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Senior Honors Thesis Abstracts

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Senior Honors Thesis Abstracts

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS ABSTRACTS

**“There grows in the land here neither wine nor meat”:
Governance and Conflict in the German Rule of 16th
Century Venezuela**

Ryan Anderson

This thesis examines a period in the early history of Spanish Venezuela, wherein a company of German speaking men, funded by a rich Augsburgian family, administered the colony for 28 years on behalf of the Spanish Crown. In discussing this period of colonial history, this work primarily discusses the reasons why the German administration collapsed with such speed and severity, fitting into a centuries-long historiography on the same issue. My approach, fitting with those of historians writing in the past fifteen years, is to describe the difficult contexts in which a German administration had to work in a Spanish empire, and how multiple forces - poor administration, adventure seeking, and mistreatment of the Indians on the Germans' behalf, and a tide of changing domestic opinion and scapegoating of the German presence on the Spanish crown's side - colluded to yield the colony's demise. Secondly, this thesis works to foster the growth of an English-language historiography on the issue. Almost all histories written to this date have been in either German or Spanish traditions, a property that makes the furthering of the study in English more difficult and lends itself to easy biases, e.g. a nationalist bent. I hope that this work will encourage other English speakers to study this peculiar trans-(proto)-national phenomenon and enrich our understanding of its complications. My main primary sources for this study were a pair of travel narratives, written by two of the conquistadors in the 1530s and 1540s, as well as some of their correspondences. However, the decrees of the Spanish Crown on the German colony as well as near-contemporary histories on Venezuela were

critical additions to these materials. This research emphasizes overall the agency of the Spanish elite and the Spanish Crown in the administration of the German colony, suggesting that under the guise of protecting the Indians yet motivated principally by their dismal financial returns, the King of Spain moved to actively displace the Germans from his empire.

“To Preserve Them from Extinction”: Richard Henry Pratt and the Indian Education Movement

Emily Delisle

My thesis examines the establishment and operation of the Carlisle Indian School, the first federal off-reservation residential school for American Indian children and young adults. The school was founded in 1879 by a man named Richard Henry Pratt, an officer in the United States Military who had served both the Civil War and the “Indian Wars” on the Western frontier which continued after the Civil War had come to a close. Pratt’s personal contact and experience with Native American peoples during his time in the West ultimately inspired his lifelong mission to assimilate Native American children through forcible acculturation and an educational program whose explicit intent to “kill the Indian, save the man” remains a deeply troubling episode in American history. My research, relying heavily on Pratt’s own writings and correspondences with both Native American individuals directly affected by his policies and the many government officials responsible for Indian Affairs at the time, investigates the racial ideology and federal policy behind the school’s establishment, the evolution of Pratt’s work and thought both before and during his early years as the school’s superintendent, and the vast range of experiences of the Indian students themselves at Carlisle.

Budding Life in a Barren World: The Revival of Jewish Life and Community in the Post-World War II Displaced Persons Camps

Sarah Emmerich

This thesis explores the rehabilitative process experienced by the Jewish survivors of the Holocaust in the post-World War II Displaced Persons (“DP”) camps. In the immediate aftermath of World War II, a network of DP camps was established by various Allied organizations. While these camps were organized and ran by Allied officials, the Jewish survivors took on remarkable leadership roles which allowed life within the camps to flourish. Between the years 1945 and 1951, life for the Jewish survivors in all its varied facets and capacities thrived within the DP camps. Just months after the liberation of Hitler’s concentration camps, children were playing in the streets and attending schools and adults were regaining their health and receiving professional and vocational training. Moreover, in 1946, Jews were marrying on a daily basis and the Jewish DPs boasted the highest birthrate in the world. In the aftermath of the war, therefore, those Jews who managed to evade Hitler’s Final Solution were able to establish a societal framework within the refugee camps in which they found themselves, and to recreate lives that had purpose and meaning amidst darkness. By exploring the confines in which this life emerged, this thesis analyzes the way in which the Jewish survivors created a life for themselves—with assistance from their liberators—in an otherwise hopeless time.

Moral Education in Public Schools: The Complexities of Teaching Controversy

Sarah Engell

In 1974 the proposal and adoption of new language arts textbooks, that sought to emphasize themes of multiculturalism and egalitarianism, sparked a violent year-long protest in Kanawha County, West Virginia. The opposition perceived the texts as

overly sexual, anti-American, and intrusive while supporters celebrated the diversification of narratives and information. The ability of newly adopted language arts textbooks to spark an explosive controversy reflects the impact of textbooks and, more broadly, public education on creating a sense of identity and belonging. Through objecting or supporting the textbooks and the language they contained, the citizens of Kanawha County were bitterly fighting to protect their own definitions of what it meant to be a good student, parent, teacher, community member, and American. Furthermore, through protesting and ultimately reworking the process of textbook adoption and inclusion, the citizens redefined who and what was included in their notion of a good public school education. The research seeks to understand how a community's perception of public education and the role it should play in a child's life impacts the inclusion of the public in academic decision making as well as the insertion and definition of controversial matter in the classroom. In addition, the research seeks to better understand the triangulation of rights in public school between students, teachers, and parents.

