

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### FEATURE REVIEW

- 107 Carstairs, Catherine *Jailed for Possession: Illegal Drug Use, Regulation, and Power in Canada, 1920–1961* (Dickenson)

### NORTH AMERICA

- 108 Brundage, W. Fitzhugh *The Southern Past: A Clash of Race and Memory* (Smith)
- 109 Collins, Patricia Hill *From Black Power to Hip Hop: Racism, Nationalism, and Feminism* (Ward)
- 109 Gilmore, Donald L. *Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border* (Sinisi)
- 109 Green, James *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America* (Whaples)
- 110 Aune, James Arnt, and Enrique D. Rigsby, eds. *Civil Rights Rhetoric and the American Presidency* (Hicks)
- 110 Hiam, C. Michael *Who the Hell Are We Fighting?: The Story of Sam Adams and the Vietnam Intelligence Wars* (Laderman)
- 111 Duncan, Jason K. *Citizen or Papist?: The Politics of Anti-Catholicism in New York, 1685–1821* (Hicks)
- 111 McElroy, John Harmon *Divided We Stand: The Rejection of American Culture since the 1960s* (Mosher)
- 112 McKnight, Gerald D. *Breach of Trust: How the Warren Commission Failed the Nation and Why* (Wilkes Jr.)
- 112 Ball, Howard *Justice in Mississippi: The Murder Trial of Edgar Ray Killen* (Mehler)
- 112 Chowning, Margaret *Rebellious Nuns: The Troubled History of a Mexican Convent, 1752–1863* (Lester)
- 113 Taaffe, Stephen R. *Commanding the Army of the Potomac* (Rable)
- 113 Leaming, Barbara *Jack Kennedy: The Education of a Statesman* (Broadwater)
- 114 Saul, Norman E. *Friends or Foes?: The United States and Soviet Russia, 1921–1941* (Maddox)
- 114 Soodalter, Ron *Hanging Captain Gordon: The Life and Trial of an American Slave Trader* (Mujic)
- 114 Kionka, T. K. *Key Command: Ulysses S. Grant's District of Cairo* (Mosher)
- 115 Armstrong, Alan *Preemptive Strike: The Secret Plan That Would Have Prevented the Attack on Pearl Harbor* (Sefton)
- 115 Sachs, Aaron *The Humboldt Current: Nineteenth-Century Exploration and the Roots of American Environmentalism* (Summers)
- 116 Cash, Arthur H. *John Wilkes: The Scandalous Father of Civil Liberty* (Vile)
- 116 Desjardin, Thomas A. *Through a Howling Wilderness: Benedict Arnold's March to Quebec, 1775* (Neimeyer)
- 116 de la Mora, Sergio *Cinemachismo: Masculinity and Sexuality in Mexican Film* (Miller)
- 117 Busch, Andrew E. *Reagan's Victory: The Presidential Election of 1980 and the Rise of the Right* (Tootle)
- 117 Hartley, Robert E., and David Kenney *Death Underground: The Centralia and West Frankfort Mine Disasters* (Walker)
- 118 Hoffman, George F. *Through Mobility We Conquer* (Galgano)
- 118 Hufbauer, Benjamin *Presidential Temples: How Memorials and Libraries Shape Public Memory* (Payne)

- 118 Smith, Jason Scott *Building New Deal Liberalism: The Political Economy of Public Works, 1933–1956* (Henderson)
- 119 Mareno, Paul D. *Black Americans and Organized Labor: A New History* (Spivey)
- 119 Fischer, Klaus *America in White, Black, and Gray: The Stormy 1960s* (Delgaudio)
- 120 Ward, Harry M. *George Washington's Enforcers: Policing the Continental Army* (Neimeyer)

### LATIN AMERICA

- 120 Dore, Elizabeth *Myths of Modernity: Peonage and Patriarchy in Nicaragua* (Stansifer)

### THE BRITISH ISLES

- 120 McCartney, Helen B. *Citizen Soldiers: The Liverpool Territorials in the First World War* (Simkins)
- 121 Picard, Liza *Victorian London: The Tale of a City 1840–1870* (Potter)
- 121 Woodhead, Leslie *My Life as a Spy: A Wry and Poignant Memoir of Coming of Age in the Cold War* (Northcott)
- 121 Sharpe, James *Remember, Remember: A Cultural History of Guy Fawkes Day* (Fehler)
- 122 Bowen, H. V. *The Business of Empire: The East India Company and Imperial Britain, 1756–1833* (Palmer)
- 122 Shuger, Debora *Censorship and Cultural Sensibility: The Regulation of Language in Tudor-Stuart England* (Tobriner)

