

Introduction

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Hello reader, and welcome to the forty-eighth edition of Western Connecticut State University's *Clio*. The theme for this edition is domination. The dictionary describes the word as "the exercise of control or influence over someone or something, or the state of being so controlled."¹ While that definition can carry a negative--perhaps violent--weight to it, domination is much more of an ambiguous positive word than it initially appears. Though in this edition, you will read about the conquering of peoples, and the respective treatment of the conquered, you will also read about the indomitability of the human spirit and you will be asked to consider how people have dominated the very earth we walk on and bent it to their will. This issue will consider the domination of the frightening unknown gradually exposed by those brave enough to sail to foreign shores, and the ability for a people to dominate the challenges thrown before them; fear, hunger, invasion, hate and even the threat of extermination. We will even see examples of people challenging the dominant collective history of this nation and the domination inflicted on people here, and the subsequent challenging of that control.

To begin this edition, we look at Francine Accuosti's article on the conquest of Peru by Francisco Pizarro and his family. Accuosti's contribution is a classic look at the discovery of the New World, and the subsequent domination of the territories and peoples who lived there by explorers like Pizarro. Second, we have my own article on how culture, religion and innovation helped the Vikings dominate Europe and explore and conquer new lands. Next, David Frankel writes about food rationing in Great Britain, the United States, and the British empire during World War II. The controversies over this rationing, Frankel tells us, is an illustration of how these respective nations ultimately persevered over hunger through adopting new technologies in food production. Next, we have Kat Schwarz's paper on the Colorado River. Schwarz examines the importance of the river as a source of life, the use and

¹ *Concise Oxford American Dictionary* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

efficacy of hydroelectricity and the engineering feat of the creation of the Hoover Dam, a grandiose example of mankind's conquering and subsequent domination of nature and our environment. After Schwarz's essay, David Standrowicz introduces us to the experiences of Jews in Russia. This powerful piece demonstrates how the Russian nobility and ruling classes dominated the Jewish people, from anti-Semitic legislation to outright sanctioned attacks on Jewish communities, the oppression of Russian Jews was only matched by their perseverance in the face of such cruel treatment. Following David's paper, we have Stephanie Miller's paper on the Salem Witch Trials, where superstition, fear and jealousy dominated colonial New England and caused a hysteria which claimed the lives of innocent women. Finally, closing out our journal, we have Evan Walker's paper on the 1619 project, which is actively challenging the dominating beliefs of American History and the genuine role of the American slave in building this nation. This piece is joined by profound reflections on the current Black Lives Matter movement from Adjunct Professor of History Danielle King, who reflects on the experiences of two men named George: her father, George King, and George Floyd, who was murdered at the hands of Minneapolis police officers last year.

Domination has also been a theme of this past year and the current, as the world was seemingly dominated by a novel global pandemic, and humanity has now gained the foothold to turn the tables, attempting to control a virus that was once thought to be invincible. If anything, this edition is not just a testament to humanity's domination of the world, but to its own indomitable spirit, and you, dear reader, are proof of that indomitable spirit. Enjoy.