Since the 1940s Americans and Britons have come to enjoy an era of rising material abundance. Yet this has been accompanied by a range of social and personal disorders, including family breakdown, addiction, mental instability, crime, obesity, inequality, economic insecurity, and declining trust. This book argues that well-being has lagged behind affluence in these societies, because they present an environment in which consistent choices are difficult to achieve over different time ranges and in which the capacity for personal and social commitment is undermined by the flow of novelty. The book's approach draws on economics and social science, makes use of the latest cognitive research, and provides a detailed and reasoned critique of modern consumer society, especially the assumption that freedom of choice necessarily maximizes individual and social well-being. The book falls into three parts. Part one analyzes the ways in which economic resources map on to human welfare, why choice is so intractable, and how commitment to people and institutions is sustained. It argues that choice is constrained by prior obligation and reciprocity. The second section then applies these conceptual arguments to comparative empirical studies of advertising, of eating and obesity, and of the production and acquisition of appliances and automobiles. Finally, in part three, the book investigates social and personal relations in the USA and Britain, including inter-personal regard, the rewards and reversals of status, the social and psychological costs of inequality, and the challenges posed to heterosexual love and to parenthood by the rise of affluence.
Fear is ubiquitous but slippery. It has been defined as a purely biological reality, derided as an excuse for cowardice, attacked as a force for social control, and even denigrated as an unnatural condition that has no place in the disenchanted world of enlightened modernity. In these times of institutionalized insecurity and global terror, this book sheds light on the meaning, diversity, and dynamism of fear in multiple world-historical contexts, and demonstrates how fear universally binds us to particular presents but also to a broad spectrum of memories, stories, and states in the past. From the eighteenth-century Peruvian highlands and the California borderlands to the urban cityscapes of contemporary Russia and India, the book collectively explores the wide range of causes, experiences, and explanations of this protean emotion. It contributes to the thriving literature on the history of emotions and destabilizes narratives that have often understood fear in very specific linguistic, cultural, and geographical settings. Rather, by using a comparative, multidisciplinary framework, the book situates fear in more global terms, breaks new ground in the historical and cultural analysis of emotions, and sets out a new agenda for further research.

Between Anarchy and Community in International Relations
James Mayall

in The Promotion of Knowledge: Lectures to Mark the Centenary of the British Academy 1902-2002

Published in print: 2004 Published Online: January 2012
Publisher: British Academy DOI: 10.5871/bacad/9780197263129.003.0007

This chapter presents the text of a lecture on international relations. It discusses Stanley Hoffmann's opinion on the matter which is that international relations is a by-product of America's own rise to world power after 1945 and its somewhat solipsistic identification of its own interests with those of the world as a whole. It suggests that international relations should be considered as the science of uncertainty, of the limits of action, of the ways in which states try to manage but never quite succeeded in eliminating their own insecurity.
This chapter examines American anxieties about the longstanding foundations of American society and thought. By the 1970s, American society would be buffeted by powerful crosscurrents which reshaped both the nation and the world beyond it. Military, political, economic, and environmental crises unfolded rapidly on top of each other, leaving many citizens uncertain of which to address first and how to do so. In the backwash of defeat in Vietnam and humiliation from the Watergate scandal, and in the midst of inflation and an oil crisis, distrust of government pervaded American society, the loss of confidence in public authority laid the foundation for deregulation and a turn toward the free market, a path that led to growing disparities between rich and poor. At the same time, the more tolerant and individualistic mainstream American culture increasingly rejected old forms of group discrimination and inequality.

As a focal point of Christian theodicy, demonology was naturally obedient to its deep logic — to the logic of ‘hierarchical opposition’. In the main, we have been considering this as a source of demonology's productive strength — as the reason why its arguments worked in containing and explaining the demonic, and constituting witchcraft as a necessary moral presence. It was a consequence of this logic that the sabbat, in particular, was able to survive for so long as something invariant and intelligible — something eminently thinkable. If demonology spoke truths ‘by contraries’, this was only to be expected from writing that had irony both as its subject and in its voice. But there are elements of weakness here too and these have important implications for the eventual decline and collapse of the same arguments. More than once, we have sensed the way in which the internal properties of language could threaten the
stability of meanings even as they sustained them — the possibility, indeed, that writers on witchcraft were used by their language, as well as being users of it. It is time, then, to return to the problems raised in earlier chapters concerning the potential insecurity of witchcraft representations.

