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Eugene D. Genovese and Leonard Hochberg, eds. *Geographical Perspectives in History*.

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xii). In Chapter Seven, Scharfstein poses the question: "Have philosophers raised any decisive arguments against Machiavellism?" (p. 248). Scharfstein's answer is disappointing, for he bases his analysis on Kant's essay "Perpetual Peace." Clearly, a theme as important as this is deserving of more extensive consideration. Although he claims to demonstrate that the Machiavellian approach to political theory is "the persistent truth," his inadequate handling of this question leaves the reader with serious doubts.

The main virtue of this work is its comparative approach. With its comparison of the Western and non-Western Machiavellian traditions, political theorists and historians will find this volume a useful addition to the literature, despite some weaknesses in argument and organization.

Michael E. Meagher

Eugene D. Genovese and Leonard Hochberg, eds. *Geographical Perspectives in History*. Blackwell, 1989 (reprinted, 1992, paperback), 342 pp.

We have here a welcome marriage of geography and history: not a *festschrift* in honor of historian Edward Fox, author of "History in Geographic Perspective" (1971), but a selection of essays by scholars in several fields inspired by his teaching and writing. The first eight essays constitute Part One, France and Europe. The remaining eight form Part Two, Europe and the Atlantic World. Each essay stands by itself, however, testimony to a wide variety of topics and of geographical quality. Several are of outstanding value.

Martin Bernal's contribution begins the collection: "First By Land, Then By Sea: Thoughts About the Social Formation of the Mediterranean and Greece" is a splendid integration of geography and history, handling the changing role of the Mediterranean (as barrier between, and link among, peoples), the diffusion of agriculture and languages, the importance of location, and the interaction of regions, in an integrated whole.

Historian Charles Tilly, in "The Geography of European State-Making and Capitalism Since 1500" reveals a fine appreciation of the importance of scale, location, central-place hierarchies, the State as a geographic phenomenon, and the changing relative importance of land and sea transport. It is rich in empirical data as well.

Traian Stoianovich has provided "The Segmentary State and La Grande Nation." This is worthy of inclusion in a political-geographic anthology on Europe. Focusing on Serbia, he treats classes and ethnicities in terms of the scale of political and economic organization, as well as the importance of trade and

trade routes, and relations outside the region.

David Ringrose's "Towns, Transport, and the Crown: Geography and the Decline of Spain" is also of considerable merit. The development of Madrid as an overblown, parasitic primate city and its deleterious effects not only on Spain's central-place hierarchy but on the development of the country as a whole, are well explicated.

Immanuel Wallerstein's contribution, "France as a Special Case? A World-Systems Perspective," compares France with England in the 15th to 18th centuries, using such geographic concepts as insularity versus continentality, and centrifugal forces and their significance for a state.

Richard Rosecrance extends the views of Professor Fox to international relations in the penultimate essay, with some interesting insights about the size of states in relation to the fluctuating importance of foreign trade.

Geographers James Vance and Donald Meinig are welcome among the ranks of the essayists. Vance is a specialist in the historical geography of transportation, and Meinig in the historical geography of cultures. Vance, describing four geographic-historical stages, spells out the importance of changing modes of transportation in overcoming the friction of distance, altering the distribution of population and economic activity, and thereby making possible the successful expansion of capitalism in both medieval and modern times. Meinig has skillfully compressed into nineteen pages the ideas presented in the first volume of his excellent multi-volume geographical treatment of American history. He has illuminated the hitherto simple model of Europe on one side of the Atlantic and America on the other, with concepts, maps and diagrams which reveal in a very digestible form the regional differentiation of economy, polity, ethnicity, and imperialist activity in their geographic complexity.

The volume ends with an essay by Edward Fox himself, which, as one might expect, treats of land and sea commerce and its relation to politics. His blending of history and geography was a pleasure to read, diminished only by his closing remark: "One constant would seem to remain: human dependence on a geographical base for existence. But it is changing conditions that determine ... how territory will be exploited and allocated, contested and defined." (p. 342) As is the case with one or two other essayists, he is stating a view left behind by geographers generations ago, of geography as something apart from economics, politics, and all other aspects of human endeavor. The "changing conditions" to which he refers also are geographic. Human activities, whether manifested as artifacts in the landscape or as social structures and processes, are differentially distributed on the face of the earth, and, therefore part of its geography. This broader, more recent view of geography is part of the fabric of many of the other essays.

In calling your attention to what, in this reviewer's opinion, were the most outstanding essays in this collection, it is hoped that those who are con-

cerned with examples of how history and geography can be joined in happy marriage, or are concerned with the specific topics mentioned, will attend to this book post haste. The editors are to be commended for their labors.

Laurence G. Wolf

Stephen K. Sanderson. *Social Evolutionism, A Critical History*. Blackwell, 1990, paperback, pp. 228, references, index.

This is a work that is properly titled. I have run across many that are not; titles which promise the world for contents which cover a village or two. This book actually is a critical history of an approach to the study of human society that has been traveling under the label "evolution" for quite some time. As the author states in the preface, he "will survey the broad range of evolutionary theories in the social sciences, compare and contrast them to each other, and critically examine their logical and epistemological foundations" (xvii), and that is indeed what he has accomplished. Evolutionary ideas were present at the beginnings of modern sociology and anthropology and are still important sources of insight and contention in those disciplines and are of import to civilizationists as well.

Inquiry into so broad a subject is replete with pitfalls in methodology and conceptualization. One sooner or later is confronted with such questions as teleology/directionless history, endogeny/exogeny, objectivity/subjectivity, determinism/voluntarism, or determinism/probabilism, gradualism/punctuationism (or evolution/revolution), continuity/discontinuity, unilinearity/multilinearity, harmony/conflict, biologism/culturalism, materialism/ideationism, and even further dichotomies and polarities.

Sanderson deals well with many such and with several others besides, as he takes us thru several chapters in an historical sequence. Our journey starts with Classical Evolutionism (Spencer, Morgan and Tyler), the Antievolutionary Reaction (mostly Boas), Marxism (which comes across as a sort of mixed bag on several issues, The Evolutionary Revival (starring Childe, White and Steward), followed by the Neoevolutionists from Parsons and Smelser to Sahlins, Service, Carneiro, Lenski and Harris. There follows a goodly discussion of biological evolutionary thinking and its relationship to ideas of social evolution. The book closes with a presentation of his own views which is appropriately brief, for, with his mastery of his predecessor's problems and contributions, we need a separate book devoted to "Sanderson on Evolution."

If I may put in my own two-cents-worth, I think Sanderson and several others go overboard with the idea that the individual is a change-agent, the
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