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will be at least equally useful. It will undoubtedly take its place in the front rank of that admirable group of studies in which scholars of one nation examine and report upon the political institutions of another; and it is scarcely too much to say that it will come to be recognized as one of the most considerable and noteworthy contributions yet made by an American scholar in the field of practical politics.

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American Diplomacy under Tyler and Polk. By JESSE S. REEVES. Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1907.—335 pp.

Dr. Reeves's excellent study of the diplomacy of the United States under Tyler and Polk is necessarily lacking in unity, for neither a single administration or a single group of diplomatic negotiations is the theme. The author has, however, given us, in each subject with which he deals, a more thorough and exhaustive study than has before been made except in those matters treated in Moore's *International Arbitrations*, which is, after all, only a collection of original material ably assembled by a scholar who is a master of the sources. Mr. Reeves has occasion in this work to treat the subjects of the Northeastern boundary, the Ashburton treaty, the relations between Mexico and the United States concerning Texas (1825-1845), the annexation of Texas, the Northwestern boundary, the Oregon treaty, Polk's negotiations for California and the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. So many new points are brought out that the book is worthy of a far more detailed review than the limits of this notice permit. There is a strong arraignment of the position of the United States government on the subject of the right of search as connected with the work of suppressing the African slave trade. Again Dr. Reeves has a trenchant comment upon the so-called "battle of the maps" as connected with the Ashburton treaty. That subject, says Dr. Reeves, properly belongs to the discussion of the ratification of the treaty. "It would have been foreign to the spirit of the plan for the adoption of a conventional line had Ashburton and Webster introduced arguments based upon the old maps." Another rather startling assertion, amply proven by the facts submitted, is that the Mexican War and the conquest of California formed a distinct episode, completely disassociated from the annexation of Texas to the United States. The author holds that they are two distinct phases of southwestern expansion. Again he asserts and proves that "instead of slavery's assisting in the expansion of the national territory, it delayed and almost defeated it." This he holds especially as to Texas. "The charge of

premeditated expansion by the United States for the purposes of extending slavery falls to the ground." Texas might have been acquired without war with Mexico, but for the disgraceful work of some of the American diplomats. Another interesting contribution by Dr. Reeves is the demonstration that President Jackson's conduct, in dealing with Mexico in reference to American claims and the annexation, was not at all what Von Holst has pictured it, but really commendable "when one considers the speed with which the United States recognized the Republic of Panama." Von Holst's reliance on Adams's *Memoirs*, Dr. Reeves says, led the German historian into error. The harm which a third political party can do to its own cause is clearly shown in the fact that "thanks to the Liberal party in the state of New York, the annexation of Texas seemed to have been endorsed by a popular vote."

That many other interesting matters are brought out in this monograph must be vouched for rather than shown. No one can neglect its use in the study of the diplomacy of this period. The book is fully annotated, and there is a fair index, but no bibliography. It is written in a clear style, plain and unadorned, which will not attract readers who have no special interest in the theme.

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Island Possessions of the United States. By ALBERT EDWARD MCKINLEY. (Volume XX of *The History of North America*, edited by FRANCIS NEWTON THORPE.) Philadelphia, George Barrie and Sons, 1907.—xviii, 291 pp.

America as a World Power. By JOHN HOLLADAY LATANÉ. (Volume XXV of *The American Nation: A History*, edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART.) New York, Harper and Brothers, 1907.—xvi, 350 pp.

The United States as a World Power. By ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1908.—vii, 385 pp.

The last decade of American history, its new phases and the new problems it has brought, is the subject of these three volumes. Both Professor McKinley and Professor Latané have prepared, for their respective series, a very good résumé of the events, the former continuing the story into 1906, the latter well into 1907. Professor McKinley has the advantage of a somewhat more logical editorial arrangement (at least