**“Prompt, Adequate, and Effective Compensation”:
The Role of American Businesses in Cuban-American
Relations, 1959-1961**

Taylor Evensen

The nationalization of American property by the Castro regime totaled more than \$1.8 billion, or \$9 billion in today's dollars. It was the largest property seizure in American history by a foreign government. 6,000 individuals and firms, including many Fortune 500 companies such as Coca-Cola and Exxon Mobil, lost their holdings. This thesis examines the role of American companies in Cuban-American relations from the passage of the First Agrarian Reform Act in May 1959 to the Central Intelligence Agency's support of the Cuban exile invasion at the

Bay of Pigs in April 1961. In doing so, this work aims to provide clarity to this tenuous period of relations and expand on the work of scholars who have focused almost exclusively on the role of diplomats. This study includes an extensive examination of the correspondence between U.S. government officials and corporate executives, as well as an analysis of internal corporate documents and personal memoirs. The findings of this research challenge the traditional historical notion that firms did not play a decisive role in American foreign policy. Although corporate executives disagreed with the Department of State's policies at times, they nevertheless regularly communicated with the U.S. government and provided valuable intelligence and insight into Cuba's domestic conditions. Ultimately, as relations deteriorated, American companies emerged as an instrumental means for the U.S. government to apply pressure on Cuba without overtly breaking diplomatic ties.

**Delinquents, Rebels, Lovers, and Lost Souls:
Representations of American and French Youth Culture
in Film**

Carolyn Grace

This thesis examines the various representations of America's youth culture over the postwar period, beginning in the early 1950s and ending in the late 1960s. Specifically, this thesis will explore the representations of American youth culture through one particular lens: a cinematic one. It addresses the film industry's popular representations of youth culture and its impact on Americans' larger understanding of youth. At this point in American history, youth underwent a lot of public scrutiny, and for a variety of reasons. In the 1950s, concerns about juvenile delinquency -- stemming from World War II -- reached levels of mass hysteria. Hollywood perpetuated the image of riled-up, antisocial youngsters for moral and exploitative purposes, wanting to participate in the national conversation about youth,

but also wanting to attract audiences. By the 1960s, however, many elements of youth culture that had once been reprimanded were now celebrated as wholesome aspects of young American life. But this image did not last into the mid and late 1960s. In its place, the film industry presented youth who were uncertain and unsure of their lives, unable to be satisfied in the present and incapable of envisioning a brighter future. This shift in representation was due not only to major cultural shifts in the United States, but largely to the influence of France and its movies representing youth culture. The subtle, stoic behaviors of young French stars and the personal philosophies of their directors made an impact on the shift between the way American films showed youth in the '50s and the way they portrayed them in the '60s. This became a part of the two countries' already-existing transnational exchange of experiences with youth culture. Although youth were viewed as the "other" in other forms of popular media, the film industries in both France and the United States played a far larger role in perpetuating this idea given its visual dominance.

Redefining American Motherhood: Emily Mudd's Mission at Home and Abroad

Helen Hunter

In 1929, Emily Hartshorne Mudd risked arrest by volunteering as a nurse at Philadelphia's first birth control clinic. Visibly pregnant with her second child, Mudd relied on an antiquated law that barred the incarceration of a pregnant woman in order to serve women in need of contraceptive advice. Before this bold venture, Mudd had worked for a decade as her husband's unpaid research assistant in immunology and had personally experienced the conflicting pressures on women in the early twentieth century who aspired to be both mothers and professionals. Over the next seventy years, Mudd became a key player in the development of marriage counseling as a way to help women navigate their

maternal and professional ambitions. Scholars have remembered Mudd for her contributions to the field of marriage counseling but have failed to recognize the extent of her larger professional ambitions. This thesis reconsiders her achievements by examining her early career in the birth control movement and her trips to Germany and the Soviet Union around the Second World War, where she examined and warmly approved of government support for working mothers. These missions characterize Mudd as a strong-willed and pragmatic realist making concessions to a slowly changing social order.

