

As in any multiauthored book, the chapters vary widely. Some deal with relatively minor people who made only minor contributions. Others discuss giants of the historical profession. Editor Wunder gave his contributors wide latitude. Generally the result is what one might have wanted. The essays give a clear discussion of where frontier history came from and what it accomplished through the careers under discussion. From the criticisms leveled by the chapter authors, it is clear that historians now consider different issues than did most of these deceased scholars. At the same time, the present collection is an excellent resource for people interested in American frontier history. The chapter bibliographies give a quick introduction to the many topics the writers considered. The editor has made a valuable contribution to understanding how American history is written. This book helps its readers realize where many of the ideas we hold about the frontier originated.

*The Genesis of Missouri: From Wilderness Outpost to Statehood*, by William E. Foley. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989. x, 367 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$32.00 cloth, \$17.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JEFFREY S. ADLER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

William E. Foley undertook an ambitious task. He sought to write a modern successor to Louis Houck's 1908, fact-filled, three-volume study of early Missouri. Moreover, Foley attempted to incorporate new substantive and methodological approaches, bringing the roles of Indians, slaves, women, and cultural forces into clear focus. Finally, he tried to produce a comprehensive analysis of the much neglected colonial and territorial periods of Missouri history in a single volume that is useful to historians but still accessible to general readers. To a considerable extent, Foley succeeded.

Too often, historians of the Midwest have ignored the early history of the region, overlooking the influence of Indian nations and the role of European colonial powers. Foley redresses this imbalance and reminds scholars that Missouri's prestatehood period significantly affected the development of the region. Drawing on the framework of "Borderlands history," Foley explains that the upper Louisiana territory formed the periphery of the European world; Spanish, French, and English holdings in North America abutted in the region. Because Missouri represented a key borderland, it possessed immense value as an outpost against hostile powers. The Indian nations of the Midwest—and later the United States government—also recognized

the economic and strategic importance of Missouri and attempted to control the region. Thus, imperial policies, designed to serve the needs of far-flung empires and frequently poorly executed by isolated government officials, shaped the political, legal, economic, and demographic character of the region. Foley skillfully untangles the complex roles of French, Spanish, English, and United States officials, their interaction with the Peoria, Iowa, Sauk, Mesquakie, Shawnee, Great Osage, and other Indian nations, and the ways such forces affected land claims, economic activities, and settlement patterns in the Midwest.

Foley emphasizes the political and diplomatic history of the region. This is not a thesis-driven book; instead, Foley concentrates on detail and narrative. Such an approach gives the book its strengths. Foley provides a careful and sophisticated analysis of the shifting diplomatic alliances that regulated the settlement process and the economic growth of the region. Moreover, unlike earlier treatments of the subject, he portrays Indian nations as active participants in the contest for Missouri and its resources. Equally impressive, Foley effectively links frontier events to outside forces, particularly to external diplomatic currents. For example, he explains how surging tensions between England and Spain led Sauk, Mesquakie, Sioux, Menominee, and Winnebago warriors to attack St. Louis in 1780.

This framework, however, also accounts for the weaknesses of the book. Despite his effort to embrace new historical themes, Foley retains a very traditional approach to the subject. For example, as a result of his emphasis on political and diplomatic affairs, St. Louis, the administrative capital of the region, receives disproportionate attention; the development of the remainder of the state is not treated systematically. Women and workers are discussed but not in detail. Similarly, Foley explains the activities of a handful of high government officials in great depth, yet the yeoman farmers who dominated the social and cultural character of Missouri receive relatively little attention. Nor does the book provide a sustained analysis of race relations in the borderlands. Slaves are most often examined through the eyes of slaveholders, and Indians appear in the book principally as a result of diplomatic alliances with or occasional raids on white settlements. Foley also defines culture in very formal terms, analyzing religion, for example, through the activities of prominent ministers and through institutional development—rather than considering the ways in which religion and religious assumptions influenced frontier society. But if his treatment of women, Indians, African-Americans, farmers, and culture is, at times, uneven, this is understandable. The scope of the book precluded fully inte-

grating the new historical themes, and Foley does indeed discuss many often neglected groups and issues.

Thus, Foley has written a first-rate treatment of the subject. His book sheds new—and sophisticated—light on the colonial and territorial periods, and he suggests the richness of the prestatehood era for other scholars. In short, William E. Foley has produced a worthy successor to Louis Houck's classic work on early Missouri. Broad in scope, well written, and carefully researched, this book will be a standard source for both historians of the Midwest and general readers.

*Twilight of Empire: A Narrative*, by Allan W. Eckert. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co., 1988. xiii, 587 pp. Maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY R. DAVID EDMUNDS, INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Allan Eckert, the author of numerous historical chronicles of the conflicts between Indians and whites in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (The Winning of America series) has written an account of the events culminating in the Black Hawk War. As in the other volumes of the series, Eckert assures his readers that *Twilight of Empire* "is fact, not fiction," for "the incidents described here actually occurred; the dates are historically accurate; the characters . . . actually lived the roles in which they are portrayed" (xi). Herein lies the problem with this volume and with the other books in the series. Although Eckert's narratives do incorporate many primary materials, and although his descriptions of time and place do sometimes provide valuable insights into people and events during the past two centuries, his work does not represent serious historical scholarship. Instead, what emerges is an account of historical figures and events admittedly based on selected historical documentation, but much embellished by the author's personal interpretations and his liberal insertion of unsubstantiated and often entirely speculative conversations and anecdotes. These narratives may not be entirely fictitious, but they certainly are not history.

Such an assessment does not mean that Eckert's interpretations are always incorrect. Indeed, *Twilight of Empire* does reflect Eckert's considerable familiarity with the conflicting accounts of the Black Hawk War; and his penchant for details and for the inclusion and development of rather minor characters illustrates his research of his topic. Most modern historians of the Native American experience would agree with his depiction of Black Hawk as a patriot, but also as

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