

Real problems were first precipitated by the depression of 1857. Although Forbes had stressed "harmony of interests"—the idea that all would benefit from the railroads—it became clear that different groups had very different concerns. With money now tight, Iowa railroad promoters and farmers frustrated Boston capitalists—who financially controlled the railroads—by ignoring their calls for additional funds to expand the lines. Meanwhile, Forbes and his associates angered many Iowans when, instead of extending the rails ahead of settlement as most locals would have preferred, they continued building the rails across the state in a systematic, sequential manner as the traffic mandated.

Iowa's farmers and shippers were further upset by what they saw as the railroad's manipulation of shipping rates, and they sought to redress the situation by looking to state government for assistance. In Iowa, the legislature responded, first with the Granger Laws and then with the state railroad commission. Ultimately, the federal government entered the picture with the creation of the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1887.

By concentrating on Forbes, his associates, and their regional rail interests in Iowa, Larson presents an intimate view of the railroad's varying impact on mid-nineteenth-century agrarian America. His examination of the ever-changing relations among eastern investors, western boosters, farmers, and shippers is especially illuminating.

This "expanded edition" adds a new six-page introduction and a selected bibliography of pertinent recent works; otherwise, the original text remains the same. Those interested in railroads, regional agrarian unrest, government regulation, or Iowa history will find this paperback compelling.

Into the West: The Story of Its People, by Walter Nugent. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999. xxiii, 493 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Jeffrey Ostler is associate professor of history at the University of Oregon. He is the author of *Prairie Populism: The Fate of Agrarian Radicalism in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa* (1993).

Walter Nugent's *Into the West: The Story of Its People* makes a significant contribution to western U.S. history through its focus on demography. It deals with the political, economic, and cultural history of the American West, but it is principally a social history of migration. Nugent does not consider Iowa part of the West. The West, he says, begins "somewhere in Kansas and Nebraska" (9).

Nugent begins by offering an overview of Native American, European, and Anglo migration into the West from "time immemorial" to 1848. This is something of a prelude to his main story, which begins when the California Gold Rush stimulated immigration from throughout the world. As revealed in the 1860 census, California was "much more diverse than states farther east . . . includ[ing] Chinese, Irish, Germans, Hawaiians, Filipinos, Peruvians, African-Americans, Australians, Mexicans" (55). Nugent celebrates this diversity. The "ethnic mix of San Francisco and the Gold Rush region," he writes, "was as rich as a tub of cioppiono" (62).

Into the West also emphasizes the ethnic and racial diversity of other areas of the West. In a section with the eye-catching title, "Dakota the Multicultural," Nugent emphasizes that immigrants to the Dakotas in the early twentieth century were an "extremely multicultural lot" (143). Although the bulk of newcomers were from northern European countries and Canada, Nugent observes that Italians, Greeks, Chinese, and Japanese worked on railroads. There was a colony of Russian Jewish homesteaders and another of Lebanese Muslims who built "a mosque on the prairie" (145). Surprisingly, however, this section omits the many Indian people of the two states—Ojibway, Mandan, Hidatsa, Sioux, Arikara, and others—whose contributions to diversity were less willing.

In his discussion of early twentieth-century settlement in many parts of the West, Nugent points out that the frontier did not close in 1890, the commonly given date. Not only did a homesteading frontier endure well into the 1910s, but there was also an urban frontier. The urban and rural Wests increasingly diverged. Nugent recounts an encounter between Beatrice Lamed Massey, driving from New York to San Francisco in 1919, and hundreds of starving families leaving their Montana homesteads. This meeting of "upper-middle-class west-bound tourists with dirt-poor failed honkyocker homesteaders retreating eastward must be one of the great symbolic encounters in recent American history" (180).

By the 1930s, the Jeffersonian vision of the American West as an ever expanding empire of yeoman farmers was gone. In an especially revealing statistic, Nugent points out that since 1930, "only three counties have been created in the West" (184). As he moves into the 1930s and the World War II years, Nugent continues to discuss rural patterns such as out-migration from the Dust Bowl, the brutal repatriation of Mexicans and Mexican Americans (an urban and rural phenomenon), and the bracero system. Increasingly, though, Nugent turns to the cities and suburbs. While continuing to emphasize the West's diversity, Nugent introduces a new theme: the baby boom, the "most conse-

quential demographic event in modern American history" (271). The baby boom spurred America's postwar growth and fueled two decades of unbounded optimism.

The end of the baby boom and the simultaneous 1965 Watts riot brought this period of national and western optimism to a close. The passage of immigration reform legislation the same year contributed to a new wave of immigration, mostly from Asia, Mexico, and Central America. Nugent rounds out his discussion of the modern West by touching on urban and reservation Indians, the internal diversity of Latinos, the rise of the counterculture, the growing visibility of gay communities, Rocky Mountain resort towns, the ongoing (European American) depopulation of the Great Plains, the Immigration Reform Act of 1986, and the "fall and rise of California" (362) in the 1990s. Nugent concludes by offering some tentative "postmillennial projections" (377). He speculates that the West Coast could well become the dominant region of North America and wonders if a new language, "perhaps combining Spanish, English, and Chinese" (379), might develop.

When I first picked up this book, I feared that its demographic approach would make it dull. Fortunately, my worries were unfounded; this is a fascinating book. In a work of this scale, it is always possible to find fault. I would have appreciated a little less celebration of diversity for diversity's sake and more attention to the structures that continue to reproduce racial and class injustice. Overall, though, *Into the West* is a lively and informative book. I recommend it highly to all those interested in the history of the U.S. West.

Immigrant Minds, American Identities: Making the United States Home, 1870-1930, by Orm Overland. Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Series. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2000. x, 243 pp. Notes, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Donna R. Gabaccia is the Charles H. Stone Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her latest book is *Immigration and American Diversity* (2002).

Portraits of the United States as a nation of immigrants can obscure the scorn Anglo-Saxon Americans typically expressed toward European "foreigners" in the nineteenth century. So severe was that scorn that immigrants of that era could not easily feel "at home" in America. Even the Protestant and literate Scandinavians who settled the rural Midwest faced social rejection and responded by creating what Orm Overland calls "home-making myths." In *Immigrant Minds, American Identities* he analyzes the creation of three of these "home-making

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