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Lanning's "The global and American spirit" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Lanning, E. (2019). *The global and American spirit*. United States: Xlibris. 238 pp. \$29.99. ISBN 9781796059373

History is not a subject that only relies on facts. Its foundation is those facts, but the narrative they are told with and the dialogues that ensue from their discovery give the field of history its memorable lessons and engagement. Lanning's goal in this book is to contribute to the discussions about the past and present effect on and of America, as well as, prompt more dialogues, as opposed to monologues as he states in his introduction.

Many would like to relegate history to a school class, with textbook readings and timed tests, but the truth is that contemporary events are often consequences of what happened in the past and what was learned as a result. This is especially true when analyzing democracy. History and philosophy have both played pivotal roles on how the United States has changed since its inception and how it impacts the global society. Lanning uses this book to trace the many ways history has impacted and changed current times. This book begins with the author's observations on Aristotle and touches on important historical events with a contemporary view.

While the book covers a variety of topics within the social science fields, some essays seem to have been submitted for higher education courses and there are little to no transitions from one essay to the following one. Without looking at the bibliography for each essay, it is sometimes difficult to see the primary sources Lanning is analyzing. It is an interesting read for one who is interested in different aspects of the social sciences (philosophy, history, and geography to name a few), but it would not be considered a highly academic work. The author does provide both footnotes and a bibliography for readers to see the works he has based his essays upon.

Reviewer

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