

Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II

Volume 16

Article 5

2011

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

(2011) "Introduction," *Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II*: Vol. 16 , Article 5.
Available at: <http://scholarcommons.scu.edu/historical-perspectives/vol16/iss1/5>

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Introduction

Historical Perspectives is an undergraduate journal annually published by the Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. Each year students are invited to submit their best work in hopes of selection, and the resulting publication showcases the exemplary work of History Department students. The high caliber of work this year made the selection process challenging, and we would like to take the time to thank the students who submitted papers. All of these essays reflected the breadth and depth of the department's research, and were written testaments to the fact that history is not a passive discipline, but rather an active process of creativity, research and insight.

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel once said, "The history of the world is none other than the progress of the consciousness of freedom." While overarching themes do not always emerge in a given issue of *Historical Perspectives*, we discovered that the themes of freedom, and the sacrifices it requires, were common threads weaving through this year's selections. Freedom itself is a deeply powerful yet vague concept. It means very different things to different people. The ten papers featured in this year's publication, organized

chronologically, are meant to share glimpses of the various meanings of the word freedom. Freedom of the body has a strong presence in the essay on male homosexuality, as well as in the separate articles on prostitution. Other pieces in this year's issue explore the struggle women faced to gain freedom at the turn of the twentieth century. The remaining papers examine aspects of freedom during and after war. We hope that upon completion of reading this journal you will have a better grasp of what the word freedom means in a historical sense to different peoples, of varying times and places, and the inevitable sacrifices that come with true understanding and pursuit of the concept.

We would like to thank all those who continue to make this undergraduate journal possible: faculty, staff, and students. The opportunities to be published as an undergraduate are few, and we hope this publication will continue to serve as an avenue for achievement and pride for all Santa Clara history students.

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