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Vulcan Historical Review Staff

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VHHR

2021

VOLUME 25
25TH ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

Vulcan
Historical
Review



Vulcan Historical Review

VOLUME 25

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

The editorial staff are honored to present the twenty-fifth edition of the *Vulcan Historical Review*, a testament to the passion and skill cultivated across a quarter-century of student scholarship. The excellence of the *VHR* has been recognized many times in the Gerald R. Nash History Competition sponsored by the Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society. Most recently, the 2020 edition took third place in the category for digital historical journals. The editorial staff for 2021 are proud to be part of this impressive tradition, especially while facing the unique challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Although we were unable to gather in person, the limitations imposed by the pandemic have made us ever more grateful for opportunities such as these to connect and collaborate over our passion for historical research.

The publication opens with a retrospective essay reflecting on the journal's origins, followed by an exploration of feminism in politics. The next piece, winner of the Glenn A. Feldman Memorial Student Writing Award, is a history of a little-known American military mountaineering unit trained for potential combat in the Soviet Union. We then turn to an investigation into Romanov conspiracy theories and a foray into the historical intersection between food and politics in the early twentieth century. We are proud to include multiple pieces on the historical injustices of racism in the United States, especially as this publication comes just a year after the national uprisings in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of a police officer in May 2020. We then turn to the question of British imperial responsibility for a famine in Bengal, a personal reflection on the history of alcoholism as a disease, and then a local history examining cemeteries in Birmingham. The journal concludes with two historiographical essays reflecting on approaches to

the history of the Third Reich and environmental history, respectively. Juxtaposed alongside and woven throughout the scholarship are pieces by student artists and poets, enriching and complementing each historical narrative.

There are many individuals we would like to thank for their support and guidance in bringing this publication to fruition. First and foremost to all faculty and staff in the Department of History at UAB, who have unfailingly supported students' passion for history and their desire to refine their craft. We would be lost without our outstanding faculty advisor, Dr. Andrew Baer, who lends support in all forms and cheers us on while keeping us on course. We also thank our chair, Dr. Jonathan Wiesen, and Melanie Daily, our administrative associate, who plays an integral role in all departmental work, the *VHR* included. Many thanks go to Dr. Douglas Baulos of the Department of Art and Art History, who helped connect us to student artists and to Dr. Alison Chapman, chair of the English Department, who helped us find the talented student writers who contributed their poetry. Thank you as well to Dr. Colin Davis, who spoke with our staff in an interview reflecting on the journal's founding years, and thank you to Tierra Andrews, our incredible graphic designer who brought the publication to life.

Finally, publication of the *VHR* would not be possible without the generous and ongoing support of our donors: Dr. Kecia M. Thomas (Dean of the UAB College of Arts and Sciences) and the Linney Family Endowment. We thank you and our readers for giving UAB undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to join the tradition of twenty-five years of historical scholarship that represents this department and the Chi Omicron Chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.