*Innocence and Loss. Representations of War and National Identity in the United States*, edited by Cristina Alsina Rísquez & Cynthia Stretch, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014. ISBN (10): 1-4438-5647-9, ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-5647-8.

A fierce national outcry for righteously waging war has long dominated American culture. From at least the wildly popular Spanish-American War and the US military invasion of the Philippines that infuriated Mark Twain, right up to the current Global War on Terrorism, this is a deadly, dark current coursing throughout American history. Meanwhile, dissenting analyses of the “patriotic gore” have until recently been paid scant attention in the popular media. Delving into this history, this probing collection of essays explores ways in which “the compulsive redeployment of innocence” in the launching, cheering, and retelling of America’s wars “endlessly defers a national reckoning,” as the editors astutely state in their introduction. The works in this collection reflect an effort to add more voices where they are desperately needed.