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## Introduction

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# Introduction

Every year, Santa Clara University's Phi Alpha Theta chapter publishes the *Historical Perspectives* undergraduate research journal. This journal represents the highest standard of student achievement within the history department during the most recent academic year. We were fortunate this year to once again have received an impressive selection of original research and would like to thank all of the students who submitted their work for review. It is our honor to present this year's volume of *Historical Perspectives*.

The nine papers featured represent both a high quality of student research and writing, as well as the department's focus on chronological and geographical diversity. We begin this year's *Historical Perspectives* with scholarship in chronological order on the Latin West, followed by specific works about Europe, Asia and the Middle East and conclude with papers focusing on United States history. Lilian Oberdorfer's research focuses on the development of the punitive imprisonment system, especially as it was influenced by religious practice. Michaela Ahlstrom writes about the experience of people of color in the French Empire, particularly in today's Haiti, and how the experiences were memorialized in

post-revolutionary literature. Kori Lennon examines the social implications of the British Royal Commission Report on Venereal Disease. Shelby Wright's paper addresses the Modern Girl phenomenon in early twentieth century Japan. Will Zupan's work focuses on the historical basis for Zionist policy of ethnic cleansing in Palestine with emphasis on the process of using various measures since 1948 and up to the present time. Moving into U.S. history, Kayla Unger's research focuses on the mythical perception of California and the disillusionment of migrant workers upon arrival during the gold rush. "*Silenzio*" by Luca Signore moves into the experience of Italian-Americans during WWII and their post-war trauma. Colleen Zellitti writes about the use of cookbooks to promote the American ideals of the 1950s. Finally, Tracy Sullivan tackles the nuances of California's Proposition 14 with regard to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

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