

Editor's Note

I recently attended a global history workshop and while there I was again struck by how deeply connected the United States has been with the rest of the world. Growing up to believe once that nation-states constituted the primary unit in history, the pervasiveness and scale of all sorts of transnational and global circulations of commodities, ideas, and people somehow continue to not only captivate, but surprise me. Of course, the surprise-factor should have dissipated long ago. I should by now realize that far from being isolationist or exceptional, the US has throughout its history been deeply embedded with and engaged to the world. This is evident in the pages of this journal as well, and has been so for years already. In these fresh articles served here a cadre of scholars from Denmark, Finland, Ireland, and Spain tackle the United States, its peoples, beliefs, and engagements from various viewpoints. First, Saara Kekki takes a close look at the administrator Dillon S. Myer to explore the racial logic and aims of the assimilation and relocation policies in the 1940s and 1950s that targeted Japanese Americans and Native Americans. Moving from racial difference to gender expectations, the ambivalences of mid-1900s motherhood are dissected by Tine Sommer in her article on James M. Cain's *Mildred Pierce*. Then it's Ciarán O'Rourke's turn to unravel the contours and linkages of American mindsets by discussing the poetics of perception, the visual ethos, and the associated moral commitments of William Carlos Williams's work in the 1940s. Next Isabel Alonso-Breto discusses Sunil Yapa's politically engaged novel *Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist* of the 1999 Seattle demonstrations by emphasizing the dynamics of love and care for others. Finally, Teemu Mäkinen offers an ideological analysis of the US role in the world by investigating US Senate Foreign Relations and the Armed Services committees' competing narratives on the ratification of the New START in 2010.

As always I trust and wish you enjoy these analytical endeavors to the globally integrated America. Excavating the contradictory and fascinating temperament of

America from differing perspectives, these articles hopefully increase our understanding, enrich our mindset, and whet our appetite to know more and to ask questions.

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