

From the Editors

It is our pleasure to bring you the second edition of *Ezra's Archives*. Over the past six months, our dedicated editors have been hard at work putting together this collection of outstanding undergraduate historical research projects. This year, the quantity of papers submitted for consideration by our editorial board increased significantly from the first edition published in April 2011. Yet, perhaps the largest difference in this edition is the inclusion of papers from institutions other than Cornell. We sent our call for submissions outside of Cornell this year to institutions such as New York University, Columbia University, and the University of Michigan, hoping to give undergraduates at peer universities the opportunity to publish their own original research and start a dialogue about history across the country. As a result our recent expansion, we are pleased to present to you these five papers, which represent the best not only from Cornell, but from other institutions as well.

The first paper, entitled *The G'psgolox Pole: Representations of the Haisla History*, written by Phoenix Paz of Cornell University, uses unique anthropological and archeological methods to showcase the relationship between the Haisla people of northern Canada and European colonial powers. Paz depicts the nuances of this intercultural relationship by writing the history of the G'psgolox Pole, a sacred Haisla object that has changed hands and sparked controversy from its creation in the late 19th century up to the present day.

Moving from a cultural to a political approach, the second paper in our collection, *Cold War Heat Wave in the Western Hemisphere*, written by Daniel Chardell of the University of Michigan, deals with the rise of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman and the reasons why the United States chose to intervene in Guatemala in the 1950s. He argues that, in dealing with governments like Arbenz's, the United States too often generalized and oversimplified the nature of their communism. The covert operations

that were launched by the CIA lacked a crucial historical sensitivity which in turn led to the rise of many of the infamous Latin American dictators of the second half of the 20th century.

Lenin on Democracy, by Cornell senior Andrew White, also traces a political history, examining the 1916-1917 writings of Vladimir Lenin on the topics of self-determination, the role of violence in democracy, and the relationship between democracy and the state. By exploring these three different thematic elements in Lenin's writings, White analyzes the ways in which Lenin's views on democracy changed within the political context of the 1917 revolutions in Russia.

The fourth paper in our collection *Feigned Ignorance: Early Christian Polemics in Umayyad Spain* by Hajin Jun of the University of Michigan examines two early Christian texts on the life of Muhammad. By carefully tracing the inaccuracies in the depictions of Islam presented by these two texts, Jun challenges the idea that the authors of the texts were simply ignorant about the Islamic faith. Instead, she argues that these early Christian works consciously distorted the Islamic faith in an effort to preserve the Church's influence over the people of Early Modern Spain.

An extract from Taly Matiteyahu's New York University senior thesis, *Strategies of Survival: Lithuanian Jews and the Holocaust* brings this volume to a close. Matiteyahu's meticulously researched work provides a new perspective on the experiences of Lithuanian Jews leading up to and during Nazi rule. Her paper draws on many previously untouched archival sources to explore the Holocaust in Lithuania through a variety of perspectives and approaches.

In putting together this volume, we found ourselves awed by the wide variety, creativity, and depth displayed by the papers we read throughout the submission and editing process. It is incredibly inspiring for us to see the fantastic historical scholarship happening here at Cornell and at other institutions across the country. We hope you will be equally inspired by the papers we have put together in this volume and we are proud to present to you the second edition of *Ezra's Archives*.

Sincerely,

Maya Koretzky and Andrew White
Ezra's Archives Co-Editors in Chief and Co-Founders