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Jennifer Stevens, Pub. Mgr.  
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*The following review appeared in the February 2005 issue of CHOICE:*

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Kaufmann, Eric P. **The rise and fall of Anglo-America.** Harvard, 2004. 374p bibl index afp ISBN 0674013034, \$49.95

The recent death of Ronald Reagan reminded Americans of the "culture wars" at the center of political debate for the past generation. These have been portrayed often as a struggle of ethnic and racial minorities against the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant mainstream; political scientist Kaufmann (Birkbeck College, Univ. of London) disagrees. He traces the roots of this struggle back to the era of the American Revolution, and asserts that the culture wars reflect a deep tension within WASP culture--one that pits liberal, cosmopolitan values against a desire to maintain the dominance of a traditional Anglo-Protestant ethnic core. After briefly surveying the "double consciousness" of Anglo-American thought in the 19th century, which alternated between a mythic individual liberty and a resolute acculturating imperative, Kaufmann identifies a cosmopolitan vanguard that challenged WASP hegemony in the early 20th century. Including liberal Progressives, ecumenical Protestants, and young intellectuals, cosmopolitanism actually carried the day by the 1960s. What we know as the culture wars are, in effect, a conservative reaction to the cosmopolitanism that emerged as the Anglo-Protestant ethnic core slowly disappeared amid new immigration and multicultural currents fostered by reformers who identified themselves as residing within the Anglo-American ethnic group. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. -- *K. Fones-Wolf, West Virginia University*

Kaufmann, *The Rise and Fall of Anglo-America*  
**Choice**, February 2005  
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