

Ultimately, Engelhardt has much to offer professional scholars, genealogists, and general readers. His book is exhaustively researched, crisply written, and packed with arresting maps and photographs that help cement his dual urban saga in a distinct time and place. It should appeal to anyone who cares about railroads and the growth of cities on the Great Plains and elsewhere in the nineteenth-century West.

Frontiers: A Short History of the American West, by Robert V. Hine and John Mack Faragher. Lamar Series in Western History. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007. vii, 248 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$28.00 cloth.

Reviewer Mark R. Scherer is associate professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is the author of *Imperfect Victories: The Legal Tenacity of the Omaha Tribe, 1945–1995* (1999).

Frontiers: A Short History of the American West is an abridged edition of Robert Hine and John Mack Faragher's narrative survey text titled *The American West: A New Interpretive History* (2000). In the eight years since its publication, Hine and Faragher's text has become one of the standards in the field, widely used by teachers and highly praised by reviewers for its graceful narrative flow and its deft fusion of traditional analytical approaches with the revisionist perspectives of the "New Western History." Here the authors have condensed and updated their original work, seeking to make it more accessible to "the general reader" (vii). That goal is admirable on its face (anything that brings more readers to history is, by definition, a good thing), but one wonders in this particular case whether the result is worth the effort—not because the new book isn't well done, but because the original was already attractive to both academic and general readers.

Like the larger work from which it is derived, *Frontiers* presents western American history as "the story of where and how cultures meet" (5). To the extent that Hine and Faragher use—and overtly adopt as their title—this notion of a "frontier process" as the unifying theme for their narrative, they are consciously resurrecting Frederick Jackson Turner's familiar (and now somewhat tarnished) analytical model. Their contribution to what remains of the debate over Turnerian theory is to demonstrate that Turner's frontier paradigm, despite its well-recognized deficiencies, remains a useful organizational concept for analyzing western history. The multiple stories of cultural interaction that the authors describe do not produce uniform results, nor do they occur within neatly defined geographical or chronological boundaries. Some result in triumphant and uniquely American success stories; oth-

ers produce conquest, subjugation, and environmentally destructive extractive industry; still others result in various forms of adaptation, accommodation, merger, and persistence. Moreover, these frontier processes have unfolded at various times and in various places throughout American history, and they continue to play themselves out to this day. Thus, the plural “s” used in the title of this new edition cannot be ignored—it is absolutely essential to the authors’ fundamental point.

Although Hine and Faragher employ an expansive definition of “the West,” including within their treatment most of the trans-Mississippi region, readers searching for Iowa content will be disappointed. Other than a few brief references to Iowa’s demographic changes in the 1840s and ‘50s, there is almost no commentary on specifically Iowa topics. Still, *Frontiers* is valuable for students of Iowa history if only for its lucid and thorough synthesis of western regional history—a history in which Iowa has played an undeniably important role.

Although this condensed version is considerably shorter than the authors’ original text, I doubt that it will prove to be significantly more attractive to a “popular” audience. It does include four photo galleries with more than 70 illustrations, but the original edition contains an even more extensive and far richer collection of colorful photos and maps interspersed throughout the text at relevant points. Similarly, academic endnotes have been replaced by lists of “further readings,” but it is hard to discern how that editorial decision would necessarily increase the book’s marketability to its intended audience. Thus, the reaction to *Frontiers* will likely be mixed. Compared to the original, it is a watered-down product that does not offer any compelling justification for its creation other than its brevity. On the other hand, considered on its own terms and without comparison to the original, it is highly recommended and would make a valuable addition to any library. All things being equal, I’ll take the original.

Jacob Weidenmann, Pioneer Landscape Architect, by Rudy J. Favretti. Hartford, CT: Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation; distributed by Wesleyan University Press in association with University Press of New England, 2007. 196 pp. Photographs, illustrations, plans, notes, appendixes, bibliographic references, index. \$49.95 cloth.

Reviewer Heidi Hohmann is associate professor of landscape architecture at Iowa State University. She has published a number of articles on biographical subjects in landscape architecture.

Better known for its rural, vernacular landscape of farms, fields, and small towns, Iowa is not particularly recognized for its historic de-