

## Book Reviews

the historical literature on American foreign policy will find this work of interest for its interpretation, not because it breaks new ground in exploitation of primary sources.

This interpretation is at once the greatest strength and the greatest weakness of *The Faces of Power*. Brown identifies his background on the first page of his preface: Rand Corporation analyst under Kennedy and Johnson, Brookings Institution fellow during the Nixon and Ford presidencies, Carnegie Endowment program director in 1977-1978. The reader is not surprised, therefore, to find a book that approaches the history of American foreign policy from a consistently liberal Democratic perspective. This orientation is most valuable when used to illuminate the motives and actions of Democratic administrations with "insider" empathy. Too often, however, it leads to apologia for Democrats and indictments of Republicans.

This political double standard is evident throughout *The Faces of Power*. The author devotes an entire chapter to his belief that differences between Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles produced a confused and sometimes contradictory foreign policy. Yet his account of the Truman administration dismisses Louis Johnson's opposition to NSC-68 in a single clause, allows James Byrnes to disappear without a mention of personal or political differences with the president, and does not mention Henry Wallace at all. John Kennedy, "given his practical frame of mind and wide intellectual grasp," created a "vital fusion" of realism and idealism; the initial Nixon formulation of foreign policy, in contrast, was a "euphemism" and "rationalization" (150, 328). The long, highly critical chapter in which Brown describes the Nixon efforts to get the U.S. out of Vietnam would be more persuasive had he considered Kennedy's role in escalating that war sufficiently important to devote one entire page to it. In these and other instances, the author's partisanship in approach, in interpretation, and in language prove ultimately counterproductive.

This consistent partisanship may prove, however, *The Faces of Power's* greatest value to historians. While it flaws the work as history, it leaves an excellent insight for future intellectual historians who seek to understand how a committed liberal Democrat viewed the history of American foreign policy during his own time. The attempt to interpret history is often the best historical document.

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*Inside the Warren Court.* By Bernard Schwartz with Stephan Leshner. (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1983. Pp. 299. \$17.95.)

This volume is a popularized abridgment of a far more weighty and scholarly tome by Professor Schwartz (*Super Chief: Earl Warren and His Supreme Court—A Judicial Biography*) that has been published by New York University Press. Stephan Leshner, a former legal affairs correspondent for *Newsweek* magazine, "did most of the writing for this version," the introduction to *Inside the Warren Court* declares, but unfortunately the attempt to convey the richness of Schwartz's scholarly volume to a wider audience is not successful.

*Super Chief* itself is an impressive piece of research which uses to advantage both the documentary and oral sources to which Professor Schwartz has had access. As a chronological account of the Warren Court's private deliberations over the most notable cases of the 1953-1969 period, it is a work that Court specialists will find informative and which many legal historians will turn to as a reference book for years to come. However, its term-by-term format will dissuade all but the most dedicated readers from carefully perusing all of its 853 pages, and one must survey a succession of chapters in order to follow the development of particular doctrines and lines of cases.

## The Historian

*Inside the Warren Court* is a generally unsuccessful attempt to overcome the limitations of Schwartz's major volume and present his key findings in distilled fashion. Unfortunately, Leshner's abridgment has gone overboard in the opposite direction. From Professor Schwartz's careful and persuasive analytical insights in *Super Chief*, *Inside the Warren Court* veers away toward a succession of empty and superficial generalizations. Lacking all of the careful footnoting offered in *Super Chief*, the reader of *Inside the Warren Court* repeatedly wonders which portions of its prose are based upon Professor Schwartz's considered judgment and which upon Leshner's efforts at dramatic rendering.

Schwartz's *Super Chief* does a commendable job of detailing the major developments of the Warren Court era: the new Chief Justice's initial attraction to the jurisprudence of Felix Frankfurter, the Chief's gradual evolution away from Frankfurter's judicial restraint, Frankfurter's bitter unhappiness at how Warren and William Brennan increasingly were able to lead the Court in a direction opposite from his own, and the establishment of a solid activist majority when Arthur Goldberg succeeded Frankfurter in 1962. Though Hugo Black's interpretive independence and the ethical controversies surrounding Justice Abe Fortas both created problems for Warren during his final years in the center chair, Schwartz offers an empathetic account of how the Chief Justice led the Court over sixteen years to a sizeable number of landmark decisions.

Although *Inside the Warren Court* captures many of the substantive highlights of *Super Chief*, the interpretive richness of the latter volume is distinctly lacking in the former. In this reviewer's judgment, any reader interested in exploring the Warren Court's record would be better advised to read selectively in *Super Chief* rather than devote time to the empty and unsatisfying prose offered by *Inside the Warren Court*.

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