Book Reviews

Susan Stryker. *Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution, Second Edition*, 2017. New York: Seal Press, 2017. Pp 320. Paper $13.99.

Historical erasure existentially threatens trans communities; even now, structural forces redouble their efforts at the state, school, and local levels. In this context, *Transgender History, 2nd Edition* provides a vital counterpart to those who argue that transness is a 21st-century invention of social justice movements. Susan Stryker, Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona (and former director of its Institute for LGBT Studies), situates the timelines of trans organizing and the lives and deaths of trans-Americans within broader socio-political contexts. Her work accordingly provides modern historians and casual readers alike a valuable reference for more nuanced inquiries in trans history.

Early chapters cover broad strokes of global trans history, establish a thorough glossary of terminology for the unacquainted, and sift through larger intersectional conversations in which transness is positioned. After Chapter Two, the books proceeds chronologically, progressing through postwar America to the 2017 Women's March in Washington D.C.. Chapters One and Six constitute major additions to *Transgender History's* initial edition: another decade of history and, just as pivotally, maturation in the field. As trans historians in the whitewashed academy with inextricable connections between gender, sexuality, colonialism, anti-blackness, and other axes of marginalization, so too has the *2nd Edition* input more critical biography and intersectional critique of prior scholarship. The homogeneity of the middle-class, white, straight, trans experience often smooth over nuance and difference, a critique leveraged at the 1st Edition's rosy discussions of Christine Jorgensen, Victoria Prince, and others. In response, Stryker provides deeper coverage of historically disenfranchised trans women of color while balancing critical perspectives on white trans idols, generating new historical work on each as a result.

Court documents, media coverage of trans events, personal correspondence, medical documentation, and more encompass Stryker's rich base of primary sources and interaction with prior historiographies. This evidentiary survey revisits scholarship on the Compton Cafeteria Riot, an early successful stand of solidarity against transphobic law enforcement, with additional archival detail from personal interviews. Similarly, her coverage of letters and arrest documentation surrounding Victoria Prince's historic obscenities suit by the U.S. Post Office seemingly exists only in this monogram.

None of this is to gloss over the fact that Stryker's timeline still contains room for expansion. Initial criticisms of the prior edition note lacking detail surrounding two-spirit and other trans indigenous Americans. The *2nd Edition* does adjust to this criticism exactly *twice*. In other words, this "lip service" needs to be replaced with complex interrogation. Additionally, coverage of the January 2017 Women's March positions the event as one of universal; even in February 2017, widespread consensus deemed this oversimplification. Readers should note the room for development of either future historiographical texts or, potentially, a *3rd Edition*.

At its best, *Transgender History: 2nd Edition* offers a more complete survey of postwar U.S. trans history through both its additions and revisions. Its language renders it accessible to audiences uninvested academically or experientially to trans and cisgender audiences alike. Yet only recommending that these audiences read Stryker's text would limit its academic utility; the archival dives into severely under-researched moments in history, particularly surrounding Victoria Prince's obscenity lawsuit and the Compton Cafeteria Riot, evince this text's value even for those well-read within the field.

Stryker's epilogue reminds, "If there is a lesson to be learned from U.S. transgender history at the dispiriting moment in which these words are being written, it is that trans people have a long record of survival in a world that is often hostile to us." While the current moment remains dispiriting for trans Americans, Stryker's prompt–that historicizing and recording our existence is paramount to continuing it–locates her work as an act of resistance in a political climate that would seek to erase it.

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