Richard Holbrooke
James W. Pardew

in Peacemakers: American Leadership and the End of Genocide in the Balkans

Published in print: 2018 Published Online: May 2018
Item type: chapter

Richard Holbrooke was a more complex figure than is suggested by his cliché image as a desperately ambitious, difficult but capable diplomat. Holbrooke was a special foreign policy talent. Unfortunately, his personality undermined his potential: Secretary of State was a goal that eluded him for the rest of his life. His personality was too strong, his profile too high, and the insecurity in Washington too pervasive to give him such a platform. At the end of his life, he fails to connect with President Obama as the envoy for Afghanistan.

Apocalypse Management
Ira Chernus

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: June 2013
Item type: book

For eight years President Dwight Eisenhower claimed to pursue peace and national security. Yet his policies entrenched the United States in a seemingly permanent cold war, a spiraling nuclear arms race, and a deepening state of national insecurity. This book uncovers the key to this paradox in Eisenhower's unwavering commitment to a consistent way of talking, in private as well as in public, about the cold war rivalry. Contrary to what most historians have concluded, Eisenhower never aimed at any genuine rapprochement with the Soviet Union. The discourse always assumed that the United States would forever face an enemy bent on destroying it, making national insecurity a permanent way of life. The “peace” he sought was only an endless process of managing apocalyptic threats, a permanent state of “apocalypse management,” intended to give the United States unchallenged advantage in every arena of the cold war. The goal and the discourse that supported it were inherently self-
defeating. Yet the discourse is Eisenhower's most enduring legacy, for it has shaped the United States' foreign policy ever since, leaving it still a national insecurity state.

An Unusual Collaboration
Barbara R. Stein

in On Her Own Terms: Annie Montague Alexander and the Rise of Science in the American West

Published in print: 2001 Published Online: March 2012
Publisher: University of California Press
DOI: 10.1525/california/9780520227262.003.0009

This chapter examines the unusual collaboration that existed between Alexander and Grinnell. Despite being one of the leading evolutionary biologists of his day, Grinnell's deference towards Alexander is considered extraordinary. However, it was his willingness to take direction from Alexander that was a key factor in the success of their project. The obvious respect they had for each other, coupled with their commitment to a shared vision, were also key to overcoming the difficulties that arose as the museum developed and its reputation grew. Aside from focusing on the close relationship these two shared, the chapter reviews Alexander's insecurities and some of her published works.

‘To count for nothing’: Poverty beyond the statistics
Ruth Lister

in British Academy Lectures 2014-15

Published in print: 2016 Published Online: September 2016
Publisher: British Academy
DOI: 10.5871/bacad/9780197265987.003.0005

Beyond the statistics that tend to dominate much public debate, a focus on the experience of poverty, drawing on psychosocial analysis, reveals its relational as well as material nature. The article explores this understanding of poverty with reference to the impact of the discourses that shame and Other ‘the poor’ who ‘count for nothing’. It argues for acknowledgement of the agency of people who live with poverty and the structural constraints and insecurity within which it is exercised. This, together with a human rights perspective, premised on a belief in human dignity, can help to frame counter-discourses of recognition and respect.
The article ends with some brief reflections on implications for policy and the politics of poverty.

After the Deluge
Michael Dennis

in The New Economy and the Modern South
Published in print: 2009 Published Online: September 2011
Item type: chapter

The dominant reality for office workers from Richmond to Roanoke was insecurity. The possibility of being laid off or simply eliminated as a result of corporate restructuring burrowed deeply into the subconscious of Virginia's workers in the new Gilded Age. It created an atmosphere of profound social anxiety, one that was no less intense because it happened in Virginia. There was nothing peculiarly southern about the economic forces that were transforming career-minded people into temporary, part-time, and contract workers. What happened to middle managers, secretaries, salespeople, and manufacturing supervisors in Virginia happened to those in Michigan, Ohio, and New York. The economic uncertainties of the new era bound the regions together in a collective experience of reduced hopes, limited expectations, and persistent fears. Yet the recession of 1990/1991 generated a depth of anguish in Virginia that set it apart from its southern counterparts.

