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[Review of] *The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams and the Making of China*

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international diplomacy from papal Rome to Byzantium. Theodahad, despite his Roman education and “unmanly” spirit—or perhaps because of these—developed an inordinate avarice for land, for which Theodoric chastised him and Procopius castigated him, as did his own emperor, Justinian. Theodahad’s failure as a king did not last long; after killing his cousin the queen, he was deposed for failing to defend Naples from Belisarius and slain, while in flight to Ravenna, by the new king’s agent. Characterized by scholarly caution, critical analysis, and heavy annotations, this is a detailed biography of the last days of Ostrogothic Italy and the first full treatment of its little-known king Theodahad. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through researchers/faculty.—*S. Bowman, University of Cincinnati*

## Asia & Oceania

**52-3251** BX4705 2014-5698 CIP  
Brockey, Liam Matthew. **The visitor: André Palmeiro and the Jesuits in Asia.** Belknap, Harvard, 2014. 515p index afp ISBN 9780674416680 cloth, \$39.95

This excellent book describes the Jesuit Asian missions at a crucial time through the eyes and reports of André Palmeiro (1569–1635), a Portuguese Jesuit. After teaching philosophy and theology at Coimbra, in 1617 Palmeiro was appointed visitor with wide powers to the Jesuit missions in India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Indochina, China, and Japan. He had to decide the extent to which Jesuits should accommodate Catholicism to local customs. Needing income to support missions to Indochina and China, Palmeiro created a Jesuit trading company. He negotiated with Asian rulers and Portuguese imperial officials and mediated disputes among strong-minded Jesuits. Palmeiro was a judicious man who often asked, “Will it work?” But he could only watch the brutal destruction of Catholicism in Japan. Historian Brockey (Michigan State Univ.) offers many insights in good evocative prose. Telling the story of the missions and disputed matters through Palmeiro is very effective, not least because it enables readers to see how the Asian missions functioned on a personal and practical level. The only criticisms are the chronic use of *early modern* when the appropriate century should have been named and the failure to give the original language for translated quotes. The publisher should have provided footnotes. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. All academic levels/libraries.—*P. Grendler, University of Toronto*

**52-3252** D767 2014-8489 CIP  
Ham, Paul. **Hiroshima, Nagasaki: the real story of the atomic bombings and their aftermath.** 1st U.S. ed. Thomas Dunne, 2014. 629p bibl index ISBN 9781250047113 cloth, \$35.00

The focus of this comprehensive history of the US discovery and use of atomic bombs is the bomb’s impact on the Japanese surrender in 1945 and on the subsequent Cold War. The book is well-written and has many human-interest descriptions. The major theme is that the bomb was unnecessary. Ham argues that with Japan’s non-functional military, collapsed economy, and starving population, an invasion of Japan’s home islands was unnecessary. Japanese military leadership hoped for a lenient peace through Soviet mediation. The USSR’s declaration of war and easy defeat of the Japanese forces undermined the morale of the Japanese leaders. Ham makes a strong case, and the effect of the Russian attack deserves stressing. There is no assurance, however, that surrender would have come

before far more damage was done to Japanese cities and to US and Japanese forces. Ham’s choice of evidence is a bit one-sided. For example, he plays down the military uprising against the surrender. This coup came very close to success, in spite of the fact that the second bomb had been dropped and the Soviet attack was succeeding. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. All levels/libraries.—*P. Scherer, Indiana University at South Bend*

**52-3253** DS383 2014-6379 CIP  
Jalal, Ayesha. **The struggle for Pakistan: a Muslim homeland and global politics.** Belknap, Harvard, 2014. 435p index afp ISBN 9780674052895 cloth, \$35.00

