



2-1995

Prefatory Note

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Recommended Citation

Schelbert, Leo (1995) "Prefatory Note," *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. Vol. 31 : No. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol31/iss1/2

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James H. Hutson's detailed study based on extensive archival research touches on many subjects. His essay highlights the terrors of war, ever more obliterating the distinction between combatants and civilians; the hazards of a new military technology being tested in combat; human proneness to error, especially under dire circumstances of danger-filled warfare; the diplomatic relations between an emerging superpower and a small neutral European nation; and, finally, the impact of a perceived parallel heritage as crystallized in the metaphor 'Sister Republics.' James H. Hutson's sensitive and scholarly exploration of a facet of World War II adds significantly to his previous work, *The Sister Republics. Switzerland and the United States 1776 to the Present* (Washington, D.C.: The Library of Congress, 1991). Since smaller nations are mostly ignored in the study of European and American history, his essay is especially welcome and appreciated.

Natalie Hector has been of invaluable help in preparing the essay for the *Review* and patiently put up with the numerous queries and necessary changes. As always, I am very much obliged to her expertise.

Leo Schelbert, Editor