

to achieve broader goals, and learn to live with that inconsistency.

Whatever its flaws, *On Grand Strategy*'s most valuable contribution may be the underlying message that making strategy is messy and that we often fail when trying to put it into practice. By tying his book to general principles rather than the particulars of recent history, Gaddis at least shows that it may still be possible to teach people to think strategically. And perhaps there are worse ways to

start on the slow road to fixing American foreign policy than by educating students. *On Grand Strategy* doesn't seek to provide the reader with answers, to lay blame or praise for America's recent foreign policy choices, or to serve as a road map for how to solve today's most pressing problems. For that, it insists, we simply have to learn to think for ourselves.

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Apocrypha

William Logan

Clouds stood like flying buttresses
against the gray stone of late afternoon.

It was medieval weather, the weather of crypts
and obscure cults, disused graveyards,

seedy gentlemen in string ties with banjos.
The ice had closed on the river;

brave souls, foolhardy ones, inched across,
a step, a sliding step, tempting fate,

gravity. Furtive innocence, they say.
Frost, those mornings without pity

or understanding, lay like a skin disease.
The slightly pickled look improved the view.

In the air floated the knock-knock-knock
of the steam hammer. Was that England

or America? The rising damp could not be stopped,
whether foreign or domestic remained to be seen.

William Logan's most recent book of poems is *Rift of Light*. His book of long essays on familiar poems, *Dickinson's Nerves, Frost's Woods*, was published in June of this year.