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the capacity to feel and think fully and freely, that pill would be in most cases a treasure indeed. Only unsuffering and probably unfeeling social and literary critics would want to keep it from those who need it.

In some ways, what Kramer says in *Listening to Prozac* should not surprise any of us. It is hardly news that so much of what we are, both physically and mentally, has a biological basis. But the implications of that reality are becoming ever more weighty as we expand our capacity to affect that biology and,

thereby, the essence of our human selves. That capacity is only in its infancy, and from what I can tell, it seems more likely to grow into a blessing than a curse. Humankind, in all its agonized and creative variety, is not slouching toward a pharmacologically normalized Bethlehem to be reborn.

—Walter Reich, a practicing psychiatrist and Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center, is the author of *A Stranger in My House* (1984).

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## OTHER TITLES

### *History*

**CHURCHILL:** A Major New Assessment of His Life in Peace and War. Ed. by Robert Blake and Wm. Roger Louis. Norton. 581 pp. \$35

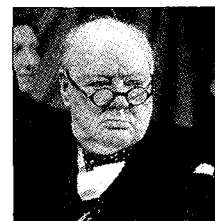
**CHURCHILL:** The End of Glory. By John Charmley. Harcourt Brace. 742 pp. \$34.95

Is the time yet right for a new assessment of Winston Churchill? Charmley, a radical conservative historian at the University of East Anglia, thinks so. His iconoclastic *End of Glory* presents Churchill as a great man but a greater failure, an inept war addict who kept England from successfully exiting a war it could not win (so Charmley believes) but which eventually Germany managed to lose. When published earlier in England, Charmley's revisionism—with its hints that it would have been better for Britain to trust Hitler than to trust America—elicited an almost universally cold response.

Charmley's study is provocatively strident, but in terms of thoroughness, when set beside Louis and Blake's big compilation, it practically dissolves into air. Louis, an historian at the University of Texas, and Blake, the editor of the *English Dictionary of National Biography*, have as-

sembled the academic equivalent of a Hollywood extravaganza. David Cannadine writes on Churchill's family, Gordon Craig on Churchill and Germany, Michael Howard on Churchill and World War I, Stephen Ambrose on Churchill and Eisenhower, Philip Ziegler on Churchill and the monarchy, and on and on the list goes.

While historians (before Charmley) might have desisted from assaulting the central national myth of Churchill's wartime leadership, they have not failed to point out the astonishing combination of talent, energy, and fallibility that marked every phase of Churchill's checkered career. The contributors to this volume carry on in this tradition, many with elegance. The best of several good pieces on Churchill's attempts to win two world wars is Richard Ollard's cool, compelling analysis of his naval ideas. Those ideas were at best misguided, at worst catastrophically misconceived. Like Napoleon before him, Churchill had a soldier's vision of sea warfare and repeatedly demanded that ships perform duties for which they were



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dangerously unsuited. The whole Mediterranean fleet might have been lost to enemy airpower (just as the battle squadron sent to Malaya was lost a few months later) in the bombardment of Tripoli, but for freak weather conditions. Readers may be taken aback by this reconstruction of the widely accepted legend of the "former naval person," who, for his work at the Admiralty prior to World War I, has largely been given credit for Britain's preparedness to fight in that war. Ollard does pay proper tribute to Churchill's real achievements as a naval administrator, especially in improving the survival chances of ordinary seamen, even as he points out his terrifying capriciousness as an armchair admiral.

If there is to be a significant new assessment of Churchill, it will likely concern his contentious record as a peacetime minister. Peter Clarke argues that, in the 1920s, Churchill made a better chancellor of the exchequer and had a surer understanding of economics than his predecessors Lloyd George, Stanley Baldwin, and Neville Chamberlain. And Paul Addison shows how, despite his Tory and aristocratic background, Churchill became "one of the founders of the welfare state." Yet considering the array of historical talents assembled here, their collective verdict is modest enough. Churchill emerges overall as the same familiar figure, though with more nuances. The picture might have been more telling were there not one conspicuous absence among the distinguished contributors—Martin Gilbert, the author of the eight-volume biography of Churchill. To have "a major new assessment" of Churchill without Gilbert's contribution is, as one wit put it, rather like having a discussion of *Hamlet* without mention of Shakespeare.

**W. E. B. DU BOIS:** *Biography of a Race. Vol. I: 1868–1919.* By David Levering Lewis. Holt. 700 pp. \$35

As a 25-year-old graduate student in Berlin, W. E. B. Du Bois confided to his diary his plans "to make a name in [social] science, to make a name in literature and thus to raise my race." That simple declaration foretold both the promise of academic achievement and the secular messianism that characterize Du Bois's entire

career. Lewis, the Martin Luther King, Jr., professor of history at Rutgers University, here describes the first half of a long and eventful life in which Du Bois fulfilled his youthful promise.

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born to free-born parents in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in 1868. A child prodigy—he contributed to black newspapers while still in his teens—he attended Nashville's Fisk University when he was only 16. He subsequently studied with Harvard University philosophers William James and George Santayana and became Harvard's first black Ph.D. Simply by pursuing an academic career, Du Bois defied the conventional wisdom of the time about black progress. Its foremost advocate, Booker T. Washington, believed blacks should forswear the pipe dreams of book learning or even of civic equality and instead strive for economic independence. Du Bois was not one to suffer this "racial humility." Already in 1891, he had written complaining to former U.S. president Rutherford B. Hayes, who had offered promising African-American students scholarship money but then had gone back on his word: "I find men willing to help me use my hands before I have got my brains in working order . . . but I never found a man willing to help me get a Harvard Ph.D."

Booker T. Washington was initially well disposed toward Du Bois. In 1900 he encouraged the younger man, then an Atlanta University professor, to come to Tuskegee Institute. The two large egos, however, soon clashed. Du Bois turned down Washington's offer, and Washington's powerful Tuskegee machine dashed Du Bois's prospective appointment as superintendent of Washington, D.C.'s black schools. As southern blacks increasingly suffered disenfranchisement, lynchings, the effects of Jim Crow laws, and race riots, Du Bois grew impatient and at last furious with Washington's accommodationist stance. In the summer of 1905, he convened a meeting on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls to launch the "first collective attempt by African Americans to demand full citizenship rights in the 20th century." That organization would become the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People five years later. By then the Wizard of Tuskegee was eclipsed, and it was clear that the 20th cen-