Anglia libera: Protestant liberties and the Hanoverian succession, 1700-14
Justin Champion

in Republican Learning: John Toland and the Crisis of Christian Culture, 1696-1722
Published in print: 2003 Published Online: July 2012
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines John Toland's collaboration with elite Whig politicians as a leading defender of Protestant liberty, activities which resulted in the vindication of the legitimacy of the Hanoverian succession under the terms of the Act of Settlement 1701. A key problem for Toland and other republicans in the 1700s was the dynastic insecurity of the platform for their vision of politics, because the principles espoused in his
Anglia libera were dependent upon the successful coronation of Sophia or George rather than the restoration of James.

I Am Now Exerting All My Thinking Powers
Jessica Ziparo

in This Grand Experiment: When Women Entered the Federal Workforce in Civil War-Era Washington, D.C.

Chapter 6 addresses female employees' struggles to keep their positions with the federal government. The number and percentage of women in the federal labor force grew fairly steadily throughout the 1860s, but insecurity and volatility characterized the federal civil service. During the Civil War and immediate postwar period, departments coped with unpredictable workloads through unsystematic, non-uniform, rapid expansions and contractions of their workforces resulting in short employment periods. At the same time, the press of new applicants was unrelenting. Because much of the basic work women did could be adequately done with relatively little training, some supervisors saw female employees as interchangeable. This atmosphere of uncertainty discouraged collective action and forced female federal employees to utilize aggressive strategies to retain and regain the positions they had become reliant upon. In their attempts to remain employed, women demonstrated strength and self-confidence that seemed to have been gained through their federal employment.

Mobility and Insecurity
Todd M. Michney

in Surrogate Suburbs: Black Upward Mobility and Neighborhood Change in Cleveland, 1900-1980

This chapter considers the structural factors and life dilemmas upwardly mobile black Clevelanders faced even after achieving geographic mobility, and explicates the dynamic whereby less-affluent African American families steadily moved into new, outlying black middle-class neighbourhoods. Topics discussed include lending discrimination, the
unfavourable financing arrangements available to African American homebuyers and the associated economic setbacks they experienced, the role of black professional real estate brokerage associations, the phenomenon of isolated white families remaining in post-transitional neighbourhoods, and the forces driving lower-income African American families into outlying neighbourhoods, mainly downtown redevelopment and ongoing migration from the American South. It also investigates black middle class notions of status and the intra-racial, cross-class frictions that ensued around issues of property upkeep, personal comportment, child rearing, and leisure-time practices.

The New Look and “Atoms for Peace”

in Apocalypse Management: Eisenhower and the Discourse of National Insecurity

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: June 2013
Item type: chapter

This chapter concentrates on one great speech, “Atoms for Peace.” The so-called New Look in the U.S. approach to the world was determined by new economic, political, geopolitical, and military realities, and was also the strategy and discourse of apocalypse management. Its policies would preserve the discourse of national insecurity, and its most conspicuous characteristic was nuclearization of military policy. To attain its strategic goals, the New Look depended on its linguistic promise of “massive retaliation.” It is noted that the administration of President Dwight Eisenhower was gearing up to its most famous image of cooperation —“Atoms for Peace”—while the New Look was being developed. The speech, which was born from the unforeseen conjunction of the New Look and Operation Candor, had to aim at evoking greater cold war fear at home while keeping that fear at a controlled level because it had came out of Operation Candor.

Divided Loyalties

Alex Goodall

in Loyalty and Liberty: American Countersubversion from World War I to the McCarthy Era

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: April 2017
Item type: chapter
This chapter focuses on how the Palmer Raids of the winter of 1919–20 were the most draconian single instance of federal repression in the United States' peacetime history. Nothing in the McCarthy era can compare to the mass arrests and beatings, arbitrary incarcerations, and summary deportations that took place in dozens of cities across the nation. Capping off a year of industrial crisis, foreign insecurity, and political conflict, they helped solidify the divisions of the war years, institutionalizing them in an underground communist movement on one side and new patriotic organizations on the other. Given the power of the repressive politics that arised between 1917 and 1920, it is a surprising and problematic fact that the national Republican administrations of the 1920s saw no new countersubversive policies developed.

