

script Collections and the British Museum reference work, it would be most useful to researchers. The editorial and typographic challenge of listing the myriad alternate names women acquired throughout life (and sometimes chose to obscure their true identities when pursuing the radical act of writing about themselves) is a graphic reminder of the numerous barriers to public authorship that did not deter early women from creating intriguing personal works.

American Individualism and The Challenge to Liberty, by Herbert Hoover. Introduction by George H. Nash. West Branch: Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, 1989. xii, 219 pp. Notes. \$19.95 cloth, \$11.95 paper.

Herbert Hoover and Stanford University, by George H. Nash. Foreword by Senator Mark O. Hatfield. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press, 1988. xiii, 241 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliographical note, index. \$18.95 paper.

Herbert Hoover and the Historians, edited by Mark M. Dodge. West Branch: Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, 1989. x, 141 pp. Illustration, notes, bibliography. \$17.95 cloth, \$10.95 paper.

Doors of Opportunity: The Life and Legacy of Herbert Hoover, by Frank T. Nye, Jr. West Branch: Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, 1988. ix, 445 pp. Illustrations, source notes, appendix, index. \$12.00 cloth.

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Four books related to Herbert Hoover published in the past couple of years deserve notice in these pages. Three were published by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association; the fourth was written by George H. Nash, who is preparing a definitive, multivolume biography of Hoover for that association.

In *American Individualism*, first published in 1922, Hoover struggled to define the essence of the American social system and to suggest how it should be reformed in order to be maintained in the face of challenges that threatened to reduce America to the chaos that he had witnessed in Europe during and after the war. He sought a balance between the need to curb the forces such as big business, which threatened equality of opportunity, and forces such as increasing government regulation, which threatened to stifle individual initiative. Twelve years later he renewed his defense, convinced that the activist government of the New Deal which had replaced his careful balanc-

ing act represented a serious challenge to liberty and the first step on the path to one of the European plagues of Fascism, Socialism, or Communism. The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association has reprinted that essay, *The Challenge to Liberty*, and the earlier one, along with an excellent 27-page introduction by Hoover biographer George Nash, who establishes the context out of which each essay emerged and who also includes a brief defense of the essays' continuing relevance.

In *Herbert Hoover and Stanford University* George Nash narrates the long-term relationship between Stanford University and its best-known alumnus. The book focuses on Hoover's role as benefactor and trustee, with only a brief chapter on his years as a student in the university's first class. Nash concludes that despite repeated ideological clashes with the university's administration, "no other person except the Stanfords themselves [did] so much for the university as he" (167).

Herbert Hoover and the Historians takes its title from a review essay by Patrick G. O'Brien and Philip T. Rosen first published in the *Annals of Iowa* in 1981 and updated by O'Brien in 1988. Both essays are combined into one and reprinted here in slightly revised form, sandwiched between an essay by Ellis W. Hawley, "Herbert Hoover and American History: Sixty Years After," and one by Alexander DeConde, "Herbert Hoover and Foreign Policy: A Retrospective." Earlier versions of the latter two essays originally appeared in *Herbert Hoover Reassessed* (1981). The volume also includes a brief introduction by Tom Walsh, executive director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, and a bibliography of about two hundred books and articles about Hoover compiled by Richard Dean Burns.

Finally, *Doors of Opportunity* combines a brief popular biography of Hoover with a detailed institutional history of the development of the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and its attendant institutions.

All four books contribute to the growing consensus that Herbert Hoover left an important legacy in several areas unrelated to his presidency.

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