

narrative of women's grassroots political activism during this period. While a broader theoretical and historiographical grounding might have expanded its audience, this creative, bold, and insightful book should nevertheless be required reading for those interested in war, memory, militarism, and the recent history of the United States.

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*A Superpower Transformed: The Remaking of American Foreign Relations in the 1970s.* By Daniel J. Sargent. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. xviii, 432 pp. \$34.95.)

*A Superpower Transformed* is a big book both in size (at more than three hundred pages) and ambition (it tackles U.S. foreign policy across three administrations in the context of sweeping global changes). The result will likely have a long-lasting impact on our understanding of the role of the United States in the 1970s. Daniel J. Sargent writes vividly and makes many of the complicated issues he discusses clearer with helpful charts, tables, and graphs. Sargent's book is also highly relevant today, as it demonstrates the challenges of policy making in turbulent and changing times.

Sargent details the collapse of the postwar order in the 1970s and the subsequent "historical transformation in the superpower role of the United States" (p. 2). He identifies fundamental shifts in U.S. power that occurred through globalization, a new international monetary system, transnational humanitarianism, the oil crises, the rise of human rights, and the intersection of these issues. Sargent's book is a structural history in which the individuals who shape and implement policy play less significant roles than historic trends and market forces.

Sargent sees the transformation of American power as unplanned and unanticipated, and his account charts American efforts to manage fundamental changes in traditional power dynamics—including the increasing influence of nonstate actors and nongovernmen-

tal organizations in world politics and the rise of regional and lower-level powers based on their oil-producing capabilities. Yet, Sargent concludes, the 1970s "opened a new era but not a new order," raising questions about how fundamental the transformation Sargent analyzes really was (p. 7).

As much as Sargent seeks to view the late 1960s and 1970s without a Cold War lens, his book emphasizes how the principal actors of interest to him, such as Richard M. Nixon and Henry Kissinger, could not look at world events from other perspectives, which obscured their perspective on local events. Sargent sees Nixon and Kissinger as traditional policy makers who sought to steady international politics, in part to strengthen American power in that system. In Sargent's view, the two were tactically innovative if conservative in their goals. Sargent's account also highlights the division of labor between Nixon and Kissinger—Kissinger did not "know a damn thing about economics," whereas Nixon is almost absent from discussions of human rights (p. 100).

In Sargent's view, the 1970s were too complex to be addressed with a grand strategy, whether by Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, or Jimmy Carter. He titled the second section of the book "Stumbling Forward," which suggests a lack of strategic vision among U.S. foreign policy thinkers. Sargent's book echoes in some ways recent scholarship on George H. W. Bush's response to the end of the Cold War; in both cases the postwar order fundamentally changed, but U.S. policy makers did not respond effectively.

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*Empowering Revolution: America, Poland, and the End of the Cold War.* By Gregory F. Domber. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014. xx, 392 pp. \$39.95.)

*Empowering Revolution* is an absorbing account of Poland's tumultuous transition from martial law in 1981 to free elections in 1989, and the efforts of the United States to influ-