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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