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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

After another challenging yet enriching cycle, it is with tremendous excitement that, on behalf of the Editorial Board, I present the newest edition of the *Penn History Review*.

As I conclude my term as Editor-in-Chief of the *Penn History Review*, I cannot help but reflect upon my time with great fondness. I first joined the Editorial Board in the spring of 2014. Since then, I have read many submissions, collaborated with numerous editors, and edited undergraduate history papers that range from the elegant to the provocative. The amount of knowledge I have gained about history, the publication process, and ultimately, about myself, has been invaluable. Without a doubt, the reason why my tenure on the Editorial Board has been so positive rests upon the core tenet of the *Penn History Review*: publishing the finest original and scholarly history essays. In doing so, one can share the perspective of an author's academic passion, and, more specifically, for focused and well-researched topics. This issue of the *Penn History Review* is no exception.

The first article in this issue is *The Age of Infrastructure: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Progressive Civil Religion*, by Joseph Kiernan. This piece highlights the political career of Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska, who was considered a leader of the progressive civil religion in the United States during the mid-twentieth century. While the author provides a synopsis of Norris' entire political career, the paper focuses on the zenith of Senator Norris' work, highlighting the admirable and determined spirit with which he championed the inception of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Consequently, the reader will appreciate the titanic amount of "red tape" Norris grappled with to achieve his vision for the United States, and how the Nebraskan Senator carved a legacy for himself in the country, both literally and

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figuratively.

Public Schools as Loci for Human Experimentation: Implications of Using Public Schools to House the Polio Vaccine Field Trial of 1954, written by Will Schupmann, is the second article included in this issue. This work highlights the controversy surrounding the mass field trial overseen by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) for young school children in an effort to combat the life-threatening disease, poliomyelitis (polio). Specifically, the NFIP opted to administer Jonas Salk's new and promising vaccine for polio in public schools, yet this decision, in conjunction with other choices by the NFIP, had an important impact regarding how the public perceived the field trial. Thus, the reader will be surprised to learn how and why the NFIP was successful in implementing its widespread inoculation program and, more broadly, about the implications of hosting a mass field trial in public schools.

The third paper is entitled *The Emerging Storm: Sir Percy Loraine and Anglo-Turkish Rapprochement, 1934-1935*, by Otto Kienitz. The paper begins by introducing Sir Percy Loraine, who in 1934 became Britain's new Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey. After examining the geopolitical landscape of the interwar era, the author describes the diplomatic, economic, and security challenges faced by Loraine in the British Ambassador's attempt to recommence a mutually steadfast and respectful relationship between Britain and Turkey. By revealing the private conversations and meetings between Loraine and various Turkish officials to the reader, the author not only underscores the strenuous and lethargic process of this diplomacy in general, but also emphasizes the success, impact, and significance of Loraine's ambassadorial endeavors in particular.

The final scholarly essay featured is "*Indianizing the Confederacy*": *Understandings of War Cruelty During the American Civil War and the Sioux Uprising of 1862*, written by Zachary Brown of Stanford University. After defining the characteristics of

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the phenomenon known as “Indian war,” this paper explores how the northern press pinned these negative traits to their adversaries in the South and the Minnesota Frontier during the early- to mid-1860s. Although the northern media’s decision seemed to transpire as a consequence of extreme and often hyperbolized instances, these accusations persuaded and unified a horrified and appalled audience. Ultimately, therefore, the reader will grasp the power and impact of the northern press during this tumultuous and sanguinary era, especially regarding how propaganda connected and influenced the Union’s perception of its enemy combatants.

Publishing a scholarly journal requires a team effort, thus the Editorial Board would also like to extend its sincere thanks to Dr. Siyen Fei, Undergraduate Chair of the History Department, and to Dr. Yvonne Fabella, the Undergraduate Advisor of the History Department. Their advice, encouragement, and promotion of the *Penn History Review* demonstrates the support and commitment of the History Department in publishing outstanding original and scholarly work written by undergraduate students. Also, the Editorial Board would like to express its gratitude for both the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania and at other schools across the United States who advertised this publication to students, as well as to the students who submitted work for consideration. Finally, the Editorial Board wishes a heartfelt thank you to the University of Pennsylvania for providing a platform to augment and to enhance the field of history with unique academic texts.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board for their efforts, enthusiasm, and dedication to publishing this issue of the *Penn History Review*. In particular, it is with great pleasure to have added three new members to our Editorial Board—Isabel Gendler, Emma Hetrick, and Cristina Urquidi; they are assets to our team. Lastly, I want to offer my appreciation to my friends and family, whose

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motivation and support has been immeasurable.

Congratulations to all of the editors and authors who have contributed to this Fall 2016 Issue of the *Penn History Review*!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron", written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Aaron C. Mandelbaum
Editor-in-Chief