### EUROPE

- 123 Lukacs, John *June 1941: Hitler and Stalin* (Pauley)
- 123 Nicassio, Susan *Vandiver Imperial City: Rome, Romans and Napoleon, 1796–1815* (Hanley)
- 124 Royal, Robert *The Pope's Army: 500 Years of the Papal Swiss Guard* (Saunders)
- 124 Lucassen, Leo *The Immigrant Threat: The Integration of Old and New Migrants in Western Europe since 1850* (Rosenberg)
- 124 Ramet, Sabrina *Thinking about Yugoslavia: Scholarly Debates about the Yugoslav Breakup and the Wars in Bosnia and Kosovo* (Oluic)
- 125 Lynch, John *Simón Bolívar, A Life* (Avenius)
- 125 Terpstra, Nicholas *Abandoned Children of the Italian Renaissance: Orphan Care in Florence and Bologna* (Eckstein)
- 126 Berghahn, Volker R. *Europe in the Era of Two World Wars: From Militarism and Genocide to Civil Society, 1900–1950* (Smith)
- 126 Burgdorf, Jochen, and Helen Nicholson, eds. *International Mobility in the Military Orders (Twelfth to Fifteenth Centuries): Traveling on Christ's Business* (Avenius)
- 127 Hionidou, Violetta *Famine and Death in Occupied Greece, 1941–1944* (Fleming)
- 127 Petropoulos, Jonathan, and John K. Roth, eds. *Gray Zones: Ambiguity and Compromise in the Holocaust and Its Aftermath* (White)
- 127 Hanebrink, Paul A. *In Defense of Christian Hungary: Religion, Nationalism, and Antisemitism, 1890–1944* (Congdon)
- 128 Schrijvers, Peter *The Unknown Dead: Civilians in the Battle of the Bulge* (Daley)

# HISTORY

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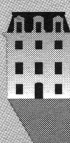
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- 128 Allsen, Thomas T. *The Royal Hunt in Eurasian History* (Cramsie)
- 129 Payne, Stanley G. *The Collapse of the Spanish Republic, 1933-1936: Origins of the Civil War* (Greene)
- 129 Bowen, Wayne H. *Spain during World War II* (Sánchez)

### RUSSIA AND THE C.I.S.

- 129 Melancon, Michael *The Lena Goldfields Massacre and the Crisis of the Late Tsarist State* (Steinberg)
- 130 Polunov, Alexander *Russia in the Nineteenth Century: Autocracy, Reform, and Social Change, 1814-1914* (Steinberg)

### ASIA

- 130 Friedman, Edward, Paul G. Pickowicz, and Mark Selden *Revolution, Resistance and Reform in Village China* (Davin)
- 130 Arnold, David *The Tropics and the Traveling Gaze: India, Landscape, and Science, 1800-1856* (Kerr)
- 131 Yamamuro, Shin'ichi *Manchuria Under Japanese Domination* (Reynolds)
- 131 Brigham, Robert K. *ARVN: Life and Death in the South Vietnamese Army* (Matray)

### ANCIENT

- 132 Newby, Zahra *Greek Athletics in the Roman World: Victory and Virtue* (Hitchner)

### GENERAL

- 132 Chickering, Roger, Stig Forster, and Bernd Greiner, eds. *A World at Total War: Global Conflict and the Politics of Destruction, 1937-1945* (Dreifort)
- 132 Elliott, J. H. *Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America, 1492-1830* (Gradie)
- 133 Jackson, John P. Jr., and Nadine M. Weidman, eds. *Race, Racism and Science: Social Impact and Interaction* (Mehler)
- 133 Roth, Norman *Daily Life of the Jews of the Middle Ages* (Maier)
- 134 Williamson, Mark *Spacecraft Technology: The Early Years* (Bednarek)
- 134 Linhard, Tabea Alexa *Fearless Women in the Mexican Revolution and the Spanish Civil War* (Montelongo)
- 134 Westad, Odd Arne *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (Hitchcock)
- 135 Pavia, Peter *The Cuba Project: Castro, Kennedy, and the FBI's Tamale Squad* (De La Cova)
- 135 Karsh, Efraim *Islamic Imperialism: A History* (Watson)

### ANNUAL INDEX

out to the Soviet Union which, because of its own imperial ambitions and ideologically charged designs to reshape the third world, happily responded with aid, weapons, and diplomatic support. The third world became a site of great power conflict not by chance, but by design: it was, for both superpowers, the principal stake of the cold war contest.

At first glance, Westad's book appears to be about the U.S.-Soviet cold war rivalry in the third world, yet it also introduces a subversive concept that cold war historians must confront: that the cold war is more properly understood as a North-South contest rather than an East-West one. Westad sees American and Soviet leaders as "high modernists" (399) who spoke a common language of Western superiority; it was peasant resistance to Western ideologies, of both Americans and Soviets, that fueled peripheral wars, and in turn further enmeshed the superpowers. Westad believes that third world radicals and revolutionaries had as much to do in shaping the course of the cold war as did leaders in Washington and Moscow, and that is why the legacy of the cold war is most sharply felt not in the West but in the roiling and unsettled third world. Here is international history at its best and most controversial.

