an international roster of distinguished scholars who used the themes of the exhibition as inspiration to present case studies of topics from their research, including cartography and the history of science in China, publishing and print production in China and Europe, Chinese travel narratives, and European pavilions in the Chinese imperial palaces. ♦



These students passed language requirements through coursework:

Andrew Ballou: French  
Seth Blumenthal: German  
Kathryn Brownell: German  
Kathryn Lamontagne: Spanish

The following students passed their qualifying oral examination:

On December 4: Kathryn Brownell. Examiners in the major field of American history were Professors Brendan McConville, Bruce Schulman, and Nina Silber; examiner in the minor field of nineteenth- and twentieth-century British history was Professor Charles Dellheim.

On December 6: David Mislin. Examiners in the major field of American history were Professors Brooke Blower, Charles Capper, and Jon Roberts; examiner in the minor field of early modern European history was Professor Barbara Diefendorf.

On December 7: Brian Casady. Examiners in the major field of African history were Professors James McCann, Bruce Schulman, and Diana Wylie; examiner in the minor field of geography was Professor Curtis Woodcock.

On December 14: Stephen Arguetta. Examiners in the major field of American history were Professors David Mayers,

Brendan McConville, and Nina Silber; examiner in the minor field of international history was Professor William Keylor.

These students had their dissertation prospectus approved:

Dane Cash: “The Forgotten Debate: American Intellectuals and the Korean War, 1950-1953.” The first reader will be Professor William Keylor, and the second will be Professor Andrew Bacevich.

Andrea Mosterman: “Sharing Space in a New World Environment: African-Dutch Contributions to North American Culture, 1626-1826.” The first reader will be Professor Linda Heywood, the second will be Professor Brendan McConville, and the third will be Professor John Thornton.

### American History Search

The visits of two candidates in the American political search have already been announced: Alice O’Connor (January 16) and Elizabeth Borgwardt (January 18). The third finalist, David Greenberg, will give his presentation on Friday, January 25, at 2 p.m. He received his PhD from Columbia and is currently assistant professor at Rutgers University; he is the author of *Nixon’s Shadow: The History of an Image* (Norton) and *Calvin Coolidge* (Henry Holt).