

feld, remains unnecessarily shrouded. Even more curious, Heinrich von Eckardt, Hintze's successor supervising German sabotage agents operating from Mexico into the United States and recipient of the infamous "Zimmermann Telegram," is not mentioned. Because of these and other omissions and misinterpretations, Germany's active role in Mexico remains rather in the dark, and the overall treatment of U.S. foreign policy South of the Border is not up to par.

The section of the publication concerned with the Mexican situation (219-389) far outweighs those chapters dealing with Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti (115-218), but in fairness it should be said that these other chapters plus the general treatment of William Jennings Bryan make this an interesting publication and a contribution to the as yet unfinished discussion of the many qualities and weaknesses of one of the most challenging figures of progressivism.

If the author would be willing to more correctly include the German role in Latin America before and during World War I, publication of an English translation should be considered.

RRD

JENS FÜGENER (†), *Konflikt in Fernost: Studien zur Japan-Politik der USA, 1931-1934/36* [*Conflict in the Far East: Studies on the United States Policy towards Japan, 1931-1943/36*] (Frankfurt / M.: Lang, 1997), 199 pp.

When in September 1931 members of the Japanese Army sabotaged a stretch of the Manchurian railroad, this unleashed a conflict between the United States and Imperial Japan that would culminate ten years later in the Japanese attack on the American Pacific Fleet moored at Pearl Harbor. Jens Fügener very thoroughly delineates in this well-written dissertation the foundation of American-Japanese relations, beginning with John Hay's Open Door Notes from 1899 and 1900, through peace negotiations concluding the Japanese-Russian War of 1904 in Washington, DC, chaired by President Theodore Roosevelt, to the almost prohibitively high Hawley-Smoot tariff that made it short of impossible for Japan to export goods to the United States. The author concentrates on the period between 1931 and 1934. He claims that these years changed the relations between the two nations decisively; this did not

happen abruptly but by constant increase in frictions over China, commerce, and immigration. Focusing on the American interpretation and reaction to the increasingly aggressive Japanese activities in China, he finds that the United States was rather moderate in its response despite forebodings by Franklin D. Roosevelt that a conflict with Japan would be unavoidable in the near future. The United States was not willing to sanction a Japanese Monroe Doctrine for Asia and was looking for means to contain Japanese expansionism; this was the background and main reason for diplomatic recognition of the Soviet Union in November 1933. The United States favored diplomatic solutions to the impending conflict, but was a prisoner, Fügener maintains, to its strict adherence to international treaties and obligations that increasingly were becoming meaningless. This did not mean that the United States were prepared to idly sit by in the face of further Japanese aggression in case the situation would further deteriorate. Stimson's / Hoover's non-recognition policy, FDR's naval policy, and the many voices that called for American military preparedness are ample signs for American willingness to shift to a more active policy. The study is based on thorough archival research in the United States as well as in Great Britain and uses the relevant printed primary and secondary sources.

MW

PHILIPP GASSERT, *Amerika im Dritten Reich: Ideologie, Propaganda und Volksmeinung, 1933-1945* [*America in the Third Reich: Ideology, Propaganda and Public Perception, 1933-1945*], *Transatlantische Historische Studien* 7, ed. Detlef Junker (Stuttgart: Steiner, 1997), 415 pp.

This very readable and well-structured study is a doctoral dissertation supervised by Detlef Junker and presented at Heidelberg University in 1995 / 1996. Gassert is seeking answers in three specific areas under the more general heading of German perception of the United States of America during the Hitler period, namely the relation between Nazi ideology and criticism of America, the effectiveness of Nazi propaganda, and the perception of America as one aspect of German-American relations (26). Based on extensive research in archives and libraries on both sides of the Atlantic and a very close examination of even