Sir Percy Loraine and Anglo-Turkish Rapprochement 1934-1939

Otto Kienitz

This thesis weaves the tale of British Ambassador to Turkey Sir Percy Loraine through the fabric of interwar diplomatic history, uncovering the personal relationships and key turning points in Britain's foreign relations with the newly founded Republic of Turkey. Only years after the fierce animosity of the First World War, Britain tentatively reached out to Turkey to form a political and economic ally in the Eastern Mediterranean, a partnership that could bring stability to the Balkan Peninsula, protect British imperial interests in the Middle East, and preserve the status quo in the Mediterranean Basin. Following the rise of Fascism in Italy and Germany, the Anglo-Turkish relationship began to develop with a sense of urgency, and one man stood at the center of this diplomatic exchange. Sir Percy Loraine, one of the last professional diplomats of the old European state system, was a polished ambassador with a track record of working with Eastern strongmen from Persia to Egypt. I explore Sir Loraine's archival legacy, using his assiduous diary entries, official correspondences, and private papers to craft a narrative of personal contacts and tête-à-tête conversations to provide a closer look at diplomacy in action. Tracing Loraine's relationships with his Secretary of

States and his cousin in the Foreign Office in London, and his friendships with the Turkish President, Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs in Ankara, I am able to direct attention to the behind the scenes rapprochement that picked up speed between 1934-1939, and provide a more firsthand understanding of the Anglo-Turkish alliance and the reasons for its collapse soon after the outbreak of the Second World War. This thesis charts the personal, social, economic, political, and diplomatic underpinnings of Anglo-Turkish relations in the interwar period, blending personal narratives with the geopolitics of southeastern Europe to create an engaging exploration of diplomatic history in vivo via Sir Percy Loraine's ambassadorial savoir-faire.

Informed Mourning: Museum Representation of the Holocaust in Berlin and DC

Alex Levy

This thesis examines the creation of national memory of the Holocaust in the United States and Germany. It traces the trajectory of Holocaust memory from the end of World War II in 1945 to the present day, in which world-renowned museums have been built in the capitals of both countries. This expands upon existing research by synthesizing information about the museums in Berlin and DC while also connecting it to the process of creating national memory. The research methods utilized include qualitative analysis of the museums, newspaper articles, and interviews with prominent museum staff. Secondary accounts of museums are included to supplement these sources. The findings of this research conclude that while these museums have provided an accessible history of the Holocaust, they have not eradicated the issues that inspired their creation. Therefore, the field of Holocaust memory merits continued study and analysis.

“Spies All Their Lives”: African Americans and Military Intelligence During the Civil War

Carly Mayer

This thesis examines African American men and women’s military intelligence efforts during the American Civil War. In particular, it focuses on why and how African Americans participated in clandestine activities. In doing so, this work aims to challenge the disjointed nature of existing literature that narrates the efforts and contributions of African American spies. Most authors who engage the topic fabricate elaborate heroic narratives, a consequence both of immense public fascination with the topic of spies and the lack of easily accessible sources. Where is the truth of these people and their efforts noted in the history we read and write? This thesis, then, seeks to set the foundation for a cohesive body of literature that compiles and narrates the efforts of African American spies. It analyzes the military intelligence activities of specific African American men and women and their contribution to the Union cause, and also strives to highlight the masses of “intelligent negroes,” who, despite being unnamed, significantly assisted the northern war effort. Ultimately, this work confirms that African Americans became the Confederacy’s unanticipated yet undeniable “chief source of weakness,” as they proved, time and again, their vast abilities to assist the Union army and navy. The independent slaveholding republic fell victim not just to Union forces but also, notably, to the determined resistance of its enslaved population. War transformed enslaved men and women into an “enemy within” that the Confederate South was simply unable to suppress.

One Nation Overseas: The Statecraft of the United States Congress in the Age of Democratic Revolutions

Varun K. Menon

This thesis chronicles the influence of the United States Congress in shaping the American encounter with the world through foreign policymaking, primarily documenting the 12th through 20th Congresses from 1811 to 1826. By presenting American diplomatic history during this tumultuous period of global revolutions from the perspective of Congress, this work contends that the Legislative Branch began to actively assert its power in international matters that had been largely dominated by the Executive Branch under the first three presidential administrations. From the declaration of the War of 1812 to the independence of the Latin American nations, Congress began to exercise significantly more influence over foreign relations in response to various interests facilitated through the body's institutional growth and maturation. Various actions throughout this period from declaring war, to negotiating and ratifying treaties, to regulating international commerce, to recognizing foreign actors, to confirming diplomatic nominations, to legislating and appropriating the nation's foreign apparatus as a whole were subject to new assertions of Congressional authority that set important precedents for where formal and informal power resides in the foreign policymaking process. Through the records of Congress, its members, and its constituents, this thesis comprises a narrative of how the membership and structure of the Senate and the House of Representatives transformed in order to act on and react to international events during the earliest decades of the American Republic. In exploring the dynamic currents of power over foreign relations first truly tested during the period under review, this work illuminates the role that Congress gradually constructed for itself in the making of the American relationship with the world and how the body—and the country—changed as a result.

