

movement was extremely vibrant in Ohio, and this expansive study of female abolitionists in that state is a significant addition to the field. Robertson also adds to the historiography on antebellum gender ideology and women's public activism by confirming some of the more recent scholarship in that area that stresses the flexibility of the concept of woman's sphere. She finds that women abolitionists saw themselves as acting within their proper sphere as guardians of morality, by fighting against the sinful institution of slavery, even as many of their detractors accused them of venturing outside their proper sphere. She also does an excellent job of linking female abolitionists in Ohio with their counterparts in the Northeast; for example, in her chapter on the free produce movement (which advocated a boycott of goods produced by slave labor), she shows the central role of Ohio Quaker abolitionists in the revival of a Philadelphia reform paper, the *Non-Slaveholder*, which championed the cause of free produce.

Her argument, however, is less persuasive where she differentiates between what she describes as the pragmatic, cooperative abolitionism of the West and the discordant abolitionism of the East. First, much of her material is from Ohio, and virtually none is from territories or states west of the Mississippi River, which constituted a key part of the West for abolitionists by the 1850s. Second, the notion that the abolitionist movement was fragmented in the 1840s has been significantly complicated by recent scholarship focusing on grassroots abolitionists rather than the movement's leaders, as well as cultural history approaches to the topic. For example, in *The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism: Ordinary Women in the Antislavery Movement* (1998), which focused largely on the northeastern United States, Julie Roy Jeffrey argued that divisions in the national organizations often mattered little to women in grassroots antislavery groups. Finally, one might have hoped to see more material on African American women abolitionists in the Midwest. There are some intriguing references to African American women fighting against slavery and racism, but a fuller picture of their activities would have been welcome. Overall, this book is a valuable addition to the scholarship on women and abolition in the United States.

Lincoln Looks West: From the Mississippi to the Pacific, edited by Richard W. Etulain. Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 2010. xi, 262 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Patricia Ann Owens teaches history at Wabash Valley College. Her Ph.D. dissertation (Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1986) was "Wyoming and Montana during the Lincoln Administration."

One score and seven years ago, when I was doing my dissertation research on Wyoming and Montana during the Lincoln administration, people scoffed, looked at me quizzically, and pointed out that nothing happened "out there" at that time. Of course I knew they were wrong. There were gold strikes in Montana, emigrants on the overland trails, military encounters with Native Americans, and the Republican politics of governing the western territories. This volume brings together 12 essays that explore the topic of Lincoln and the West.

Readers of the *Annals of Iowa* are no doubt familiar with Lincoln's visit to Council Bluffs in August 1859, when he delivered a speech at Concert Hall and met with railroad engineer Grenville M. Dodge. Later that same year, Lincoln visited Missouri and eastern Kansas. Although Lincoln's forays to the West were few, as president he was keenly aware of its importance to his Republican Party and the importance of its mineral wealth to a nation fighting a civil war.

In the preface of *Lincoln Looks West*, editor Richard Etulain writes, "This volume attempts what no other book has done. . . . This book introduces readers to the two decades of Lincoln's major involvements with the West" (ix). That mission is accomplished. In an introductory essay Etulain presents an extensive overview of Lincoln and the trans-Mississippi West. Seven of the subsequent essays are reprints from a variety of historical journals and cover a wide range of topics. Mark E. Neely (*Civil War History*, 1978) explores Lincoln's opposition to the Mexican War. Earl S. Pomeroy (*Pacific Historical Review*, 1943), Vincent G. Tegeder (*Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, 1948), Daren Earl Kellogg (*New Mexico Historical Review*, 2000), and Robert W. Johannsen (*Washington Comes of Age: The State in the National Experience*, 1992) delve into Lincoln's patronage appointments in the West. Larry Schweikart (*Western Humanities Review*, 1980) investigates Lincoln's connections to the Mormons, and David A. Nichols (*The Historian's Lincoln: Pseudohistory, Psychohistory, and History*, 1988) writes about his study of Lincoln and the Indians. Two new essays were written specifically for this volume: Michael G. Green surveys the politics of the 1850s and Lincoln's attitudes toward the West during those years; and Paul M. Zall presents a biographical sketch of Lincoln's friend Anson G. Henry, a physician and politician whom Zall describes as "Lincoln's Junkyard Dog." The book concludes with a bibliographical essay by Etulain and a bibliographical of significant books and articles about Lincoln and the West.

This compilation of essays provides a wide range of topics, brings together a plethora of research, and demonstrates that the West was never far from Lincoln's mind, although during his presidency the war took his full attention. For those readers not well acquainted with

Lincoln and the West, this volume is a great place to start and to discover that there really was a lot happening west of the Mississippi River during and even before the Civil War.

Hinterland Dreams: The Political Economy of a Midwestern City, by Eric J. Morser. American Business, Politics, and Society Series. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011. xvi, 264 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$55.00 cloth.

Reviewer Kathleen A. Brosnan is associate professor of history and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Houston. She is the author of *Uniting Mountain and Plain: Urbanization, Law, and Environmental Change in the Denver Region, 1858–1903* (2002).

In *Hinterland Dreams*, Eric Morser relates the origins and development of La Crosse, Wisconsin, as a means to understand urbanization in the larger Midwest. He challenges the frontier narrative of independent white pioneers offered by Wisconsin's native son, Frederick Jackson Turner, and the revisionist versions of later scholars who emphasize geography, entrepreneurs, and market revolutions to explain the success of metropolises like Chicago. Understudied hinterland communities, Morser argues, played crucial roles in the region's commercial growth while government — at local, state, and federal levels — created an environment that allowed such communities to emerge and thrive. "La Crosse's history," he writes, "was a tale of economic choices conditioned by the American state" (xv).

In the first section of the book, Morser explains how government initiatives facilitated the founding and maturation of La Crosse's businesses. By establishing forts and launching explorations that revealed resources ripe for exploitation, the federal government maintained a presence and gave white Americans confidence in the region's economic possibilities. Treaties placed Indians in a dependent status that allowed early traders to prosper, and subsequent policies ensured Indians' removal as the white population became more numerous. While federal land policies often favored speculators, new preemption laws in the 1840s gave less wealthy migrants access to real property. "A legal culture . . . provided entrepreneurs with powerful rights and protections that bolstered risk taking in southwestern Wisconsin and elsewhere. State and federal policy, as much as personal genius or dedicated work, helped La Crosse lumbermen become wealthy and powerful" (72).

In part two, Morser explains how government policies, particularly at the state and municipal levels, empowered La Crosse residents