

ranging from the late Elder Neal A. Maxwell to Truman G. Madsen, emeritus professor of philosophy at Brigham Young University. The subtitle, “Questions You Hesitate to Ask, Answers You Rarely Hear,” is a bit of a misnomer. The questions are actually asked over and over again by many adults in their twenties. Each chapter begins with a question, posed by a twenty-something Latter-day Saint, which raises issues that are then discussed for a few pages. The responses were selected and edited by two LDS law students, Jacob Werrett and David Read.

The book reads like a friendly dialogue—one could picture a group of people sitting around for lunch and discussing such topics. The questions are genuine and sincere, and the authors give sound and sage advice. The topics range from women in education to maintaining activity in the Church, and all are about important issues facing young adults in the Church today. Because of the question-and-answer format, it is easy to find an essay that will address a particular issue—a quick perusal of the question (no more than a page or two) yields the essence of the issue.

This book is ideally suited to young single adults or those who work closely with them. To anyone who is embarking on his or her college years, has a child who is doing so, or is in a young single adult bishopric, the essays and talks in this book will be valuable. As an example, in response to the question of how to choose between two good options, Virginia H. Pearce mentions Doctrine and Covenants 111, the Lord’s response to Joseph’s trip to Salem to find hidden treasure, as an example of how God can turn our bad (or even just not so good) choices into marvelous results. James Jardine talks about honesty in today’s competitive world, using

examples from his own life and from the character Sir Thomas More in the play *A Man for All Seasons*. Truman G. Madsen gives nine reasons to learn how to learn—not just going to school but actually understanding how to grapple with issues and continue learning as a lifelong pursuit. The answers to such questions will be a great aid to young adults and those around them.

—Carl Cranny

*Critical Issues in American Religious History: A Reader*, edited by Robert R. Mathisen, 2d rev. ed. (Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2006)

In eight hundred pages filled with sixteen generally chronological chapters, each including several historical documents and various essays written by recognized authorities, this volume ambitiously attempts to comprehensively cover critical issues in American religious history from its colonization to 1980. But even such coverage is necessarily selective. From my LDS perspective, I noticed right away that chapter 5, on American religion in the early republic, is silent on the subject of early Mormonism. The essays in chapter 5 cover millennialism, Charles Finney, and Adventism. Each of these rich topics is deserving of its place, and each could be profitably compared with Joseph Smith and early Mormonism.

I hoped Mathisen would have let Joseph Smith speak for himself by featuring his brief 1832 history. Instead, Mormonism first appears in chapter 6, where Brigham Young’s 1845 statement announcing the exodus from Illinois is featured. Is not the Brigham Young document insignificant by comparison? Mormonism disappears again until the final chapter, where a slice of Sonia Johnson’s 1979 autobiography is featured. This feature of an obviously

divisive personality reminds me of a graduate school seminar in which one of my fellow students, a non-Mormon, compared Johnson's autobiography to her papers and found considerable dissonance between the two. The autobiography is a much sexier, embellished story. Why does Johnson's document get privileged?

It is a good thing that the Joseph Smith Papers are being prepared for publication. With increasingly high-profile Latter-day Saints in politics, national polls and publications are suggesting deep-seated fears and prejudices against Mormonism. All of this should compel us to consider one of the most critical issues in American religious history: the nature of revealed religion in a democracy (or the nature of democracy for believers in revealed religion). Those who want to know for themselves about these critical issues in American religious history will need alternative sources for their inquiry than this book.

—Steven C. Harper

*Nineteenth-Century Saints at War*, edited by Robert C. Freeman (Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2006)

Robert C. Freeman, director of the Saints at War project at Brigham Young University, and colleague Dennis A. Wright have published two previous volumes that focus on the experiences of Latter-day Saints during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. This present publication focuses on the nineteenth-century wartime experiences of Latter-day Saints.

*Nineteenth-Century Saints at War* is a collaborative effort involving several scholars. Andrew C. Skinner provides an excellent analysis of Latter-day Saint

doctrines and principles as they pertain to war and peace. Larry C. Porter discusses Latter-day Saint involvement in the Mexican-American War. Lieutenant Colonel Sherman L. Fleek (United States Army, retired) provides an overview of the causes and the impact of the Utah War. David F. Boone writes about the Civil War, including Joseph Smith's prophecy of that war. James I. Mangum gives an interesting account of Latter-day Saints in the Spanish-American and Philippine Wars.

The editor provides a brief introduction to each war and also entertaining sidebars, which highlight significant individuals and places associated with each war. For example, one fascinating sidebar focuses on Charles Henry Wilcken, a former member of the Prussian Army who arrived in the United States in 1857 and joined Johnston's Army. Captured by Lot Smith's cavalry in Wyoming, Wilcken eventually joined the Church and went on to serve as a bodyguard for two Church presidents (89).

Notes at the end of each chapter will lead the interested reader to further reading. The book is well illustrated with over forty photographs and paintings. Many readers will likely be unfamiliar with the interesting artwork, which comes from both museums and private collections.

This work provides a good overview of the nineteenth-century Latter-day Saint wartime experience in one convenient volume. It succeeds in placing the Church experience against the broader American experience as it relates to war.

—J. Michael Hunter