Jalal (Tufts) has written before on Pakistan: her first volume was the controversial *The Sole Spokesman* (CH, Jan’86) and her most recent, prior to the present title, *The Pity of Partition* (CH, Jul’13, 50-6021). Now she joins the throng of scholars and journalists who have written on Pakistan and its turbulent history. Despite its relative insignificance in global affairs, geopolitics, and the global economy, Pakistan has received an enormous amount of attention. Jalal revives the old trope that the history of Pakistan would have been very different if its founder and governor-general, Mohammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948), had lived longer. In so doing she underestimates the historical forces behind the significant challenges to the writ of the state and to Jinnah’s nation-building projects in Bengal, and especially in the Punjab, from Pakistan’s first days. Jinnah did not prevent—could not have prevented—this and was greeted with protests on his visit to Dhaka in 1948. Like Jalal’s previous books, this one is colorfully written in a blithe spirit with all the usual, predictable comments about Pakistan’s leaders, from Jinnah to Ayub to the Bhuttos, included. Ian Talbot presents a more reliable and judicious account of Pakistan’s history in *Pakistan: A New History* (2012). **Summing Up:** ★ Optional. Graduate students, researchers only.—*R. D. Long, Eastern Michigan University*

**52-3254** DS485 MARC  
Llewellyn-Jones, Rosie. **The last king in India: Wajid ‘Ali Shah, 1822-1887.** Hurst & Company, 2014. 314p bibl index afp ISBN 9781849044080 cloth, \$30.00

Llewellyn-Jones takes on a controversial if obscure personality from the history of British India. Wajid Ali Shah was king of Awadh from 1847 to 1856. The author points out that much of the historiography on the king focuses on this brief period and his general reputation (with the English) as an indulgent, incompetent ruler. Historians have largely ignored his time in exile in Calcutta as well as his poetic skill. Llewellyn-Jones attempts to explore these lesser-known aspects of Wajid Ali’s life. The book is structured thematically; chapter 1 begins with the unsuccessful mission of Wajid Ali’s family members to England to regain Awadh. The other chapters deal with his passion for theater, his wives, his menagerie, the impact of annexation, his unbridled extravagance, frustrations with his sons, and the disintegration of his household after his death in 1887. This very specialized book, exhaustively researched in archives in Windsor, London, Delhi, and Calcutta, will be primarily of interest to scholars of Indian princely states and their rulers. **Summing Up:** ★ Optional. Graduate students, faculty.—*P. P. Barua, University of Nebraska at Kearney*

**52-3255** DS757 2014-23356 MARC  
Lovell, Julia. **The Opium War: drugs, dreams and the making of China.** Overlook, 2014. 456p bibl index ISBN 9781468308952 cloth, \$35.00

Journalist and historian of China, Lovell (Univ. of London) combines



her talents in both fields to produce a narrative history of the first Opium War between Great Britain and China. She also weaves together general Chinese history and historical memory about the war, an event that continues to inform Chinese national identity and affects China's relationship with the West. This is one of the volume's most interesting contributions. For example, one section shows how the first Opium War led to the many stereotypes of China (think "Yellow Peril") that continue to this day. At over 350 pages of content, the constant parenthetical details and tangents can be a bit daunting, and Lovell seems to leave no detail unstated. However, the inclusion of copious illustrations brings to life the tragedies of the Opium War. Although the book lies outside specialist historiography of the war, it is nonetheless readable and a great source for preparing lectures on the Opium War and for students looking to add to papers on the topic. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.—*M. J. Wert, Marquette University*

**52-3256** UA842 2013-36444 CIP  
Marston, Daniel. **The Indian Army and the end of the Raj.** Cambridge, 2014. 386p bibl index (Cambridge studies in Indian history and society, 23) ISBN 9780521899758 cloth, \$95.00; ISBN 9781139898126 ebook, \$76.00

Marston (military studies, Australian National Univ.) has authored such books as *The Seven Years' War* (2001), *The French-Indian War 1754-1760* (2003), *The American Revolutionary War* (2011), *The American Revolution 1774-1783* (2003), and, with reference to South Asia, *Phoenix from the Ashes: The Indian Army in the Burma Campaign* (2003). This latest book offers an important assessment of the Indian Army, especially with regard to the controversial failure to maintain peace at the time of partition in 1947. The book covers the army during the 20th century and is laudatory about its activities, whether fighting in the two world wars or maintaining peace in Southeast Asia after 1945. With regard to the charge of communalization and failure to prevent the carnage of 1947, Marston is certain, "In the final analysis, the historical record shows unequivocally that the vast majority of Indian Army soldiers, NCOs, VCOs, and officers were as loyal to one another and to the regiment as many previous generations had been, and under far more trying circumstances." This volume is superb and indispensable reading. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Essential. All levels/libraries.—*R. D. Long, Eastern Michigan University*

