

## Curriculum Trends in Social Studies

JOHN JAROLIMEK

### Social History—Another View of the Past

Social history as a field of scholarly inquiry has fascinated historians for years, but not until recently has it found its way into the curriculums of elementary and secondary schools. Today, an increasing number of social studies teachers at all grade levels are discovering the exciting potential offered by social history.

In their typical study of history, students learn of the men and women who achieved prominence, the ones recognized as the shapers of historical events. Social history, on the other hand, involves studying the lives of ordinary people—people much like the students themselves—as they deal with the exigencies and routines that confronted them—working, playing, marrying, birthing, dying, judging and punishing criminals, educating their children. Indeed, social history covers any or all lives of everyone.

Instructional materials focusing on the social history of Western Europe and the United States from 1630 to 1980 have been developed in a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Five units for grades 10–12 are available: Work and Leisure; Family; Childhood and Youth; Crime and Law Enforcement; and Health and Medicine. For those interested in these materials or social history in the schools, contact Dr. Linda Rosenzweig, Chatham College, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15232.

### More on Scope and Sequence

At its November 1983 meeting in San Francisco, the Board of Directors of the National Council for the Social Studies approved the report of its Task Force on Scope and Sequence as a "preliminary position statement" of the National Council (scheduled for publication in the April issue of *Social Education*). Eight educators representing various philosophical orientations have been invited to comment on the report.

The program proposed by the task force calls for social studies to be included in all of the K-12 grades "every day, throughout each school year." Alternative sequences are provided for grades 6–12. In addition to the subject matter sequence, the report offers program suggestions for the sequential development of values and beliefs and for social studies-related skills.

### Education for Peace

*Educators for Social Responsibility* is a national, nonprofit membership organization of teachers, administrators, and parents educating for a world free from the threat of nuclear destruction. The ESR has available a number of services, audiovisual materials, and print publications of interest to teachers concerned with peace education. A 1983 publication entitled *Perspectives: A Teaching Guide to Concepts of Peace* covers grades K-12 and provides specific suggestions for activities that teachers can use to explore possibilities of creating a peaceful world. Cost: \$12.95. Write

ESR, 23 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

### Bringing China Closer

Increased diplomatic, cultural, economic, and personal travel ties with the People's Republic of China, along with continued emphasis on global education, have aroused a long-dormant interest in the study of China. Although there is already a fair amount of instructional material available on China, teachers should not overlook the resources from the Center for Teaching about China. Established by the US-China Peoples Friendship Association as a national clearinghouse for teaching materials, the Center offers a wide assortment of curriculum materials for all grade levels. A catalog of Center resources is available on request.

*US-China Review*, the bi-monthly journal of the US-China Friendship Association, is an informative publication, well worth the \$12.00 subscription price for six issues. In addition to providing teachers with authoritative articles about China, the *Review* includes information about the programs, activities, and study opportunities available through the Association. For information write to *US-China Review*, Center for Teaching about China, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

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## Curriculum Trends in Science

EDWIN P. WHITE

### Instructional Materials Directory

The third edition of the *Directory of Science Education Suppliers* has just been published by the National Science

Teachers Association. The Directory appears free in the January issues of *Science and Children* and *The Science Teacher*. The February issue of the

*Journal of College Science Teaching* also carries the 68 page insert. The 1984 edition lists suppliers of equipment, supplies, services, media, textbooks,

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