

REPORT

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ABOUT THE REVIEW

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FROM THE EDITOR

Alternate Perspectives: the theme for the spring issue of *Report* asked authors to take a different approach in their research – to explore topics using social, cultural, economic, medical, literary, and even photographic lenses. The editorial staff of *Report* was thrilled to receive papers from all over the country and the world that shed light on oft ignored perspectives concerning both well-studied historical events and ones that have not been memorialized in the American historical consciousness. We are grateful to everyone who submitted work, and I am thankful to the authors whose work is included, to the editors who spent many hours working with the authors to refine their fascinating papers, and to Major Forney and Captain Ehlers, who spent many hours with me to publish the final journal.

The authors of the first four papers approach the American Civil War and the two World Wars from different social, cultural, and literary perspectives. Justin Liang of the University of Chicago drew upon French diaries and journals to understand how the French people perceived their political involvement under the Vichy Regime in 1940. Jill Bosserman of Purdue applies a similarly critical look to the writings of Ambrose Bierce, connecting the disillusionment in his writing with his experiences during the American Civil War. In an exploration of the “batmen” of World War I – the servant soldiers serving officers during World War I – Blake McGready from SUNY New Palz reveals how the British class structure was reinforced during the First World War. Finally, Zachary Determan examines the motivations of Soviet soldiers fighting in World War II.

The next set of authors add texture and nuance to our understanding of Christianity during certain periods of history, incorporating individual perspectives and popular literature. Francis Ambrogio from the United States Military Academy explores the personal motivations and geostrategic considerations of the key actors in their decision to go on the First Crusade, adding depth to what is normally seen as a simple invasion of the east by the Christian west. The analysis of McGill University’s Sarah Fortin of the different English editions of Bartolomé de Las Casas’ account of Spanish colonialism reveals how English Protestants leveraged this Catholic priest’s call for a more humane approach to colonization to justify anti-Spanish and anti-Catholic policy and sentiment in England. Frustrated with a gap in the historiography of Dorothy Day, Peter Geppert at the University of Wisconsin-Madison explores how Day’s background in socialism was key to her ability to impact the way the Catholic Church considers its obligation to social causes in twentieth century United States.

I have learned a lot and traveled the world through working with these papers for the past four years. It has been rewarding to watch *Report* grow and to work with the editors. I hope to continue to see a strong mix of civilian schools, international institutions, and service academies contributing to this journal. I would also like to thank the History Department for its continued mentorship of our editorial staff and financial support for our publication, as well as the History Departments of the other colleges and universities who extended our calls-for-papers to their students.

Erin Mauldin
Editor-in-Chief
West Point, NY

