

pressive; they involve a lot of “dialoguing,” which can be worse than useless. But the concept of providing the materials required for making policy decisions, rather than revving up and sensationalizing local conflicts, is a vast improvement.

The story behind the story

In many respects, this book reflects a naïveté on Fallows’s part. The media “industry” in this country, and the world, is not just a business. It has largely been spun off intelligence operations, and still functions as a means of social control, by the powerful, and centralized, financial interests behind them. It is impossible to understand how the media has degenerated so, without understanding these realities.

In the near future, *EIR* will publish a study of the media, which will document a good deal of the story. It will be clear who the powerful forces are who want to keep the American population so stupid, and why.

As a leader of the LaRouche movement, which produces its own products for print and electronic media, I have a clear concept of the alternative. We have a press which provides for serious study on history, economics, politics, and science; we have a variety of half-hour and hour TV specials which do the same. A market for such media products will be created to the extent that Americans determine that they are going to become qualified to run their republic. That is a decision which is long overdue.

EIR Audio Report

Your weekly antidote
for New World Order ‘news’

Exclusive news reports and interviews
Audio statements by Lyndon LaRouche

Updates on:

- The Real Economy
- Science and Technology
- The Fight for Constitutional Law
- The Right to Life
- Food and Agriculture
- The Arts
- The Living History of the American Republic
- Essential Reports from around the Globe

\$500 for 50 Issues
An hour-long audio cassette sent by first-class mail each week. Includes cover letter with contents.
Make checks payable to:

EIR News Service
P.O. Box 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
Phone: (703) 777-9451 Fax: (703) 771-9492

A disservice to American history

by Nancy Spannaus

Trial and Triumph: Presidential Power in the Second Term

by Alfred J. Zacher

Presidential Press, Fort Wayne, Ind., 1996
349 pages, hardbound, \$24.95

This book shows the folly of trying to address history through the prism of sociology, and, even worse, through trying to predict who will win the next election. *Trial and Triumph* is a review of 18 American Presidents, all of whom served at least two terms. Author Zacher comes up with a metric for predicting their success, by devising 10 measures of Presidential conduct. It all turns out to be either meaningless, or disorienting.

The publicity for this book focusses on its relevance to whether President Clinton will win a second term, and the publishers have even gone on the Internet with a quiz, by which readers are supposed to rank the 18 Presidents Zacher discusses. But there is so much disinformation involved in the Presidential history, that no one could conceivably evaluate their performance, much less use it for generalized predictions.

Case-studies in misevaluation

Two examples will suffice.

One of Zacher’s favorites is President Andrew Jackson, who served from 1828 to 1836. Jackson represented the Democratic Party in its pre-FDR form, i.e., as the party of slavery and treason. His claim to fame was the destruction of the Second National Bank, as well as his racist abrogation of the treaties with the Indians. Jackson aggressively opposed the basic tenets of the American System of political economy—the responsibility of the federal government for infrastructure, sound credit, and industrial development. The destructive consequences of his actions were dramatic, as the economy went into depression as soon as he left office.

Yet, Zacher considers Jackson’s second term as President—when he was in all-out war with the National Bank—to be “glorious.” He claims that “Jackson fought for the worker and the small businessman with high spirit,” although, in reality, Jackson’s economic program was a disaster for

workers and small business—aiding only the British banking establishment which used Jackson to break the power of national banking in the United States. In reality, Jackson's economic sabotage had everything to do with supporting slavery, and preparing the groundwork for the Civil War. Yet Zacher claims he was for the "common man."

This presentation of Jackson is not unique to Zacher, of course. Many Democrats around the country still idolize Jackson as the apotheosis of an American President. But they couldn't be more wrong.

Another egregious case of historical misevaluation (among many) is that of Harry S Truman. Zacher correctly indicates that Truman "contrasted totally with FDR and his style," but he falsely claims that Truman's course left "the nation and the world far stronger and safer and enduring." In reality, Truman's failure to continue the course which FDR had charted, specifically the dismantling of the British and French empires, created the conditions for unnecessary human suffering for years to follow.

The book jacket does not claim that Zacher was trained as a historian, but rather as an economist. It seems as though he must be one of those economists who measures "satisfaction" by opinion polls. As long as it "feels good," it's okay—and that goes for Presidencies as well.

This book has some interesting tidbits about Presidencies you rarely hear about—like the fact that Calvin Coolidge translated Dante's *Inferno* from the Italian during his honeymoon—but, in general, it is not worth the time.

Sir Jimmy's City of London magic tricks

by Laurent Manet

La réponse à la Commission Européenne et aux Libre-Echangistes Premiers Responsables du Chômage, du Déclin de la Nation et de l'Europe

by Jimmy Goldsmith

Editions Fixot, Paris, 1996, FF 99

Do you sometimes get the feeling that the world no longer spins on its axis and that it is becoming crazier and crazier? Are you repulsed by watching the rich become richer and the poor poorer, social fissures grow day by day, and the state become ever more insatiable while leaving unfulfilled its role of tutor and protector; that "they" are inventing a single Eu-

rope with nothing solid behind it, and which excites less than no enthusiasm? Well, then you are in the target group for Sir Jimmy Goldsmith's book, *Response to the European Commission and to the Leading Free-Traders Responsible for Unemployment, Decline of the Nation and of Europe*.

The chapter titles are alluring, if you like his polemic. The "single Europe idea" (*pensée unique*) is a crime, according to Sir Jimmy, because it imposes out and out economic liberalism, whereas what's needed is an intelligent protectionist policy, such as that applied by Alexander Hamilton, when he was the United States' first treasury secretary.

"Throughout the 20th century, the United States was systematically protectionist and, at the same time, watched its growth surpass Great Britain's, to the point of becoming the dominant economic power. From 1816 to 1846, American policy, profoundly influenced by Alexander Hamilton, the first treasury secretary (from 1789 to 1795), and by his book *Report on Manufactures*, was strictly protectionist." Any reader of publications associated with Lyndon LaRouche would turn somersaults, and think they had made a new and powerful friend.

Reality, however, is a bit different in the best of all possible worlds of high finance.

In Her Majesty's service

Despite his veneer as a righter of wrongs, Sir Jimmy has more than a few difficulties passing himself off as a defender of freedom for the people. His Saville Row business suits can seldom be confused with the trappings of national sovereignty.

Editions Alcuin in Paris has issued a report, "Who Is Jimmy 'Goldballs' Goldsmith?" which points out that our hero is "first of all, an intimate of Lord Jacob Rothschild," and that he is not just some billionaire, but rather a member of the administration committee of Jacob Rothschild Holdings, where he rubs shoulders with Lord William Rees-Mogg, a high-level mouthpiece for the British monarchy.

It was also thanks to "financial help from Jacob Rothschild that, in 1979, Jimmy Goldsmith set himself up in New York to participate, with the collaboration of the 1980s 'golden boys,' in launching junk bond operations and wild leveraged buyouts against American enterprises. Associated with Michael Milken of Drexel Burnham Lambert, and other men of the financial world, such as Jerry Packer, Gianni Agnelli, Lord Hanson (a close collaborator of Margaret Thatcher), Goldsmith, among others, was behind the leveraged buyouts against Crown Zellerbach Paper and Goodyear Tire Co."

All this makes up a pure-blooded Anglo-American grouping, whose cup of tea is not exactly the welfare of the people. Lord William Rees-Mogg, for example, has proposed new forms of a strong state to impose austerity—not against financial speculators and oligarchical elites, but for "our" people.

Sir Jimmy has not had the career of an industrial entrepre-