

Society's Books of Note

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Daniel J. Mahoney, *The Other Solzhenitsyn: Telling the Truth about a Misunderstood Writer and Thinker*. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2014. \$30.00. 230pp.

Writing against the caricature of Solzhenitsyn as a narrow-minded defender of Orthodoxy, Daniel J. Mahoney, Senior Editor of *Society* and professor of political science at Assumption College, describes instead "a writer and thinker of the first rank ... whose spirited defense of liberty is never divorced from moderation. It is to the recovery of this Solzhenitsyn that the book is dedicated."

Michael Egan, ed., *The Character of Human Institutions: Robin Fox and the Rise of Biosocial Science*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2014. \$59.95. 395pp..

This *festschrift* is dedicated to the writings and achievements of Robin Fox (a member of the Advisory Board of *Society*) whose evolutionary vision of humanity has been described as going "beyond narrow disciplinary boundaries ... to embrace the 'universal history of mankind.'" Michael Egan has assembled a lasting tribute to a great "mainstream maverick".

Edmund Fawcett, *Liberalism: The Life of an Idea*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2014. \$35.00. 488pp.

Fawcett, formerly of *The Economist*, examines the traditions of liberalism in the United States, Britain, France, and Germany. As distinct as these traditions may be, he "suggests that they are held together by shared commit-

ments: resistance to power, faith in social progress, respect for people's chosen enterprises and beliefs, and acceptance that interests and faiths will always conflict."

Susan Falls, *Clarity, Cut, and Culture: The Many Meanings of Diamonds*. New York: New York University Press, 2014. \$24.00. 224pp.

Falls, who teaches at Savannah College of Art and Design, gives an anthropologist's account of the ubiquity of diamonds in American culture. Her book asks "What can we learn from an ethnography about the production of identity, creation of kinship, and use of diamonds in understanding selves and social relationships?" She recounts a year of fieldwork in New York City among diamond consumers along with an analysis of ad campaigns by De Beers and its role as one resource in defining that consumption.

Todd Cleveland, *Stones of Contention: A History of Africa's Diamonds*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2014. \$26.95. 240pp.

What do consumers know about the origins of diamonds? Cleveland, assistant professor of history at Augustana College (Illinois), offers a concisely written history of centuries of international engagement with Africa's mineral wealth. He assesses the global contexts in which supply and demand play out and the ways in which their impact manifests itself in the experiences of a wide array of Africans from miners to executives and the leaders of mineral-rich states.