

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

Volume 10

Article 5

2005

Introduction

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarcommons.scu.edu/historical-perspectives>



Part of the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2005) "Introduction," *Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II*: Vol. 10 , Article 5.
Available at: <http://scholarcommons.scu.edu/historical-perspectives/vol10/iss1/5>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact rscroggin@scu.edu.

Introduction

This year's *Historical Perspectives* reflects the varied interests and expertise of the Santa Clara University History Department and its students. The topics chosen, though primarily modern, represent a wide range of geographic areas and thematic pursuits. Despite the diversity of topics, each author displays proficiency in detailed research, critical analysis, and intellectual excellence.

This year's entries highlight the limitations of perception in accurately portraying history. The first four essays focus on cultural and historical icons, and consider how public perception affected each individual's historic image. By reexamining the lives of these figures, the authors successfully shed new light on each individual's legacy, and provide valuable contributions to the existing scholarship. The remaining four essays examine major historical events, ranging from the early Crusades to the Rwandan Genocide of 1994. Not content to accept prevailing attitudes, the authors look to reevaluate the relevant facts and reach new conclusions. These past events are given new life and meaning through the fresh perspective offered by the authors.

All the *Historical Perspective* authors have created pieces that view conventional history with a critical eye. In line with Santa Clara's longstanding tradition of academic distinction, these essays are convincing, entertaining and impressive. Although many histories do more to muddle the record than elucidate it, we hope that the readers will appreciate these works as exemplars of historical precision and outstanding scholarship.