

**Book Review: Jacqueline Foertsch, *Reckoning Day: Race, Place, and the Atom Bomb in Postwar America*. Vanderbilt University Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0826519276 (Paperback). 251 Pages. \$24.95.**

**Reviewed by Yoly Zentella<sup>1</sup>**

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For some, the quality of a book can be measured twofold: by the material that it presents, and by the connections the reader makes to personal areas of research or interest. Expanding thought into other domains adds to the reader's understanding of complex issues, builds on previous knowledge, and extends intellectual discussion. Jacqueline Foertsch's *Reckoning Day: Race, Place, and the Atom Bomb in Postwar America* is a book that does just that. It focuses on complex subject matter – the perpetual race problem between Blacks and Euro-Americans in the U.S., place, social position, the atom bomb, and the various popular cultural responses to these relationships during the Cold War era while encouraging readers to make further connections.

Foertsch's book describes the perceived threat of an atom bomb attack on the U.S. during the Cold War through popular survivalist visions of a post-nuclear future. Visions expressed by writers and artists of both populations via various genres, i.e. novels, music, journalism, film, use rhythm and language to describe the power and control in the post-nuclear U.S. Among the many questions Foertsch raises are would society continue racism and exclusion, or would the past prove to be lessons learned? An what about interracial mating, and what would this mean to the future of a *White* U.S.A.?

*Reckoning Day: Race, Place, and the Atom Bomb in Postwar America* is organized around five chapters, an introduction, and a conclusion. The introduction discusses the background of the topic and the approach taken by the author. Chapters one and two examine “best selling [Euro-American] survivalist fiction of the period that politicizes, dramatizes,

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