

other policies of racial preference. The reader may be carried along by an absorbing interpretation of the equal protection clause, but Kull's presentist conclusion ultimately detracts from his study. His arguments, though, will generate further discussion and disagreement (see Paul Finkelman's review in *Northwestern University Law Review*, Spring 1993).

If the world were as tidy as a lawyer's argument, Kull's thesis might prevail. But in a political democracy, where interest groups compete for scarce resources and imperfect choices have to be made, Kull's attack on affirmative action appears as tentative and abstract as does Jackson's belief in affirmative action's perfectibility. Although both of these books contribute important arguments to the literature, it will be political majorities, not academics, who ultimately will decide the meaning of equality in America.

Thomas C. Mackey  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, Kentucky

*Historia u' Politika* (History and politics). By Yehoshua Arieli. (Tel Aviv: Am Oved, 1992. 488 pp. Paper, £ 36.55, ISBN 965-13-0796-X.) In Hebrew.

Professor Yehoshua Arieli, for many years professor of modern history and American studies at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, is best known to American historians for his classic work in English entitled *Individualism and Nationalism in American Ideology* (1964). Arieli's achievements extend much further, however, embracing a wide range of intellectual, scholarly, and political activities in Israel. He founded the Hebrew University's program in American studies; until his retirement, he taught both European and American history as well as courses in historiography and historical methods there; and to this day he remains a prominent figure on the Israeli left. "This unique humanist combination of three worlds—the European, the American and [the] Jewish-Israeli—is an enviable rarity in an age of narrow specialization," the foreword to a *Festschrift* in honor of his seventieth birthday declared. The title of that *Festschrift*—*Religion, Ideology, and Nationalism: In Eu-*

*rope and America*, (Jerusalem, 1986) serves as an apt summary of Arieli's major scholarly interests.

The present collection of twenty essays composed over the past four decades serves as a valuable introduction to Arieli's writings. After a revealing autobiographical preface, it divides into four major parts. The first deals with the nature and meaning of history, including an essay on the relationship of history and politics. The second seeks to uncover the religious and spiritual underpinnings of early modern history in the West and reprints his study of "the Kingdom of God in America." The third is entirely devoted to the New World, including broad essays on the civilization, national character, and future direction of the United States, as well as briefer analyses of the frontier thesis and the significance of Abraham Lincoln. And the fourth focuses on modern Israel, with essays on secularism, contemporary political challenges, and the problem of human rights.

Most of these essays are studded with apt quotations and are immensely erudite, even if somewhat dated and reliant upon the methodologies of an earlier era. What makes the American selections of more significance than the rest is the fact that they, with Arieli's other writings and teachings on the subject, have played an important role in Israeli culture. They provided generations of students with their understanding of the historical development and central ideas of the United States, as well as an informed interpretation of its contemporary challenges and future course.

Beyond this, Arieli has also drawn upon American sources in formulating his own political ideology. His essays on contemporary Israel in this volume form a fascinating case study of the influence and treatment of American ideas abroad, and particularly in Israel, where—thanks in no small part to his own efforts—the lessons of American history are carefully pondered.

Jonathan D. Sarna  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, Massachusetts