

leader in Washington, there is, in my opinion, little room for a significant consolidation of the transatlantic partnership.

The last two chapters, chapter seven (*The Politics of Cultural Dignity*) and chapter eight (*The First Hundred Days*), form the closing part of the book. Chapter seven is devoted mainly to the issue of globalization and the form of leadership the United States should exercise in the globalized world. For all their experience here, both Scowcroft and Brzezinski seem short of answers on how to find the delicate balance between respecting other peoples' cultures, religious beliefs and customs while focusing on securing the American national interest. Sometimes the debate falls into unnecessary generalizations and stereotypizations. For example, it is true that because of the war on terror, anti-Muslim sentiments rose in the United States, but Scowcroft's assertion that the Americans have "dehumanized" Muslims, turning them "into objects of hatred and fear" (p. 239) may be just a bit overstated. Chapter eight deals almost exclusively with suggested changes in the American foreign policy establishment, which, if implemented, should make it more efficient, cohesive and equipped to face the challenges of the globalized world.

America and the World does not pretend to be, and certainly is not, an impartial, unbiased analysis of the current American foreign policy and an equally impartial, unbiased set of suggestions how to improve it. Rather, it is an interesting attempt to present the views, visions and prognoses of two experienced American foreign policy experts. What makes their opinions definitely worth reading is the broad extent of experience they are based on and the depth of insight they display. This experience and insight, offering unique perspectives on a number of issues, are the greatest asset of *America and the World*, which makes it a valid contribution to the American foreign policy discourse.

Jan Bečka

Steven M. Gillon, **The Pact. Bill Clinton, Newt Gingrich, and the Rivalry That Defined a Generation.** Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. 342 pp. ISBN 978-0-19-532278-1

The author, Steven M. Gillon, is Resident Historian for The History Channel and the professor of history at the University of Oklahoma. He has written numerous books and articles about modern American politics and culture. The Pact belongs to his latest books.

This volume tells the story of President Bill Clinton (D) and the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich (R). Both men encounter in top U.S. governmental positions in the 1990s but with very different ideas how to lead the country. Nevertheless, both soon realized that to keep the government working they need to cooperate. Once they knew it is possible to work on bipartisan basis they focused on higher goals with the prospect of making history and that was reshaping the hot issue of American politics – the social security system. Both men were in their parties influential enough to make such a change pursuable and the times of budget surplus created good point for the debate.

Author stresses especially the importance of the 1960s which according to him played decisive role in lives of both men and he returns to the influence of this era many times during the reading. This sociological approach of seeing every aspect through the optics of the 1960s is quite interesting although I am not sure if it is applicable to every situation.

The publication is divided into seventeen chapters mapping complexly Clinton's and Gingrich's characters, personal life and their political career. What the both men had in common was the dissatisfaction with the situation inside their parties. That brought Gingrich at the head of Republican Revolution in 1994 and Clinton in front of New Democrats who were socially liberal but fiscally conservative. Many pages are devoted to the difficult situation of the Democratic Party and the revival of the G.O.P. and their tough cooperation in the House of Representatives and the degree of partisanship plays a role in American politics. Source of the conflict was the battle over the budget that led to governmental shut-down with political consequences for allegedly guilty party. Final compromise opened up the way for cooperation of both parties based on moderate support.

However, this book is not just about Clinton and Gingrich. It is also about the 1990s, the period when Cold War was over and the times looked peaceful and prosperous. Nevertheless it was necessary to give direction to this new energy and money. The high point in their cooperation was supposed to be described in motto: "Save the Social Security First." This entire endeavor ended with the Monika Lewinski scandal that moved the society for the remaining time when Clinton held the office. Gillon devoted almost whole two chapters to analyzing this delicate issue and the following consequences.

The author tries to be objective and to carefully handle the issue of the cooperation between the leader of the Republican revolution with Democratic President. Their careers in high positions were closely linked. According to Gillon, "The roots of the Clintons impeachment traced back to the cultural conflict of the 1960s, nurtured three decades of partisan wrangling." The statement is a bit controversial but it is interesting to follow author's thoughts and explanations from this perspective.

Eva Petrová

Susan-Mary Grant, **The War for a Nation: The American Civil War**. New York: Routledge, 2006. 261 pp. ISBN 0-415-97990-0

Grant's *The War for a Nation: The American Civil War* offers a shorter overview of the war, utilizing mainly original historical sources, to provide a brief, but detailed, narrative of the Civil War. It seeks to introduce the military history of the war to readers who might be apprehensive of military history in general and who may never before have thought about how military history is, in fact, social history enacted on battlefields. The American Civil War was not a war of conquest, but a conflict of ideals. For the Union, the American republican experiment was at stake; for the Confederacy, it was the right to secede from