

Editors' Note

When *Past Imperfect* first published in 1992, one of the goals was to provide students of history with an opportunity to take their first step into the realm of scholarly publishing. As the importance of publishing research early in one's academic career increases, it is becoming more common for the authors in the journal to be published elsewhere as well. So although the climate is changing, we continue to see *Past Imperfect's* role as a supportive environment for professional training and the creative pursuit of academic research. The highly competitive job market for teaching positions, particularly in history, makes such experience valuable, but we trust that readers will find the articles printed here stand as ends in themselves.

Boris DeWiel provides an intellectual-history approach to the evolution of the idea of civil society. Tracing the idea from the Sophists to the fall of the Eastern Bloc, his conclusions are relevant to the current condition of the democratic state. Robert Stack's political history of Imperial Germany looks at the contributions of antisemitic politicians to parliamentary debates. These sources provide a fresh angle on the materialist-idealist dichotomy of German historiography. Jaymie Heilman and Susan Crawford both draw on magazines to investigate popular attitudes in postwar Canada. Heilman questions the construct of the generation gap of the 1960s, while Crawford traces the changing attitudes toward single mothers. Another analysis of the popular press is provided by Amal Ghazal who, through the editorial writing of Muhib al-Din al-Khatib from the 1920s to the 1940s, explores the Muslim reaction to European domination of the Middle East.

We would like to thank all the anonymous referees who agreed to review papers, and the various supervisors and other professors who encouraged students to submit their work to this journal. The office staff for the Department of History and Classics—Linda Bridges, Louise Jenkins and Louise Kraus—continue to help the wheels go round. *Past Imperfect* continues to rely on its subscribers as well as the student-authors who see in it a worthy vehicle for the pursuit of historical research. Only with their support will it continue.