

and other British-speaking Caribbean colonies preserved his memory in the wintertime Junkanoo (or John Canoe Festival). Back in Africa, with Conny gone, the warlike Dahomey tribe filled the power vacuum and aggressively expanded the slave trade, funneling ever larger numbers of Africans onto European, mostly British, slave ships.

Sutton argues that the Battle of Cape Lopez “becomes a way to see what the Atlantic world looked like before chattel slavery became inevitable and to investigate the legacies of this inevitability.” (xxi) Among the latter, she contends, was the transition of slavery from a tolerant Roman model as theretofore practiced in French Louisiana and Spanish Florida, to a draconian chattel system. In the Latin South, bondage was “often a temporary state of being, not a permanent identity.” (221) But the British developed a different philosophy in their colonies. There, slavery meant “total ownership and dominion over their involuntary workforce and any future descendants.” (221) This practice carried over into the early United States. Sutton closes with a *cri de coeur* titled “Reverse-Engineering the Slave Society” on how everyday moderns can fight against the chattel model’s racist legacies.

Sutton writes well, but her use of slang like “intel,” (113, 119), “wishy-washy” (80), and “piddly” (82); non-nautical prose (“Ogle ordered the *Swallow*’s mate to steer a hard right ” 134); and judgmental language compromise its effectiveness. On the latter point, it avails nothing to castigate men 300 years in the grave for ghastly attitudes and behaviour. Slavery, flogging, child labour, animal abuse, and public hanging were all fixtures of the age. There were abolitionists and reformers to be sure, but they were thin on the ground in the very rough world of West Africa.

Taken in toto, Sutton attempts too much, and the result is a sprawling, top-heavy book. The Battle of Cape Lopez was an extraordinary event for which there is rich documentation. Better for the historian to let the story do its work and trust the reader’s intelligence to absorb the implications and horrors.

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Barret Tillman. *When the Shooting Stopped: August 1945*. Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, www.ospreypublishing.co.uk, 2022. 304 pp., illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. US \$29.00, CDN \$47.00, hardback; ISBN 978-1-47284-898-7. (E-book available.)

When the Shooting Stopped August 1945 explores the final month of the Second World War, more specifically the events and reactions by individuals, at all levels, to what occurred between the dropping of the atomic bomb on

Nagasaki, and the signing of the surrender on the USS *Missouri*. The result is a historical account that is useful for students of military and maritime history, as well as something that is accessible to those who wish to explore the social reaction to the end of the war.

Tillman opens with an examination of the general situation following America's dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, focusing on the military and political situations on both sides in the conflict. What permeates the book is a sense of uncertainty and unease shared by senior political and military leaders, as well as the soldiers and sailors charged with waging war. Opening with the entry of the Soviet Union into the war in the Pacific, the author explores the motivations and ramifications of Russian military involvement in the war against Japan, and the political motivations on the part of the United States and other allies to limit the role of the Soviet Union in the Pacific as the war came to a close. He then observes how high-level individuals reacted to the news of the Japanese surrender as well as those fighting at sea, in the air, on the ground, and waiting at home for the conflict to end. Unease permeated American actions and thinking between the announcement of a cease fire and the signing of the instrument of surrender. Finally, he concludes with the signing of the peace treaty in Tokyo Bay, and a brief exploration of what happened to the principal parties involved after the war and the ramifications of the end of the conflict.

Tillman provides something useful for both casual readers and serious students of the Second World Wars. Those unfamiliar with the events surrounding the end of the war will find Tillman's book an excellent, comprehensive introduction. He provides enough technical detail to appeal to those who want to add to their knowledge about these events while making the information drawn from a wide variety of sources accessible to the rest. Websites, journals, newspapers, and government documents present different viewpoints while creating a satisfying whole. Tillman's impeccable footnotes enable readers to follow up on additional accounts referenced throughout his work. Students of military history will discover small engagements that occurred right up to the signing of the peace treaty, final dogfights between aircraft, boarding at sea by marines, the tense overflights of Japan after the cease fire was declared and the final deaths at sea, in the air, and on the ground in Japan. In exploring the reactions of civilians on both sides, he provides something for those interested in cultural history, and paints a picture of populations on both sides who wanted an end to the war and how they reacted to and approached its conclusion.

While comprehensive and useful, the book is equally notable for what the author chooses to leave out. Tillman stays away from discussing the justification for the use of the atomic bombs. Readers wanting to explore these

issues should look elsewhere. His account is a very American-centric version of events, and does not include how the Russian, British, or Japanese reacted to the same events. Fortunately, Tillman provides a wide variety of sources from outside the United States to help with this exploration.

When the Shooting Stopped: August 1945 is comprehensive, yet incomplete. Tillman sheds light on the uncertainty and suddenness at the end of Second World War that often escapes the discussion of battles and machines. He contributes to the historical narrative by exposing readers to end of the war, ultimately opening new doors to a wide variety of readers and, hopefully, providing a spring board for further exploration.

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Steven Ujifusa. *The Last Ships from Hamburg: Business, Rivalry, and the Race to Save Russia's Jews on the Eve of World War I*. New York, NY: Harper Collins, www.harpercollins.com, 2023. 384 pp., notes, photos, index, cloth, US \$32.00; ISBN-9878-0-063-97187-6. (E-book available.)

Mass emigration by peoples seeking better opportunities has played a major role in geopolitics for a century and a half. A wave of Jewish immigrants who reached the US between 1881 and 1914 is the context for this new book. Author Steven Ujifusa estimates that 1.5 million Jews fled Russia for the US over these 42 years. Several hundred thousand more left the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Romania. He calculates that the Hamburg America Line – HAPAG – carried at least half of them, between 750,000 and a million people, most to New York City. This is the story of the role of the Hamburg America Line and of key Jewish businessmen – Albert Ballin, Jacob Schiff, and Max Warburg – in facilitating this significant mass exodus, and of J.P. Morgan, the gentile American financier, who created the International Mercantile to compete with HAPAG. Ujifusa also traces antisemitism, and how attitudes about immigration in the US changed and became restrictive after the First World War. *The Last Ships from Hamburg* thus covers several threads in the story of Jewish immigration in the years leading up to the Great War. In its extensive treatment of American Jewish banking dynasties, it invites comparison with *The Money Kings: The Epic Story of the Jewish Immigrants Who Transformed Wall Street and Shaped Modern America* by Daniel Schulman (Knopf, 2023). Mass immigration to the United States ended with the passage of restrictive laws after the First World War.

Ujifusa is a popular historian. His two earlier books centered on nautical themes which also engagingly describe the wider contexts for their subjects. *A*