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those who knew Holbrooke what they have lost and allows others to learn something about one of the great men of our time.

Steve Jobs. BY WALTER ISAACSON. Simon & Schuster, 2011, 656 pp. \$35.00.

Isaacson's magnificent, gripping biography of the Apple founder Steve Jobs is more than the life of the business visionary who created the world's most valuable company and changed the lives of millions of people. It is also a demonstration of the continuing vitality of American culture. Jobs—a vegan, antiestablishment, LSD-taking college dropout—ultimately created a series of products that helped reshape American industry. Like many great entrepreneurs, Jobs had a personality and views that were quirky, eccentric, and sometimes off-putting. But American society proved flexible and hungry enough to enable Jobs and his insurgent band of obsessives and dreamers to find the financing and make the deals needed to put Macs, iPods, iPhones, and iPads into the hands of eager customers all over the world. The ability of Isaacson to write books that capture an age as well as a man makes him one of our best and most important biographers. *Steve Jobs* shows Isaacson at his best.

Foundations of the American Century: The Ford, Carnegie, and Rockefeller Foundations and the Rise of American Power.

BYINDERJEET PARMAR. Columbia University Press, 2012, 368 pp. \$40.00.

Parmar's flawed but important study of the role of foundations in American foreign policy during the last 70 years brings needed attention to a subject that has not received nearly enough scrutiny.

Parmar's most valuable insight is that although foundations have often failed in their stated objectives of promoting democracy and reducing poverty in developing countries, they have succeeded in creating networks of scholars and activists who have helped recast global intellectual life in the pragmatic American mold. These networks, along with the globalization of the American university and nongovernmental organization models, are among the most striking and important aspects of the post-World War II world, and Parmar does well to highlight their rise. But his book is too polemic to provide a full account of the phenomena it investigates; worse, Parmar seems to think that Americans could have easily reduced poverty and made the world a utopia had they only been less interested in their nefarious networking agenda. Still, students of this important topic will appreciate this pioneering work.

Western Europe

ANDREW MORAVCSIK

Thinking the Twentieth Century. BY TONY JUDT WITH TIMOTHY SNYDER.

Penguin Press, 2012, 432 pp. \$36.00.

The late Judt was among the West's leading public intellectuals and among the greatest intellectual historians of the West. His gift was to meld the two: his history captured the excitement of past intellectual debates, and his commentary was infused with the perspective of a master historian. The magnum opus he never wrote would have been a grand intellectual history placing in historical

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context the modern ideologies he studied—socialism, nationalism, conservatism, liberalism, Marxism, Zionism, European federalism, religious fundamentalism—and maintaining their relevance for future generations. The closest he came are the series of testimonial conversations contained in this book, conducted with the Yale historian Snyder during the final months of Judt's battle with Lou Gehrig's disease. The book highlights his status as a perpetual insider-outsider in France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, which seems to have afforded him a keen appreciation of the peculiar cultural and historical circumstances of each. Yet most moving for the reader are Judt's fierce commitment to history as an indispensable key to understanding the present and his ability, even when speaking his final thoughts through a breathing tube, to express himself in clear, forthright language. Despite a sometimes meandering conversational form, the result is a volume filled with memorable insights that any educated person will enjoy.

The French Way: How France Embraced and Rejected American Values and Power.

BY RICHARD F. KUISEL. Princeton University Press, 2011, 544 pp. \$49.50.

This book captures France's deep ambivalence toward American economics, politics, and culture. After a scholarly lifetime explaining French attitudes toward liberal values, free markets, and foreigners, the political scientist Kuisel is uniquely suited to the task. Many French find the United States' inequality, materialism, populism, and global militarism deeply distasteful. Like so many things French, this response remains paradoxical: Americanization and anti-

Americanization coexist together. The French flirt with transatlantic fashions and ideas, from free-market economics to California Cabernet. Some of it sticks, as Euro Disney, 1,000 McDonald's, and many successful American TV shows attest. The French are more willing to use military force, support high technology, and oppose both communist and Islamist extremism than most other Europeans. Yet in the end, the French remain firmly wedded to views of democracy, family, work, and lifestyle that diverge from those of Americans, and there is little sign of change. These views are particularly pronounced on the left, but even French business is ambivalent about the United States, seeking more freedom from regulation but remaining suspicious of moving toward what is perceived as an underregulated U.S. model. Kuisel unpacks all this, making this book required reading for anyone interested in relations between the world's two oldest republics.

After the Fall: The End of the European Dream and the Decline of a Continent.

BY WALTER LAQUEUR. Thomas Dunne, 2012, 336 pp. \$26.99.

Laqueur is a commentator about whom it is hard not to feel ambivalent. On the plus side, as a widely published scholar of twentieth-century history, now retired from Georgetown and London's Institute of Contemporary History, he brings formidable intelligence and historical erudition to the task of putting Europe's current predicament into perspective. In contrast to commonplace conservative critics of Europe, Laqueur, when he cites Brooks Adams or Raymond Aron, Prince Klemens von Metternich or Jean

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Monnet, sounds as though he knows what he is talking about. On the negative side, this book repeats a set of one-sided criticisms about continental Europe typical of the Anglo-American right: it is militarily weak, demographically feeble, economically incompetent, fixated on human rights, overly critical of the United States, morally relativistic—and, above all, too Muslim. Laqueur searches in vain for the causes of these alleged problems, obsessing about demographics and non-Christian immigration even while admitting they are not the primary factors. When Laqueur advances such arguments, the subtlety and factual basis so evident in his more general analysis desert him. Still, this jeremiad will surely be discussed widely.

Reagan and Thatcher: The Difficult Relationship. BY RICHARD ALDOUS.

Norton, 2012, 352 pp. \$27.95.

Great historical figures generate their own myths, often deliberately. One task of the historian is to recapture, as much as possible, things as they actually were. Few modern politicians have generated more fictions than—and few so deliberately as—the American and British conservative revolutionaries of the 1980s, Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. According to their overlapping myths, they were idealists who stood together for freedom, robust militaries, and a firm hand against terrorism. Yet looking back, the truth seems more complex and subtle. Thatcher's inimitable Churchillian persona was the result of careful coaching by political professionals, and Reagan was far more pragmatic than most who invoke his name would have one believe. Aldous' startling conclusion is that Reagan and

Thatcher clashed repeatedly over issues such as the Falklands, Grenada, sanctions against the Soviets, the Strategic Defense Initiative, nuclear arms control and missile policy, the Middle East (especially Lebanon and Libya), and the West's relationship with Mikhail Gorbachev—all the while crafting an image of conservative unity for the media. In reality, the Anglo-American relationship during the 1980s was weaker in many ways than U.S. relations with France or Germany. This brilliant book reminds readers of the simple lesson that in diplomacy, interests often trump ideology—and spin trumps both.

Western Hemisphere

RICHARD FEINBERG

The Southern Tiger: Chile's Fight for a Democratic and Prosperous Future. BY

RICARDO LAGOS WITH BLAKE HOUNSHELL AND ELIZABETH DICKINSON. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, 272 pp. \$28.00.

Forget the misleading title: this engrossing political memoir tells the inspiring story of how during the 1980s, a determined political opposition managed to outmaneuver an entrenched military dictatorship and restore democracy to Chile. As a tenacious leader of that opposition, Lagos built a strategy that eschewed violence, forged unity among quarreling factions, and lent courage to a fear-stricken population—timeless lessons for pro-democracy movements fighting authoritarian regimes everywhere. As minister of education and minister of public works, and later as