

Waugh's mature irony, it may be that as a realistic Latin he discerns more grays than blacks or whites in the complex relation of modern man to society. On the other hand, judging from the unexpected twist which breaks the suspense at the end of his novel, it may be that he was fatalistic at the time of writing. Lacking such a faith, such zeal to expose in order to reform as activates Waugh and Koestler, he may well have finished his story with a question mark, unwilling to force on the reader any conclusion which his own integrity still queried. Or again, working in the shadow of Mussolini, he may have felt obliged to underwrite, confident that an audience oversensitized to see through censorship would read into it meanings like those we are told the occupied Parisians discovered between the lines of Anouilh's "Antigone."

In any case, if this book does not quite achieve the promise implicit in much of its writing, it still does no small service in introducing to America another serious creative artist, whose work in a free Italy may be expected to clarify his philosophy.

## Far East Intrigue

*FAIR. WIND TO JAVA.* By Garland Roark. New York: Doubleday & Co. 1948. 370 pp. \$3.

Reviewed by FLETCHER PRATT

**I**N this new volume Mr. Roark again reveals a talent for burlesque adventure unequalled since the days of the late Walter Traprock. This time the framework is concerned with a clipper ship voyage to Java and a series of intrigues so complex that it is doubtful whether Mr. Roark himself understands them or meant anyone else to. He has put everything into the book—a storm at sea, a mutiny, a battle with pirates, a black-hearted villain, a noble young hero and a rich and beautiful heiress with whose picture he falls in love, Oriental potentates, dancing girls, Dutch residents, and ship owners, who parade through a series of actions of a hilarious absurdity seldom equaled in fiction. A sample:

Things have come to a pretty pass at the court of a Javanese Radja where much of the action takes place. The Radja has made a prime minister of Captain Boll, the above mentioned villain, but the ship owner to whom Boll has played false is on hand to bring the scoundrel to justice. Shall he be given up? They settle the point by, of all things, a game of checkers,

(Continued on page 23)

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## Americana.

Bradford Smith's "Americans from Japan," reviewed below, (third in Lippincott's *The People of America Series*), is indebted to a number of recent studies of our Japanese-Americans in the war. In California, far from the centers of combat, pressure groups and racial fears spelled unjust treatment for the Japanese-Americans. The unhappy story of California's Tule Lake concentration camp was told in "The Spoilage," by Dorothy S. Thomas and Richard Nishimoto, while the War Relocation Authority's efforts to redress these injustices was summarized in a Government pamphlet, "WRA—A Story of Human Conservation." Also, Andrew Lind's "Hawaii's Japanese: An Experiment in Democracy" described the fine record of the Japanese-Americans in the islands during the war, and Orville Shirey's "Americans: The Story of the 442d Combat Team" documented the glowing war record of some of the Nisei troops.

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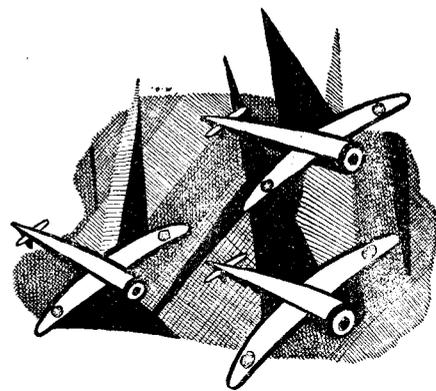
## 2d-Class Citizens, A-1 Loyalty

*AMERICANS FROM JAPAN.* By Bradford Smith. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1948. 409 pp. \$5.

Reviewed by T. A. BISSON

**O**NE of the most searching lessons of World War II comes out of the experience and record of our Americans from Japan. In December 1941 there were 126,000 Japanese-Americans in the continental United States, or one-tenth of one per cent of the population. More than two-thirds were American citizens, chiefly young people who had never seen Japan. The others were their alien parents. Of this group 110,000, largely from the West Coast states, were evacuated from their homes and placed behind barbed wire in desert camps. In Hawaii, where another 150,000 Japanese-Americans were living, no such measures proved necessary or were taken.

But this is only half the story. Some 26,000 Japanese-Americans, or nearly ten per cent of their number, enlisted in the armed forces of the United States. The great majority were volunteers, many of whom left for induction from the concentration camps. These servicemen, and particularly those who knew the Japanese language, were an invaluable asset on the Far Eastern battlefronts. Some of them, like Sergeant Ben Kuroki, with thirty bombing missions in Europe and twenty-eight more over Japan, became national heroes. The 100th Infantry Battalion, operating in Italy, was made up entirely of volunteers from the Japanese-Americans in Hawaii. Its 1,300 members "received more than 1,000 Purple Hearts, seventy-three Silver Stars, ninety-six Bronze Stars, twenty-one Distinguish-



ed Service Crosses, six Legion of Merit Medals, and sixteen Division Citations."

Nearly a century of large-scale contacts between Japanese and Americans, beginning in Hawaii during the late 1860's, lay back of the events of World War II. For the first time, Bradford Smith sets the whole of the story in its broad perspective and gives proper emphasis to its various parts. Heretofore much less attention has been paid to the Japanese in Hawaii than to those on the West Coast. Half of "Americans from Japan" is devoted to the Japanese community in Hawaii. Too often, moreover, the human side of the story has been lost sight of, and diplomatic negotiations or Congressional attitudes on immigration issues pushed to the fore. It was more important perhaps to know how the Japanese were faring, what evidences of good citizenship they were showing, and the kind of welcome they were being offered. The oversight is abundantly made good in this book. Well over half its pages are stirring human documents, alive with the everyday struggles, victories, and heartbreaks of the Japanese who came to live among us. One can only guess

at the long background of patient research on the author's part, and the degree of sympathy and tact in his approach, that led to so much detailed and intimate disburdening to him by so many Japanese-American individuals and families. The reader is indebted both to his careful work and to the frank responses of his Japanese-American friends for the completeness of this remarkable clinical survey of one of America's racial minorities.

