the overarching framework that this is not another discussion on the achievements of Augustus. He ensures that the content humanizes Augustus while still providing a scholarly account of his triumphs that the average reader will appreciate.

Overall *The Life of Rome's First Emperor* makes a well-balanced argument that allows the average reader to get an in-depth glimpse of *who* Augustus was. This is a biographical text worth noting as a source for scholars looking for insight into Augustus as human being first and then, the most influential ruler of Rome.

Eddie Organista

Allison Varzally. *Making a Non-White America: Californians Coloring Outside Ethnic Lines, 1925–1955.* Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2008. Pp. 305. Paper $24.95.

In *Making a Non-White* America, Allison Varzally, a Professor at California State University, Fullerton, explores the ethnic neighborhoods of California, particularly in Los Angeles and Oakland from 1925 to 1955. Varzally claims that minority groups recognized their similarities and developed compassion for each other because of their shared experience of racism. As a result, minorities were able to control and shape their own identities despite legal, social, and cultural restrictions created by whites.

Using oral interviews and newspaper articles written by Japanese, Filipino, and Mexican residents, Varzally describes the hostile environment minorities encountered. Japanese people were unable to own land, African Americans had to use separate facilities from whites, and many Mexicans were repatriated to Mexico regardless of their citizenship status. These groups shared a common experience of discrimination and as a result, interacted. They had contact with each other at schools, which lead to cultural borrowing. For example, Japanese youths adopted the dress of zoot-suiters, commonly associated with Mexican Americans. Mexican Americans in turn frequented the jazz clubs of African Americans.

Varzally demonstrates the importance of World War II for minority groups in the second half of the book. She argues that men who served in the U.S. Armed Forces enlisted to fight for freedom from oppression. As a result of their military service, soldiers of color gained a sense of duty to uplift their race and oppose racial oppression. Fighting in World War II made these groups eager to challenge white discrimination in California and achieve social mobility. They also gained important organizational skills that assisted their new political

activism. Collectively, colored veterans had a unified goal of dismantling the social and legal barriers created by whites.

Varzally emphasizes the importance of inter-racial couples in the fight for equality. Mixed families challenged the preconceived notion that racially homogenous families and communities were better. Social mobility for non-white Californians increased as a result of crossing racial boundaries through marriage and by demonstrating to whites that they could succeed socially and economically.

For scholars and students interested in the history of California or mid-twentieth century racial struggles, *Making a Non-white America* is an important work. Varzally comprehensively analyzes the significance of minorities in California. Her book shows the emergence of a different world populated by Black, Japanese, Mexican, and Jewish people shaping their own identities in their fight toward racial equality and belonging in America. The book demonstrates that these groups had their own political agendas and were not merely passive victims of white policies.

Brian Sun

Gwynn Thomas. *Contesting Legitimacy in Chile: Familial Ideals, Citizenship, and Political Struggle, 1970-1990*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2011. Paper $34.95.

Gwynn Thomas examines how Chile's emphasis on family structure affected political views leading up to and during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet between 1973 and 1990. Right and left-leaning Chileans emphasized family, familial identity, and the relationship between family and the state as part of their rhetoric. Thomas argues that issues of family and welfare were the primary instigators for the overthrow of former Chilean president Salvador Allende.

In 1973 country went from a socialist-communist president, Allende, to a conservative dictator, Pinochet. Allende's leftist government aimed to support working-class families with welfare programs. This upset upper and middle-class families who saw Allende's government as a threat to traditional society and mobilized against him. In 1973 a military coup lead by Pinochet ended Allende's life and presidency. A year later Pinochet assumed the presidency, and denounced Allende's socialist agenda as violations of human and economic rights for families. While Pinochet's supporters had hoped for an end to violence, his dictatorship was overthrown in 1988 by a plebiscite, and once again the rights of families were at the forefront of