Resolution 3379: Israel and Zionism at the United Nations

Celine Moussazadeh

On November 10, 1975, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 3379, which declared Zionism a form of racism and racial discrimination. This thesis examines the genesis of this resolution, tracing its roots to geopolitical shifts in the 1970s that remade the world order and forever changed the conduct of international affairs. Decolonization processes in the 1960s, coupled with Arab appropriation of the oil industry and a decline in American diplomatic prestige following the Vietnam War transformed the global balance of power. An Arab-Soviet alliance quickly capitalized on American vulnerability, activating Third World hostility towards the imperialist West. Seizing upon the United Nations as their salvation, this coalition found itself with an invincible majority at the General Assembly. The launching of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination enabled Arab and Soviet diplomats to delegitimize their enemies in Israel and the West by labelling them racist agents. I examine both arguments for and against the resolution, giving voice to claims of Israeli injustice and discrimination against the Palestinians and articulating the corresponding defense of Zionism as the legitimate nationalist movement of the Jewish people. This resolution thus provides unique insight into the evolution of Israel's diplomatic standing and its legitimacy and sustainability as a Jewish state in the Middle East. The scholarship of this resolution has largely been a footnote in the histories of other subjects; it has never been meticulously dissected in and of itself. Using archival resources from the U.S. State Department and academic articles drawn from the period, this thesis contributes a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of this historical moment. 1975, indeed, marks a high tide of anti-Israel sentiment throughout the world. Perhaps partially informed by entrenched anti-Semitism, the adoption of Resolution 3379 in 1975 resulted from a much

more complex—and obscure—constellation of forces.

Guns, Race, and Power: The Postbellum Rise and Fall of African American Police Forces in Two Southern Cities

Efraim Saltzman

This thesis documents that the role of race in policing, contentious in current times played a pivotal role in the Reconstruction South. It first examines the complicated political, social, and military factors which collided to precipitate the inclusion of the first blacks in the police forces of Wilmington, North Carolina and Charleston, South Carolina. It proceeds to provide an in depth vantage point of the performance of black police. Close examination of the rule books guiding police behavior, census and city directory data all show that black police constituted large portions of these two cities' police forces. Examination of black police and the forces they contributed to, through arrest records correspondence and both military and municipal records, reveals similar if not more proficient service than their previously all white counterparts. Despite such valiant attempts to police a racist society, the south eventually returned to white supremacy through Redemption. In Charleston, white Democrats' political might effectively ended black police. In Wilmington, as recounted by period newspapers white Democrats and supremacist violence combined to crush insurgent black police power. The story of the brave men in blue who defied the social order of the South through policing whites, often risking their lives, is told in this thesis.

The Fallacy of the Ideological Press: How American National Newspapers Reacted to the French Revolution from 1789 to 1793

Aaron Senior

Three important events of the early 1790s fundamentally changed American politics: the creation of a national newspaper

culture, the beginnings of the French Revolution, and the birth of political parties. The collision of all three phenomena is the subject of this thesis. Primarily, this thesis examines the conventional historical claim that the national newspaper editors of the early 1790s served as mere ideological mouthpieces for their Federalist and Republican political patrons. The obsession with and reaction to the French Revolution in the Federalist *Gazette of the United States* and the Republican *National Gazette* and *General Advertiser* serve as the test case for this historical claim. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of these newspapers show that the Federalist-Republican ideologies are not sufficient to explain how these newspapers responded and reacted to the French Revolution. Instead, a major divide is observed between the writings of the partisan newspapers and the opinions of the party founders. In explaining this divide, this thesis posits that the Republican press attempted to dissent from Federalist policies while also trying to maintain a perception of unity in the United States. In order to escape the perception of factionalism, the Republican newspapers displaced much of their partisanship to their commentary on the French Revolution. Thus, the French Revolution served a key role within American political culture—not so much as another ideological battleground, but instead as a haven for political dissent.

“Forcibly and Against Her Will”: Sexual Violence, Military Justice, and Race in the American Civil War

Anne Weis

This thesis explores occurrences of sexual violence perpetrated by Union soldiers during the American Civil War and is based upon a close study of a sample of records for Union Army courts-martial for sexual crimes. It is both a study of the ways in which sexual violence was carried out during the war and how the military justice system dealt with instances of sexual violence perpetrated by its soldiers. This thesis seeks to be a part

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of an emerging scholarship on sexual violence in the Civil War that has been influenced by recent revelations about the uses of sexual violence in warfare more generally. In addition, this project features a robust focus on race, and the story about the intersection of sex, violence, and race during the Civil War that the courts-martial tell is at different moments surprising, tragically expected, confounding, and hopeful. This story both fits within a long and devastating narrative of the sexual subjugation of black women that runs through our nation's past like a poisoned vein, and breaks from that narrative in stunning ways.