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## Introduction

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# Introduction

Every year the Phi Alpha Theta chapter at Santa Clara University publishes a selection of outstanding research papers in the History Department's journal, *Historical Perspectives*. The papers are chosen from submissions from students who have completed research projects in advanced seminars and which represent the highest standard of achievement in the department. We were fortunate to have received a number of impressive papers and would like to thank all of the students who submitted their work for review and also to extend our appreciation to the faculty who assisted them with their projects. We are pleased to present this year's edition of *Historical Perspectives*.

The 2015 edition of the journal includes six studies that analyze significant social, economic and political issues in modern global affairs. The presentations begin with Sally Ulmer's research about 19<sup>th</sup> century British women travellers in colonial Africa and their views on race and gender. This is followed by Kyra McComas' analysis of the significance of Kim Philby in British espionage literature. In the third paper Héctor Navarro discusses the role of the American press in the portrayal of events in the Salvadoran civil war. The fourth study, by Nicholas Comaratta, offers a detailed examination of how Mark Sykes and the Sykes-Picot Agreement shaped the modern Middle East. This is followed by Carlos Andrés Castro's study of social and political assimilation in Canada with respect to sexual orientation legislation, a key issue in the contemporary world. The final paper, by Ramsey Fisher, illustrates how the United States' involvement in post-war Japan impacted current Japanese criminal procedure.