

*Theology and Society in Three Cities: Berlin, Oxford, and Chicago, 1800–1914.* By Mark D. Chapman. Cambridge, UK: James Clarke, 2014. Pp. viii + 152. \$50.

In this volume Chapman does much more than simply discuss a particular time in Christian scholarship; he also explores how different circumstances in different places impacted theology. Theology may be regarded as the study of the eternal and transcendent God, but its study is undertaken by individuals who have been influenced by various social and political considerations. For instance, the university in Berlin was just being founded when Schleiermacher began teaching there, and C. notes how changes in Germany's political directions affected Schleiermacher's understanding of the role of Christian theology. Oxford was a well-established university by the mid-1800s when some of its scholars realized that its traditional method of imparting Christian values needed to be replaced by a modern approach. The university in Chicago was a new school on a newly developing continent, and it devised a new theological approach in which Christianity could be useful in finding remedies for modern social problems.

C.'s main point is this: Christian theology is constantly involved in contemporary conflicts and invariably needs to find compromises. As a theological ideal, Christianity may be regarded as an absolute; but, as a human endeavor, it demands particular solutions to these various conflicts. The book is based on C.'s university lectures, so it was never intended for specialists. Nonetheless, this slender volume contains a wealth of information that even advanced scholars will find worthwhile. C.'s focus is primarily historical, yet he urges modern theologians to discover new ways to confront theological challenges. Those interested in the history of theology will find this book rewarding, but so will anyone who thinks seriously about the many challenges that Christianity faces in the modern world.

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*The Virgin Mary and Catholic Identities in Chinese History.* By Jeremy Clarke, S.J. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University, 2013. Pp. xiii + 275. \$55.

Clarke undertakes the original and ambitious task of presenting the history of Christianity in China through the lens of Marian devotion, a particularly important expression of the faith for Chinese Catholics. The book is divided into three parts: part I explores Marian imagery before 1842, which marks the end of the first Opium War and the beginning of the period of "Unequal Treaties." After a brief discussion of the Chinese Rites Controversy and its aftermath in the early to mid-18th century, part II analyzes the significant influence and effects of Marian devotions imported from France and the general mindset of the missionaries under the French protectorate. Part III concentrates on the founding of the Catholic University of Peking and the influence