

The Progressive Era, edited by Lewis L. Gould. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1974. pp. x, 201, notes.

In his preface to *The Progressive Era*, editor Lewis L. Gould states that the book is the product of his invitation to several young historians "to take a fresh look at some of the significant problems relating to . . . the Progressive Era." The resultant compilation of essays largely succeeds in meeting Gould's objective, albeit several of the individual essays fall short of the editor's goal of originality.

Stanley P. Caine's essay on the origins of Progressivism is one of the book's more persuasive chapters. Caine asserts that Progressivism had its roots in the trauma of the 1893 depression. In its early years, the movement's reform thrust was felt primarily at the local governmental level, but political failures, combined with other factors, led to a shift of focus to first the state and then the national level. Caine subtly delineates the dynamics of Progressive reform and incisively analyzes the changes in mood and program which occurred when the movement "went national" after 1906.

Essays by editor Gould and John J. Broesamle on the Republican and Democratic parties, respectively, are solid, if unprovocative, political analyses. Both authors relate the changing factional fortunes within both parties to the dynamics of reform sweeping the American political landscape. Melvin G. Holli's essay, "Urban Reform in the Progressive Era," is a first-rate analysis of the fundamental concepts underlying the changes that took place in the forms of municipal government between the years 1893 and 1920.

The book's most provocative essay is James Penick's "The Progressives and the Environment: Three Themes from the First Conservation Movement." Shattering the old dichotomy between exploitative plutocrats versus disinterested stewards of the republic's natural resources, Penick skillfully exposes the myriad contending forces in the battle over federal irrigation, the Hetch Hetchy controversy, and the Ballinger-Pinchot affair. In regard to the latter issue, readers may be startled to

find Richard Ballinger portrayed as a sincere defender of the small entrepreneurs of a "colonial" region—the Pacific Northwest—joined in battle with what he perceived to be the Eastern Corporate Establishment led by Gifford Pinchot! Penick also skillfully analyzes the sources of support for the creation of a national park service, and finds such commercial interests as travel agencies, the railroads, and highway associations allied with the preservationist esthetes. Penick's essay is thoughtful and suggestive, and one only wishes that he had elaborated upon his brief, closing observations on the elitist, reactionary nature of American conservation ideology.

Wilton B. Fowler's "American Diplomacy in the Progressive Era," and R. Laurence Moore's "Directions of Thought in Progressive America" are disappointing compared to their companion essays. Largely derivative, both essays fail to offer new interpretations or insights into their subjects. Fowler attempts to impose a conceptual framework upon his essay at the end of the narrative, but his effort to define a common denominator for the diplomacy of the Progressive period is awkward and unconvincing. Thomas K. McCraw's concluding essay, "The Progressive Legacy," is an adequate, if not entirely convincing, overview of the subject.

—James W. Leyerzapf
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The President and Protest, Hoover, Conspiracy, and the Bonus Riot, by Donald J. Lisio. University of Missouri Press: Columbia, Missouri, 1974. 346 pages. Index. No illustrations. \$12.50.

In *The President and Protest*, Donald J. Lisio provides a careful study of the Bonus March of 1932 and its management by officials in Washington. Lisio's concise description of Her-

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