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BOOK REVIEWS

THE MARTIAL IMAGINATION: CULTURAL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN WARFARE. Edited by Jimmy L. Bryan (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2013. Pp. x, 231. Index. \$55.00 cloth, \$29.95 paper).

What do an English professor, a US Air Force colonel, and the assistant director of the International Center for the History of Electronic Games have in common? Typically nothing, unless one is reading *The Martial Imagination: Cultural Aspects of American Warfare*. This collection of twelve essays, edited by Jimmy L. Bryan Jr., brings together an eclectic group of authors to explore an often overlooked aspect of military history. In his opinion, Bryan believes scholars must consider and analyze the cultural dimensions of warfare if they are to fully understand its role and impact on American society.

Divided into four parts, the book focuses on concepts such as "Militarization and Violence," "Gender and Ethnicity," "Imagination and Emotion," and "Foretelling and Forgetting" (p. viii). One of the most unusual essays examines how the United States utilized zoos during World War II and the Cold War. Initially, John M. Kinder's "Militarizing the Menagerie" tempts the reader to laugh at phrases like "military-zoological complex" and "nexus of beast and bomb" (p. 16-17). It becomes readily apparent, however, that his essay provides a serious analysis of a subject not often linked to national security matters. For example, the author explains how the US Navy and Marines repeatedly financed various exhibits at the San Diego Zoo while they essentially used the establishment as a "de facto recruiting post" for the military (p. 31). Likewise, Kinder describes how the State Department periodically sent zoo animals abroad to generate international goodwill with other countries. Used as diplomatic pawns, these creatures served a very real and useful purpose in promoting the image of the United States during the Cold War era.

In a similar vein, other essays provide unique insights from unusual topics associated with military history. For instance, Belinda Linn Rincon's "From Maiden to Mambisa" concludes that journalists and government officials assigned gender roles to the United States, Spain, and Cuba prior to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. Likewise, Timothy J. Cathcart's "On Angels' Wings" determines that the nature of manned flight created a strong religiosity with the first generation of pilots, a phenomenon that dominates the Air Force to this day. Finally, Jason Phillips's "The Prophecies of Civil War Soldiers" persuasively challenges the common belief that Americans in 1861 expected a short conflict.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Jimmy L. Bryan is to be commended for compiling such an outstanding collection of thought-provoking essays. The themes he chose to emphasize help facilitate a better understanding of a subject traditionally viewed as one dimensional. While maps, strategies, and tactics will always have a central role in military history, a book such as this will greatly broaden the reader's understanding about the cultural underpinnings of warfare and how societies approach the issue. Relying on a diverse group of authors who use a variety of disciplines in their analysis, Bryan has produced a fascinating book that could be used in academic courses concerning not only military history, but also American culture in general. One hopes that this type of book will establish a new trend in this field of study.

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GOLD-MINING BOOMTOWN: PEOPLE OF WHITE OAKS, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY. By Roberta Key Haldane (Norman: Arthur H. Clark Co./University of Oklahoma Press, 2012. Pp. 305. Bibliography. Index. \$49.00 cloth).

White Oaks in northern Lincoln County, New Mexico, was established after a lode gold discovery by a party of four prospectors in summer 1879. By the following summer 350 persons resided in the camp, platted that spring. The town attained a peak population of 1,200 in 1890, making it the second largest town in New Mexico Territory. White Oaks served area miners and ranchers through its prosperous years that lasted until the twentieth century. The district's mines yielded an estimated 150,000 ounces of gold worth \$3 million through 1903, but the mines played out and the railroad bypassed the town in 1899. White Oaks sank into decline though never oblivion, as seventy persons still reside in the valley.

Author Roberta Key Haldane addresses the history of White Oaks in a six-page introduction, but the main text of *Gold-Mining Boomtown* discusses, alphabetically, people associated with White Oaks, some of