

over police brutality to the election of Donald Trump as president—serve as signs that disruptive forces are gathering strength. Only time will tell whether they will yield benign or malignant effects.

Learning From Experience

BY GEORGE P. SHULTZ. Hoover Institution Press, 2016, 184 pp.

At a time of rapid change and upheaval in the United States, this short and engaging memoir by one of the most accomplished Americans of the last half century stands as a testament to the insights that a long life can provide. Shultz, now 96, served as President Richard Nixon's secretary of labor, director of the Office of Management and Budget, and treasury secretary, and later served as secretary of state in the Reagan administration. In his book, he distills the basic lessons he learned during his decades in public service and in his private life and applies them to some of today's challenges. Simple as his insights sound—always be learning, never compromise your basic principles just to keep a job, and so on—they are often profound and provocative. Surveying the troubled condition of the United States today, Shultz strikes a reassuringly hopeful note. "I remain a genuine optimist," he writes in the final chapter, "even though we are surrounded by difficult problems and are not at the top of our game." As the United States steps uncertainly into the Trump era, Shultz's wisdom and counsel are more valuable, and more badly needed, than ever.

Western Europe

Andrew Moravcsik

Hitler: Ascent, 1889–1939

BY VOLKER ULLRICH. Knopf, 2016, 1,008 pp.

Is today's right-wing populism comparable to the fascism of the 1930s? Many observers take comfort in the belief that times have changed so much that such an analogy is anachronistic. They point out that Adolf Hitler rose to power owing to the shock of the Great Depression, the harshness of the Treaty of Versailles, the menace of communist revolution, the legacy of anti-Semitism, and the fragility of Germany's democratic norms—a perfect storm unlike anything before or since. In this biography, which covers the Nazi leader's life up to the outbreak of war in 1939, Ullrich calls such complacency into question. Hitler is no anachronism; he is an eerily familiar figure: inexperienced, impulsive, ignorant, egomaniacal, petty, and resentful of established experts—yet gifted with an extraordinary theatrical talent for emotionally compelling, demagogic appeals to nativism. His opponents underestimated his political skill, viewing him as an incompetent bumbler and a temporary celebrity who could be easily tamed by the conservative establishment. As Hitler rose, his rivals waged internecine political squabbles—until it was too late to stop him. The material that Ullrich presents is hardly original, but his book nonetheless serves as an eloquent reminder of the

adage that those who do not read history are doomed to repeat it.

Laid Low: Inside the Crisis That Overwhelmed Europe and the IMF
BY PAUL BLUSTEIN. Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2016, 504 pp.

Countless articles and books have analyzed the euro crisis, but until now, a serious treatment of the International Monetary Fund's role in the crisis has been missing. Media reports often portray the IMF as filled with neoliberal ideologues who enthusiastically helped EU institutions and leaders impose harsh austerity policies and debt-repayment terms on southern European countries. In this authoritative and detailed account, Blustein marshals impressive research to rebut this view. He argues that the fund is home to sound technocrats who act independently and that, in addressing the euro crisis, IMF economists have proved more farsighted and able to learn from mistakes than national governments and have consistently advocated more balanced, less austere policies for Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, and Portugal, including debt rescheduling and the imposition of higher losses on foreign bondholders. Unfortunately, those proposals have been consistently overruled by European governments (which are overrepresented on the IMF's board), sometimes rejected by the U.S. Treasury Department, and even shot down on occasion by southern European politicians who have sought to avoid short-term adjustment costs.

Holocaust Angst: The Federal Republic of Germany and American Holocaust Memory Since the 1970s

BY JACOB S. EDER. Oxford University Press, 2016, 320 pp.

It is easy to forget that for decades after World War II, the Holocaust did not play anything like the role it does today in American culture. Beginning in the 1970s, mostly American Jewish activists sought to create more opportunities for Holocaust survivors to tell their stories and thus to bolster awareness of this singular event. Their campaign culminated in the construction of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on the Washington Mall, which officially opened in 1993. At the time, German leaders worried that the museum would cast present-day Germany in a bad light and threaten the transatlantic alliance—the angst of Eder's title. The German government tried to convince the Holocaust Museum's founders to acknowledge postwar Germany's remarkably successful policies of democratization, reconciliation, and remembrance, as well as wartime German opposition to Hitler. Those efforts were completely rebuffed, but German fears proved to be exaggerated: the new museum conveyed a relatively balanced view, and Germany itself soon changed its policy, as symbolized by the construction of a striking Holocaust memorial near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. All of this reflects a broader process through which the Holocaust has been "universalized": transformed from a specific event in Germany's past into a stand-in for genocide anywhere.

Charlemagne

BY JOHANNES FRIED.

TRANSLATED BY PETER LEWIS.

