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Introduction

Each spring semester, the History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) at NC State University releases an edition of The NC State Graduate Journal of History, a peer-reviewed electronic journal that publishes outstanding papers from the annual HGSA Graduate Student Conference. This journal, known colloquially as *The Graduate*, is dedicated to presenting fresh, original graduate student scholarship to a broader audience of interested historians and members of the public at-large.

To be considered for publication, a paper must be recommended by a faculty commenter at the HGSA conference. Papers are then rigorously reviewed along a variety of matrices to ensure high quality academic work and to preserve the integrity of *The Graduate*.

This edition marks the first time book reviews have been published in *The Graduate*. Early in the spring semester, the editorial staff issued a call for submissions which solicited reviews of recently published academic books and public history projects. These reviews, like the articles, endured a rigorous review process before they were selected for publication.

The editorial staff is grateful for the continued support of the history department at NC State University, especially the department head Professor David Zonderman. In addition, we are grateful to our recommenders and reviewers. Finally, we extend our gratitude to readers of *The Graduate*. We hope this edition continues to offer thoughtful and insightful instances of historical inquiry.