

evaluation with various secondary interpretations a model of historical exposition. Following his discussion of the *Maine*, Perez addresses the lacuna of Cuban material in U.S. historiography in chapter four, "Constructing the Cuban Absence." Transcending a simple criticism of U.S. scholars, Perez cites manuscripts and other primary source material to argue persuasively that Cubans played an important role during the U.S. war against Spain.

Perez saves his harshest criticism, however, for his last chapter, "From Memory to Consciousness," as he surveys the place of 1898 in U.S. memory. By analyzing the receptions U.S. historians received over the years upon the publication of their works, Perez convincingly argues that "a vast body of scholarship has been distinguished principally by the persistence of formulations developed at the turn of the century, to which have been added few new insights or significant new information." The failure of U.S. scholars to innovate new approaches or investigate new avenues of research provide all the evidence Perez needs to successfully argue that U.S. scholarship demonstrates a high degree of consensus and conformity. He concludes his text with a well written and descriptive bibliographical essay. Students and teachers alike on any level will find the twenty plus pages a valuable tool that they can refer to time and again. *The War of 1898* belongs in every history classroom on the undergraduate and graduate level and should form a basis of evaluation for U.S. imperialism. Perez provides a great service to historians and deserves a high degree of recognition.

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Daryl Michael Scott. *Contempt and Pity: Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996.* Chapel Hill & London: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. Pp. xix, 269. Paper, \$14.95; ISBN 0-8078-4635-X.

Societal-generated images and perceptions of a population group invariably exact a price. Even when such images are the handiwork of scholars and experts, a toll results nonetheless, often with social and public policy implications. African-Americans are arguably the most glaring population group example of this scenario. Certainly the scholarly debate continues regarding the historical origins of popular perceptions of and about African-Americans. There is as well an ongoing scholarly debate about the social and public policy ramifications of popular images of African-Americans, both historical and contemporary.

In his recent publication, *Contempt and Pity: Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996*, Daryl Scott of Columbia University endeavors to isolate and identify specific bodies of social science scholarship that have given historical currency to notions of pathology in Black life. Indeed, as to his own scholarly intent, Scott leaves little, if any, doubt. It is "to make a contribution to the

study of social science history by combining a study of social science ideas with the making of social policy." Scott provides an engagingly crafted analysis and discussion of the linkage between social science scholarship, Black imagery, and social policy engineering.

In his analysis Scott's thesis is anything but vague and ambiguous. He argues forcefully that social science scholars, theorists, and policy makers of all persuasions, however well intended, have helped to occasion the imagery of the damaged Black psyche. Racial conservatives, neoconservatives, liberals, and radicals have all, Scott insists, shared the view that Blacks were psychologically damaged. Scott believes this to be the case because, as he contends, social scientists create images that mirror in part at least their individual cognitive and motivational biases; hence, the end products generated by social scientists can best be described as "subjective knowledge structures." Such structures, Scott maintains, were abundantly evident across the length and breadth of the nearly 120-year historical time frame he covers, from essentially the fall of Reconstruction to contemporary America.

Certainly such an expansive time frame allows Scott to walk his readers across the historical landscape. In so doing, he is able to dramatize the historical usages of the image of the damaged Black psyche. Racial conservatives initially pioneered the image of the damaged Black psyche in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as part of their justification for segregation and Jim Crow. During the interwar years and until at least 1960, liberals, who had replaced the conservatives as the authorities on African-American life and culture, referenced Black personality damage, albeit from decidedly different premises, to argue for better societal conditions for Blacks. The damaged imagery motif was even invoked to secure a favorable U.S. Supreme Court decision in the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education*. But by the early 1960s a tug-of-war was occurring between liberals and conservatives over the policy implications of Black pathology. Neoconservatives eventually won that encounter and went on to use the presumption of a damaged Black psyche to oppose race-conscious programs and policies on the grounds that American society should be color-blind.

By the late 1960s another group, the radicals as they are dubbed by Scott, had supplanted the reigning neoconservatives as both the principal interpreters of the Black experience and the architects of related social policy. The radicals, many of whom were black professionals who participated in the Civil Rights struggle, "often conceded damage implicitly ... [but] they rarely discussed it at length." Instead they opined that despite the experience of slavery and the travail of Jim Crow, Blacks had developed enduring communities complete with their own cultural ethos, norms, structures, and institutions.

Beginning in the early 1980s and increasing thereafter, the pendulum swung yet again, this time in favor of the neoconservatives who no longer ascribed the origins of Black pathology to slavery and caste. Nor did they continue to blame African-

American culture for perpetuating the imagery of the damaged Black psyche. The principal culprit, the neoconservatives now charged, was the liberal and/or welfare state as best epitomized by the Great Society.

Scott's reading of the historical particulars does not necessarily break new interpretive ground but provides instead one of the few longitudinal assessments of the link between public policy and social science scholarship. On the strength of his own wealth of research, primarily in secondary social science literature, Scott reminds us that the imagery of the damaged Black psyche has been an enduring one. Scott's thesis argument as well as his case for the centrality of social science ideas in public policy formation are compellingly rendered and made all the more plausible by a writing style that is immensely readable and fathomable.

Contempt and Pity, because of its extensive inventory of the relevant literature, both printed and manuscript, holds particular pertinency for teachers as a bibliographical reference. Additionally, it has possible classroom application at the undergraduate level in a variety of upper-division courses, including public and social policy, race and race relations, American myth-making and cultural stereotyping, and African-American history. At the graduate level *Contempt and Pity* most assuredly has classroom application for general discussion, review, and debate or possibly as the focus of a carefully posed writing assignment--e.g., position paper. So, depending on the topical and thematic thrust of the particular course, the book has definite classroom application possibilities.

This reviewer recommends *Contempt and Pity* as an informative, engaging, and insightful read for students of African-American history, American civilization, social and public policy formation, and the sociology of ideas. The work should be welcomed by both scholars and interested lay persons who will likely view it as a timely revisit of one of America's most enduringly recurrent racial and sociological images.

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D. Clayton James and Anne Sharp Wells. *America and the Great War, 1914-1920.* Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1998. Pp. viii, 120. Paper, \$11.95; ISBN 0-88295-944-1.

In *America and the Great War, 1914-1920*, D. Clayton James and Anne Sharp Wells make a useful contribution to the distinguished American History Series from Harlan Davidson. In the spirit of the other works in the series--such as Paul K. Conkin's *The New Deal* or Arthur Link and Richard L. McCormick's *Progressivism--America and the Great War* offers a comprehensive overview of a pivotal topic in a compact package of 98 pages, well suited for introductory or upper-level