Harvard University Press, 2016, 688 pp.

Fried, one of Germany's most distinguished historians, launches this grand biography with a disarming caveat: "The following book is not a novel, but it is a work of fiction all the same." Fried believes that we are impossibly distant from those who inhabited Europe 1,200 years ago: we can hardly imagine their language, emotions, and beliefs—or even the "alien landscape" of impenetrable forests and deserted wastelands they inhabited. At this distance, historical biography can be no better than a rough approximation, even when the subject is the greatest European monarch of the era. Charlemagne united Europe for the first time since the fall of Rome, and the resulting Holy Roman Empire endured for a thousand years. His reforms of military logistics, money, law, and many other things changed Europe forever. Yet we know little about him with certainty. Much of what contemporary sources and subsequent historians reveal is probably romantic legend. The record is contradictory and thus open to interpretation, as befits a merciless conqueror who was canonized shortly after his death. For those who wish to grapple with Charlemagne's life in its entirety, without false certainties, Fried's book is the best choice.

French Foreign Policy Since 1945: An Introduction

BY FRÉDÉRIC BOZO. TRANSLATED BY JONATHAN HENSHER. Berghahn Books, 2016, 220 pp.

Bozo commands the details of his country's

foreign policy, and he never gets lost in them. French foreign policy, in his view, changes far less than the grand rhetorical declarations of successive presidents might lead one to expect. Beginning with President Charles de Gaulle in 1945, all French leaders have sought to manage the slow decline of France's relative prestige and power in both Europe and the world. Accordingly, maintaining substantial military (especially nuclear) capabilities and a central role in the EU have remained constant priorities. Although Bozo dispels the illusion of powerful French presidents, his treatment relies heavily on a set of perceptions common among French foreign policy elites and so focuses on NATO security and nuclear policy to the exclusion of nearly everything else. A reader might thus never suspect that France pursues an active policy of military or economic intervention in Africa and the Middle East. Moreover, in an era of "soft" and economic power, French policies on trade, finance, immigration, development, culture, European enlargement, and East Asia go nearly unmentioned. The definitive study of modern French foreign policy remains to be written.

The Face of Britain: The History of the Nation Through Its Portraits

BY SIMON SCHAMA. Oxford University Press, 2016, 632 pp.

Contemporary art history increasingly spawns multimedia spectacles. Schama's work on British portraiture is an example: it has appeared as a BBC series, a National Portrait Gallery exhibition, and now this book. Schama helped pioneer this multiplatform approach

and remains one of the best in the business. He devotes successive chapters of this richly illustrated volume to the themes that he argues have lain at the heart of British national identity: power, love, fame, self, and “the people.” Schama does not stick to any overarching thesis for long, and he says little about deep causes, the sociological context, or even aesthetics. Rather, he recounts the personal foibles of the highlighted artists and their subjects in the manner of refined dinner-table gossip. The result is unfailingly amusing and intermittently risqué, delivered with smooth, slightly ironic panache.

Western Hemisphere

Richard Feinberg

Latin America and the Caribbean 2030: Future Scenarios

BY JASON MARCZAK AND PETER ENGELKE. Inter-American Development Bank and the Atlantic Council, 2016, 152 pp.

This exercise in strategic foresight considers the factors that will have the most influence on the future of development in Latin America: the quality of education; the level of investment in infrastructure; and the evolution of democratic governance, especially in the areas of transparency and accountability, fiscal reform, regulatory efficiency, and social inclusion. Much also hinges on the evolving political attitudes of the growing middle classes: Will they be satisfied with gradual reform,

or will they give in to the populist temptation? Among the more interesting findings is the fact that the region’s current demographic dividend—the high ratio of working people to dependents—will cease to pay off by the 2040s, when aging populations will require sharp gains in labor productivity in order to sustain prosperity. In one best-case scenario, the region would up its game in scientific innovation and export diversification. Another potential bright spot: climate change could transform South America into the breadbasket of the world. The region will also likely be blessed with a relative absence of ethnic and sectarian fissures, international terrorism, and interstate conflict, even though narcotics trafficking will persist.

The Political Economy of China–Latin America Relations in the New Millennium: Brave New World

EDITED BY MARGARET MYERS AND CAROL WISE. Routledge, 2017, 300 pp.

Leading experts on Chinese–Latin American relations puncture lazy myths and widespread hyperbole in this valuable collection of well-edited essays. Chinese investments and foreign assistance in the region, although noteworthy, are not nearly as significant as many assume, and many Chinese projects announced with great fanfare remain in limbo, including a \$50-billion-plus Nicaraguan canal. Overall, the contributors are sanguine about Chinese motives, finding that China’s commercial goals take precedence over its possible geopolitical aims—at least for now. A number of the authors note that generous Chinese