Those Americans who have known the Japanese at first hand will not be surprised at the conclusions reached by this survey. More clearly set apart than most similar groups, the Japanese-Americans naturally reacted to an ostracism they keenly felt by withdrawing at times into clannish communities. But the reception accorded them was not universally negative, and they responded eagerly to generous overtures that drew them into the fuller life of the community. Economically, they had to start at the bottom, both in Hawaii and on the West Coast. By their hard work and intelligence they forged ahead, becoming too often an object of envy to many of their competitors. They were a law-abiding group, with a record far above the average. In the schools, the children established a monotonously repetitive record of superior achievement. The Japanese parents made great sacrifices to have their children get a higher education. Not seldom the outcome was a family tragedy, as the children moved into the larger reaches of American life and left the parents behind in their narrower backwater. Finally the children passed into business and professional life, and here too they were proving once again the worth of this new group of American citizens.

Today the wounds inflicted by the evacuation policy of World War II are slowly healing. A courageously liberal administration of the evacuee camps helped. About 57,000 of the evacuated Japanese went back to their West Coast communities, but little assistance was supplied to make good their economic losses. They still faced the discriminatory California land laws, applied even to returned Japanese veterans. The other 53,000 evacuees found a better atmosphere in Chicago and various Midwestern cities, though forced to start over again economically.

Bradford Smith's sympathetic, accurate, and, above all, human story of the Japanese-Americans throws light on all current minority and racial issues in the United States, and thus on one of the central problems aggravating contemporary American life.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1948

## Hymn of Hate

*THE ROOSEVELT MYTH.* By John T. Flynn. New York: Devin-Adair Co. 1948. 438 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by ROBERT S. ALLEN

**T**HIS is another "hate Roosevelt" book—the most hating of all. If a future volume should exceed it in venom, it would be pure mania.

Actually, this is not a book on the late President. It is a case study of a writer's pathological hatred. The book is a complete waste of time for anyone seeking information about Roosevelt. It's possible the volume might be of some interest to a psychiatrist studying literary phobias.

Illustrative of the weird gyrations of the author's malice is the astounding list of sources he solemnly enumerates as reliable authorities for his berserk incantations. High on the list is himself.

Frequent footnote references to back-of-the-book documentation produce the startling information that the author is citing himself.

Other notable and impeccable authorities listed are Westbrook Pegler and John O'Donnell.

Still others are an unnamed "high-ranking officer" who, the author relates, told him of sitting close to Roosevelt when he had a glassy-eyed fainting fit, and unlisted newspaper articles. Here is an example of that sort of thing: "Mrs. Roosevelt's acceptance of gifts, her flouting of rationing regulations during the war, etc., are matters of public record in the newspapers of the time."

There are few, if any, hates, accusations, innuendoes, rumors, and charges that were hurled at Roosevelt that the author does not ferociously rehash and embellish. His frothing fury is exemplified by the fact that he thinks Jim Farley was too friendly to Roosevelt in his malice-ridden book.

And lest a reader still should feel dissatisfied, the author earnestly assures us that he knows a great deal more than he unfolds, but which, somehow, he feels he can't reveal at this time. This unique reticence is one

of the especially choice bits in the book.

Another is the flat accusation that current high prices are due to the "Roosevelt inflation." That's one for the GOP. Even the Republican National Committee has not yet thought of blaming on Roosevelt the stratospheric cost of living—which started a year after his death.

Climax of the book is a novel publisher's item. It consists of a card asking the reader to advise why the book was bought. A tabulation of the returns—if any—might be very interesting.

## Americana Notes

**T**HE Revolutionary campaign of John Allan, watchdog of the Maine border, did much to ensure that the St. Croix and not the Kennebec should be one boundary river with Canada. This whole area about Passamaquoddy, Machias, and Calais has had an eventful history about which Americans know little. Guy Murchie covers it with careful research and interesting anecdotal lore in "*Saint Croix, The Sentinel River*" (Duell, Sloan, & Pearce; \$3.50). His chapters on the Abenaki Indians and their legends, and on the skirmishing in the Revolution and War of 1812, are full of valuable new material. His treatment of the period since 1815, however, is disappointingly sketchy.

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So much American history has been made since 1900 that no excuse is now needed for half-year university courses in the subject, or for thick textbooks devoted to it. The latest of these texts runs beyond 850 pages. This is "*Since 1900: A History of the United States in Our Times*," by Oscar T. Barck, Jr., and Nelson M. Blake of Syracuse University (Macmillan; \$6.50). The authors aim at comprehensiveness, not selectivity or interpretation. Though their heavy book is written with clarity, it is rather overladen with facts, and is for the student and not the general reader. Economic, political, and diplomatic history are covered with accuracy and with a most commendable objectivity. The authors do justice to T. R., Wilson, and F. D. R., without yielding to the too common tendency to do injustice to Coolidge and Hoover. They do land on the isolationists, however, with refreshing vigor. The one marked gap in this full treatise is in the difficult field of cultural and intellectual history.

ALLAN NEVINS.

