

The Imperial Years: The U.S. Since 1939

by Alonzo L. Hamby

(Weybright and Talley; 428 pp.; \$14.95)

A thoughtful and informative summary of U.S. power and its influence in the world since 1939. If it is short on analysis, it nonetheless brings things together in a fair way, making it a likely candidate for classroom use.

Simple Justice

by Richard Kluger

(Knopf; 822 + xxiii pp.; \$15.95)

This fine achievement traces the prelude to and the consequences of *Brown v. Board of Education*, focusing on the making of the decision itself. The book is stronger on narrative than on analysis, often indifferent to crucial distinctions between *proscribing* segregation and *prescribing* integration, between *de facto* and *de jure* segregation, between class-related and race-related discrimination. Desegregation (integration) appears as an inexorable legal machine stopped only by the Supreme Court's failure of nerve when it comes to rearranging the whole of national life. Despite the absence of necessary distinctions, however, Kluger has given us an eminently readable story of one of the finest moments in the American experiment. The hope for greater

justice, especially for black Americans, cannot be simply the story of *Brown* continued. But it will certainly require much of the same courage and imagination that is illuminated in this very good book.

LBJ: An Irreverent Chronicle

by Booth Mooney

(Crowell; 290 pp.; \$9.95)

It is also a very loving chronicle. The author, long-time assistant and speechwriter to Johnson, offers neither a high style nor new information that will get his book acclaimed as "important." But the character of LBJ, including his grievous flaws, come through more clearly than in, for example, another recent volume written by a young woman. Mooney's is the kind of memoir one might hope for from a loyal but critical friend.

Correspondence (from p. 2)

and generative presuppositions—would be my nominations for the agenda of a gathering of kindred spirits who have a zest for establishing fundament for the democratic prospect. Such occasions might inch along the enterprise I see in the Nèuhaus article. Or at least help disentangle democratic tradition from the ethos of European mercantile man, who exploded over the world a short time ago, convinced that God was giving to him wherever he was the command to subdue and have dominion.

Ross Snyder

Professor of Religious Education
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Illegal Aliens

To the Editors: Zofia Smardz's article on illegal aliens ("The Great Illegal Alien Debate," *Worldview*, May) touches one area in our immigration policy that must be changed. She states that there are jobs at the bottom of the labor market that must be filled by a constant supply of immigrants, so our immigration law should be shaped accordingly. There is a too little known

and discussed provision in our immigration laws to provide unskilled or semi-skilled labor in geographic areas in which it is needed. Section 212(a) 14 of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides that such people may immigrate to the U.S. on Labor Certifications, if the Department of Labor certifies that there are not enough qualified Americans or resident immigrants already here to fill such jobs. In theory the Washington restaurants that could not function without the low-paid illegal should be able to prove to the authorities that they have attempted to find Americans for the job, have been unsuccessful, and have a qualified and willing alien to do the job. If this system worked the way it was intended, there would be a drastic drop in the hiring of illegals; presumably the majority of American businessmen are honest and would not hire illegals simply because they wanted to exploit them at subminimum wages.

The major legal obstacle to the functioning of this system is the fact that recipients of Labor Certifications must immigrate under the quota system, which for the Western Hemisphere is backed up for three years. When I was a Vice Consul in Italy in 1971 the Italian quota was backed up for five years and our Consulates refused even to accept applications for Labor Certifications from those in the sixth-preference category. An employer who needs an employee, whether a dishwasher or more skilled type, obviously cannot afford to wait three years for someone to immigrate; naturally, the job is then filled by illegals.

The solution to this problem is a simple one. We should remove Labor Certifications from the quota system and treat such applicants for immigration in the same manner in which we handle the cases of immediate relatives of American citizens, i.e., immigration with no long waiting period. The wait would be at most several months—the time it would take for the employer to prove his inability to fill the job with an American and to process the alien's papers at an American Consulate.

With this change in the law there would be no reason to tolerate illegal immigration. Ms. Smardz's article does not deal with two of the most debilitating aspects of our lack of enforcement of the immigration laws: the corruption it breeds in such agencies as the Immigration and Naturalization Service, on the

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one hand, and the lack of respect for American institutions stimulated in the bulk of immigrants who have their first contact with the United States while violating our laws, on the other.

As the world's population doubles in the next thirty years there will be mounting pressures, rising from charitable impulses, not to enforce our immigration quotas. However, if we increase our immigration quotas by a factor of ten to a four million total a year, we would absorb an unhelpful 4 per cent of the 3.6 billion increase, turning the United States into a chaotic slum of warring ethnic groups as we attempt to absorb 120 million non-English-speaking people into our society.

David Henderson

Washington, D.C.

To the Editors: Re: "The Great Illegal Alien Debate." Thank you for an informative article, which moved me, because it expounded so well both sides of the illegal alien problem.

Since its birth the United States has been the world's melting pot, with people from almost every ethnic

background making their homes here. Unfortunately, due to dwindling natural resources, we have reached the age when Americans are encouraged to have fewer children. The incongruity is that masses of illegal aliens are condoned by the government. The government's excuse, that these aliens are the only ones who will do the menial jobs, is unacceptable. Too many people today are unemployed, people who would welcome a job, no matter how menial, just as long as it is honest work and they are remunerated fairly for their duties. The real victims are the illegal aliens who live in fear, and the real villains are the employers who lure these aliens to our country and then pay them less than the minimum wage. This exploitation of slave labor—for that is what it is—should be discontinued at once. The acceptance of Representative Peter Rodino's bill H.R. 982 would, by penalizing these employers, be one step in the right direction toward solving the problem. Certainly with passage of this bill there would be other problems to be faced. But now is the time to give this matter the proper and needed attention it

deserves and that so far has been lacking. I feel certain that fair solutions can be worked out in favor of both the illegal aliens and the tax-paying citizens. Right now both are being cheated.

Sherry Johnson

Westbury, N.Y.

Correction

Printer's gremlins had a field day with O. Edmund Clubb's "What the 'Pacific Doctrine' Overlooks" in the September issue of *Worldview*. Of the six fundamental elements of the "new Pacific Doctrine" outlined by President Ford, only five made it into print. The corrected version reads: (5) "Peace in Asia depends upon a resolution of outstanding political conflicts"; and (6) "Peace in Asia requires a structure of economic cooperation reflecting the aspirations of all the peoples in the region."

With the replacement of an omitted word in the concluding paragraph of Dr. Clubb's article, the original sentence reads: It is with respect to the Soviet Union that the *Pacific Doctrine* is most deficient, however.