**52-3257** DS559 2014-5693 CIP  
Nhã Ca. **Mourning headband for Hue: an account of the battle for Hue, Vietnam 1968**, tr. and introd. by Olga Dror. Indiana, 2014. 305p afp ISBN 9780253014177 cloth, \$30.00; ISBN 9780253014320 ebook, \$29.99

Vietnam haunts not only the American conscience but also the thousands of Vietnamese who opposed Hanoi. *Mourning Headband for Hue*, the seminal work by Nhã Ca, one of South Vietnam's leading writers, finally has been published in English. Dror's translation and annotations add immeasurably to this memoir. Unfortunately, the singular achievements of Nhã Ca have gone unrecognized except by old Vietnam hands. During the war, she tried to be neutral, but that proved impossible. Her position changed when she returned to Hue in January 1968 to attend her father's funeral, only to be rudely awakened by the sounds of small arms and artillery fire. Despite the death and destruction that she witnessed during the battle for Hue, Nhã Ca did not employ typical stereotypes of Americans, South Vietnamese, or North Vietnamese regulars and their southern allies. She managed to find some

redeeming values among all combatants; however, it is apparent that she believes her generation bears responsibility for the tragic plight that befell Hue and all of Vietnam. This is a worthy addition to accounts that help readers understand the Vietnam War. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers.—*C. C. Lovett, Emporia State University*

## Central & Eastern Europe

**52-3258** DK761 2014-7175 CIP  
Hartley, Janet M. **Siberia: a history of the people.** Yale, 2014. 289p bibl index ISBN 9780300167948 cloth, \$38.00

Rather than supplant relatively recent English-language surveys of Siberian history, Hartley (London School of Economics) aims to supplement them with this volume. Her focus is the social history of this vast land, in particular, "how people lived." For the most part, she concentrates on the Slavic peoples in Siberia rather than native peoples. This is a useful emphasis, given that other books already focus on the latter, and it gives the volume, which spans five centuries of history, more coherence than it otherwise might have had. The book is organized in a broadly chronological fashion, starting with the 16th-century conquest and ending with a chapter on post-Soviet Siberia. Some chapters treat topics of change over time, while others focus on the practice of daily life in, for example, Siberian villages, towns, and garrisons. Particularly valuable is Hartley's employment of different levels of analysis, alternating between discussions of the broadest themes of Russian and Siberian history and the treatment (often archival source-based) of specific locales, such as the remote garrison of Gizhiga on the Sea of Okhotsk. The result is an accessible introduction to Siberian history. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. Most levels/libraries.—*M. A. Soderstrom, Aurora University*

**52-3259** DB932 2013-46202 CIP  
Vermes, Gábor. **Hungarian culture and politics in the Habsburg monarchy, 1711-1848.** Central European University, 2014. 388p bibl index ISBN 9789633860199 cloth, \$65.00

Vermes (Rutgers) spent 20 years writing this book, which appeared first in Hungarian translation in 2011. In seven chapters, he examines the cultural and political history of Hungary from the end of Rákóczi's War of Independence against the Habsburgs to the eve of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. The author examines prominent individuals and institutions along with the European intellectual and cultural movements that impacted Hungary during the Baroque, Enlightenment, and Romantic periods and the Hungarian Age of Reform in the 1830s and 1840s. At times, Vermes draws comparisons with neighboring states to help establish the broader European historical context in addition to analyzing Hungary's multiethnic character. He pays special attention to the religious and socioeconomic fissures that were ever present during this period and focuses his final chapters on the flowering of Hungarian culture along with the great national Hungarian debates surrounding the pace and direction of reforms often opposed by the Viennese court. Vermes appropriately uses mainly Hungarian-language sources, as well as some German and English ones. Certain to become an important contribution to understanding Hungarian history during the Habsburg monarchy. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*C. P. Vesei, Baldwin Wallace University*