‘Blood is Thicker Than Water’: Family, Fantasy and Identity in the Lives of Scottish Foster Children
Lynn Abrams
in Child Welfare and Social Action in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: International Perspectives
Published in print: 2001 Published Online: June 2013
Publisher: Liverpool University Press
DOI: 10.5949/liverpool/9780853236764.003.0010
Item type: chapter

This chapter uses in-depth interviews and a ‘child-centred perspective’ to investigate the psychological legacy of forced separation from blood family. Boarding out in Scotland was presented as a natural solution to the problem of homeless children. The personal family stories of three former ‘boarded-outs’, which are organised around feelings of uncertainty, insecurity, and a search for identity, show how the fostered child is one who knows that he or she holds that rather ambiguous status within the family and the wider community. The experience of being a boarded-out child could be fraught with tensions and anxieties that were the result of being denied information about biological parenthood and social origins.

Zones of State-Making
Wil G. Pansters
Published in print: 2012 Published Online: June 2013
Publisher: Stanford University Press
DOI: 10.11126/stanford/9780804781589.003.0001
Item type: chapter
This book explores violence, coercion, crime, and insecurity in Mexico in the context of post-revolutionary state-making, state power, and politics. It argues that the theory of Mexican exceptionalism has hindered a concerted, systematic study of violence and coercion, not only during the last twenty years but also throughout the post-revolutionary period. It examines the nature of Mexico's sociopolitical system and state-making process between circa 1938 and 1982, a time when PRI (Partido Revolucionario Institucional) enjoyed its golden years, presumably based on a combination of economic growth, mass clientelism, modest redistribution, and non-violent or institutional conflict resolution. The book considers theorizing about violence, coercion, and state-making by looking at war, class, legitimacy, and the monopolization of violence and taxation. Using an analytical framework, it examines state-making through the zones of hegemony and coercion before returning to the issue of Mexican exceptionalism.

Policing and Regime Transition
Diane E. Davis


Published in print: 2012 Published Online: June 2013
Publisher: Stanford University Press
DOI: 10.11126/stanford/9780804781589.003.0003
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the role of the police in Mexico's political transition from post-authoritarianism to populism to neoliberalism. Mexican police rely on their coercive power to guarantee the state's authority in the Weberian sense of the term, but at the same have been involved in various forms of violence, including political violence. The highly contentious “police question,” political policing, and the unparalleled extent of police corruption and impunity existing in Mexico can be traced to the 1910 revolution and its aftermath. This chapter explores the interconnections and historical roots of different actors, dimensions, and manifestations of violence, insecurity, and coercion in relation to state-making in Mexico. Finally, it looks at how political regime-type affected, and were affected by, changes in the relationships between police, military, citizens, and the state.
Southern Water, Southern Power
Christopher J. Manganiello


Published in print: 2015 Published Online: January 2016
Publisher: University of North Carolina Press
DOI: 10.5149/northcarolina/9781469620053.003.0001
Item type: chapter

This introductory chapter discusses the American South as the region where Americans used political power to control conversations about water supplies and river manipulation, while simultaneously exploring American individualism, equity, and the definition of what constitutes the proper use of natural resources. This environmental Southeast history represents the crucial role that water played in forming physical landscapes and human choices. The parties who prompted many of these changes had three main goals: to produce energy, to build a modern South, and to resolve water insecurity caused by flooding and recurrent drought. The book generally takes a long view of southern rivers and modernization, asking who transformed the region's waterways and what environmental conditions urged them to act.

Introduction
Mary Elisabeth Cox

in Hunger in War and Peace: Women and Children in Germany, 1914-1924

Published in print: 2019 Published Online: June 2019
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780198820116.003.0001
Item type: chapter

The First World War has been the topic of many scholarly and popular books, and the extent of German civilian nutritional deprivation has been debated since the war. But new research offers a stunning picture of the impact of the war on German women and children. By using a variety of sources and methods, including height and weight measurements from over 600,000 children during the war, as well as diaries, reports, legal and diplomatic documents, letters, and children’s drawings, nutritional deprivation experienced by civilians can be elucidated. It should be little surprise that the stratification of German society before the war largely determined which families persisted and those which perished during wartime. But the data also reveal that food aid imported to Germany after the Treaty of Versailles helped poor children recover their growth far more quickly than their affluent counterparts. The fact that this most
vicious of conflicts was followed by the unification of former foes in an effort to save German children might offer hope for the future.