

was directed at men to encourage them to become the battling soldiers of the soil. Canning, which was necessary to preserve garden produce year-round, was portrayed solely as women's work.

In her last chapter Bentley examines in detail a crucial point: why did the United States so quickly dismantle its formal rationing system after World War II instead of addressing overseas famine concerns? Many American citizens supported continued rationing, but the government decided to address overseas concerns through other channels. Winning the war supposedly meant guaranteeing the American Way of Life with its characteristic abundance and security. However, this abundance came at the expense of others.

In her epilogue, Bentley claims that Americans could again rise to the occasion of rationing and other necessary war measures concerning food, just as they did during World War II, if the cause were just and the goals defined. However, she ignores her own facts: Americans are now accustomed to inexpensive, available food supplies and spend half their food dollars in restaurants. A world of 24-hour supermarkets, prepared foods, and amazing variety leads most Americans to expect to spend very little time preparing abundant food. Although official policies might again promote rationing and home production, the majority of contemporary Americans simply do not have the skills—cooking, gardening, and canning—needed to withstand a wartime rationing system based on conservation, production, and preservation.

This book should appeal to anyone interested in World War II, as wartime is not solely about bullets, bombs, and words but also about the scarcity of food.

The Rural West since World War II, edited by R. Douglas Hurt. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1998. 250 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.00 cloth, \$25.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY DAVID L. NASS, EMERITUS, SOUTHWEST STATE UNIVERSITY

R. Douglas Hurt has collected ten essays on the rural West, which for the purpose of this study is basically the mountain states and the West Coast. The states included are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The area is marked by great diversity of terrain and agricultural products ranging from apples, oranges, and grapefruit to cattle, wheat, and cotton. Although agriculture is still a major part of the West's economy, real estate development, tourism, recreation, and retirement communities are emerging as major economic factors in the region.

The essays are on topics familiar to most agricultural historians, but with a focus on the more recent period. Topics covered are Native Americans, the changing role of women, social change, agricultural policy, federal water policy, migrant labor, agricultural science and technology, cattle raising and dairying, agribusiness, and environmentalism. Although the subjects may seem familiar, the focus on the post-World War II era yields fresh insights into less researched areas. The collection gives us a fine analysis of the forces that have affected rural life in the West since the Second World War.

Taken together, these essays illustrate the change and continuity that historians see in the study of the rural West. While cattle raisers still wanted cheap grazing land unhindered by government regulations, the practice of using feedlots to raise large numbers of cattle and hogs in confinement became more common. Small towns and agriculturists struggled with new technologies, and environmental concerns. The West had long sought cheap electricity, but now debates raged over whether it should be used for irrigation or economic development. Agricultural policy seemed to change almost yearly, as price supports and acreage limitations alternated with attempts to make agriculture more market oriented. Yet whatever the motivations behind changes in policy, larger farms seemed to benefit more than the family farms of song and story. Western agriculture and society had to cope with larger farms using more mechanization and chemicals and less labor. Paula Nelson's essay on social change shows that rural people eagerly accepted laborsaving devices, but mechanization came with an increasing demand for capital and a decreasing need for people. As Hiram Drache has pointed out, modern farming came to require the three m's: management, money, and mate.

The reader interested in midwestern rural life would find this collection valuable for its analysis of forces that have affected the Midwest as well, although perhaps in slightly different ways. For example, the article on agribusiness illustrates the changes some of the large grower and marketing cooperatives went through as the consolidation movement swept through the economy in the 1970s and 1980s. The way midwestern cooperatives have adjusted to the changing agricultural scene would be a fruitful area for future research.

This collection of essays did not mention rural electric cooperatives, but it would be a logical topic for exploration by someone interested in Iowa or Minnesota history. I remember the scene as state troopers guarded high-tension transmission lines that cooperatives and their private utility partners sought to run across farmland in west central Minnesota. In the 1930s and 1940s these utilities were bitter

enemies, but when they teamed up to adjust to changing technological needs, they angered the people who had created the cooperatives, their farmer owners.

This book would be a good place to start for anyone interested in agriculture in the post-World War II era. For academics it would be a good choice for collateral reading in college courses or for their own use in preparing classes.

The Cold War American West, 1945-1989, edited by Kevin J. Fernlund. Historians of the Frontier and American West Series. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998. xii, 222 pp. Maps, tables, graphs, index. \$45.00 cloth, \$16.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY PAUL M. EDWARDS, CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE KOREAN WAR

This is a surprisingly good book. Editor Kevin J. Fernlund has compiled a series of essays that are timely, informed, well written, and make a significant contribution to an understanding of the Cold War. Many Cold War scholars see it as an international event, the effects of which were to be found in McCarthyism and presidential voting patterns. This is one of the first works to address its broad, but intimately related economic, religious, racial, gender, and environmental effects on a segment of the American culture.

In ten essays of about the same length, style, quality, and focus—cryptically introduced and summarized by the editor—the reader is informed of Cold War conditions and repercussions affecting landscape and migration; the policies of containment and emancipation; the problems of race, class, and gender; the urban response; the legacy of the military-industrial complex and defense; and anticommunism as seen in religion, culture, symbol, and myth. Among these discussions particular attention should be paid to Michael Welsh's introduction of the "'intellectual' phase of defense spending" (92); Mark Stoll's consideration of Fundamentalist Protestant interpretations of the Cold War in terms of good and evil (122); Charles Kupfer's view that science fiction continued in this period with a decidedly apocalyptic bent (173); A. Yvette Huginnie's look at the changing nature of race, class, and gender during this time; and Charles Kupfer's "The Cold War West as Symbol and Myth," which not only extends the thesis of Henry Nash Smith's *Virgin Land: The American West as Symbol and Myth*, but strengthens it. Also of particular help are the brief bibliographical essays at the end of each piece.

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