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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to a new volume and a new year with the *Graduate Historical Journal at UCLA*. This year we have had the good fortune to receive a number of articles spanning a large span of time and space. In the 28th Volume, the articles follow history across the world and reach as far back as the Greek Peloponnesian War. But no matter the content, these articles argue their points with rigorous attention to historical detail and intend to shed new light on previously overlooked or under-researched aspects of our world.

The first article, José Luis Serrano Nájera's "Interethnic Mayan and Afro-descendent Relations through War, Trade, and Slavery during the Mayan Caste Wars, 1848-1901," investigates the tension between assumed cultural hegemony and the reality of multiethnic cooperation and repression during the nineteenth century. Articles "San Francisco, 1906: The Law and Citizenship in Disaster" by Torrah Giles and "Controlling the California Gold Steamers: The Panama Route in the United States Civil War" by Neil P. Chatelain focus on aspects of the history of California, but in far different periods of time. Both articles, however, deal with the inherent tensions between government control and local legal institutions during times of crisis and war. The fourth article, "The Complex Depiction of Nicias in Thucydides" by Benjamin Niedzielski, takes readers back to ancient Greece, in a linguistically-driven analysis of the way a historian can complicate a biography, through a multilayered portrayal of the famous Greek General Nicias.

The volume is rounded out with two well-written reviews dealing with topics that influence our modern world. The segregation faced by the *Crescent City Girls: The Lives of Young Black Women in Segregated New Orleans*, reviewed by Jeffrey D. Waller, still plague parts of the country today and this review highlights from where we have come and how far we still have to go. Anthony Vivian's review of *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?*, on the other hand, highlights an international and political problem. The Thucydides' Trap, explained within, is still as applicable today as it was in ancient Greece.

As always, the Journal would not be possible without the support and participation of a number of people. And so, we would like to thank the UCLA History Department, the Department Chair, Stephen Aron, our Graduate Advisors, Hadley Porter and Kamarin Takahara, the History Graduate Students Association, the former Graduate Student Association Director of Publications, Stacey Meeker, the current Graduate Student Association Director of Publications, David Pederson, and the numerous graduate students who volunteer their time to our Journal.

Anna Accettola
Editor-in-Chief