**WILLIAM I. HITCHCOCK**

Temple University

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Pavia, Peter

**The Cuba Project: Castro, Kennedy, and the FBI's Tamale Squad**

New York: Palgrave Macmillan

226 pp., \$24.95, ISBN 1-4039-6603-6

Publication Date: March 2006

The Eisenhower administration in March 1960 initiated the Cuba Project. Its goal was to overthrow Fidel Castro after he had established a Communist dictatorship and had sponsored guerrilla expeditions to four Caribbean Basin nations. The covert operation armed and trained the Cuban exiles of Brigade 2506 for the Bay of Pigs invasion. Kennedy's meddling with the original plan "helped hand Fidel Castro a military victory" and the consequences set the course of U.S.-Cuba relations to the present day.

In 1959, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) created the Cuban Squad, composed of ten agents, to suppress the activities of anti-Castro exiles that violated the Neutral-ity Act. During that cold war era, Miami was

called the Casablanca of the Caribbean. The FBI unit, dubbed the Tamale Squad, also monitored pro-Castro espionage. The Tamale Squad doubled in size within a year, and its legacy continues today.

This book is based on personal interviews with two former Tamale Squad agents, CIA agent E. Howard Hunt, and an official from the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps. There are some quotations from FBI and CIA memorandums of unknown origins and the rest of the work is mostly based on newspaper articles and secondary sources. The author is a novelist whose first attempt at writing history, with cursory research skills, a lack of Spanish-language comprehension, and a smattering of vulgarities, leaves this book reading like a pulp fiction thriller.

At times, the Tamale Squad stumbled over the CIA's covert anti-Castro operations while chasing rumors and false leads. Its most renowned case was the arrest and conviction of Castro agent Francisco "The Hook" Molina for the murder of a nine-year-old girl during a fracas with anticommunist exiles in a New York City restaurant in September 1960. Pavia overlooked the fact that in April 1963, Molina and three other Cuban agents had their sentences commuted and were exchanged for twenty-seven Americans jailed in Cuba.

The memories of the interviewees, after nearly half a century, are at times faltering. Cuban espionage chief Manuel Piñeiro is erroneously given "the nom de guerre of Major Fury" (87). Major William Morgan, instead of Fernando Fuentes Cobas, is wrongly blamed for leading an American pilot (Rafael del Pino) into a trap in Cuba (103). The author also neglected thousands of government documents, released under the JFK Act, relating to these operations, which would have given this story a better overview.

**ANTONIO RAFAEL DE LA COVA**

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Karsh, Efraim

**Islamic Imperialism: A History**

New Haven: Yale University Press

276 pp., \$30.00, ISBN 0-300-10603-3

Publication Date: April 2006

Efraim Karsh, professor and head of the Mediterranean Studies Programme at the University of London, has written a book destined to become a seminal study on the

history of radical Islam. In *Islamic Imperialism: A History*, Karsh explains that "[t]he House of Islam's war for world mastery is a traditional, indeed venerable, quest that is far from over" (234).

Pre-Islamic Arabs were influenced by the great empires located to the north of the Arabian peninsula, such as Rome and Sassanian Persia, and the Prophet Muhammad himself set the precedent for a long-lasting, millenarian dream of a universal Islamic empire acquired by means of jihad. Karsh demonstrates that the rhetoric of Osama Bin Laden and other contemporary radical leaders is rooted in the teachings and career of Muhammad (whom he styles the "warrior prophet"), as well as in the historical record of Islamic expansion produced by Muslim historians over fourteen centuries. Karsh, however, challenges the idea that Muslim-Christian wars have ever been civilization conflicts, by emphasizing that the Islamic universalistic rhetoric of leaders such as Saladin and Gamal Abdul Nasser have always been tempered by political, military, and economic pragmatism that acknowledged coexistence with nearby Christian states.

Karsh also challenges many prevailing assumptions about the supposed toleration of medieval and modern Islamic states compared with the West. For example, the Orthodox Caliph Umar (634-44) presaged militant Pan-Arabism when he made "Islam synonymous with Arabism" (26) and established second-class citizenship for non-Arab converts to Islam (the *Mawali*) and even harsher social and economic measures for Christians and Jews who lived in the caliphate (the *dhimmis*). Karsh details the importance of the Islamic millenarian dream in many Islamic dynasties, including the Umayyads, Abbasids, Ayyubids, Safavids, and Ottomans. He examines the careers of the important advocates of the millennial dream in the post-Ottoman world, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, the Hashemites after World War I, advocates of the Palestinians in the wake of the creation of Israel, Nasser and Pan-Arabism, Ayatollah Khomeini and the Iranian revolutionary model, and Bin Laden and al-Qaeda. He argues that al-Qaeda's radicalism has little to do with American actions in the Middle East, and that such radicalism has a great deal of mainstream support in the Arab and Islamic world. Richly annotated, this book will interest specialists and the general reader.

**WILLIAM E. WATSON**

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