

praisal. Its contribution to the general history of immigration is less, since it contains few surprises. The main function of the book is to intensify the expressions of pessimism and the bitter-sweet joining of cultures which were a part of the newcomers' baggage.

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Edgar Eugene Robinson and Vaughn Davis Bornet, *Herbert Hoover: President of the United States*. Hoover Institution Press. 1975. Illustrations. pp. xii, 398.

Professors Robinson and Bornet have produced an extremely readable book on the Herbert Hoover of the presidential years. It is comprehensive in its treatment of the Hoover presidential program, and of the limitations imposed on the president's powers during those years—especially the limitations imposed by divisions in American society in general and in the Republican Party in particular, which retarded Hoover's pre-Depression program and his efforts to confront the Depression once it began. Throughout, the material presented on the presidential years is well-researched and documented. Hoover's views on numerous issues and the explanations for his actions are clarified.

What is less well-researched and discussed in the book is the background to much that the authors describe in the presidential years. Hoover's difficulties with Senator Hiram Johnson are nowhere adequately explained, despite the fact that Hoover's challenge to Johnson for leadership of the Republican Party in California, beginning with 1920, has been described in the memoirs of the participants in the struggle and in several dissertations. Senator William E. Borah's lack of support for Hoover as his presidency wore on is less surprising when one considers the Hoover-Borah relationship over a longer period of time. Viewed in the longer perspective it is Borah's support of Hoover in the 1928 presidential election which emerges as the more surprising than his lack of support for Hoover once elected. There are other serious deficiencies, as well, in the authors' grasp of the develop-

ment of Hoover's program and of his approach to issues in the pre-presidential period.

For the presidential years themselves, the most serious failing of the book is that it centers on that which Hoover proposed, and not on what he opposed. Thus, Hoover's own program is examined in depth and the sources of opposition are described. But a large part of Hoover's image problem then and later centered not on the failure on his proposals, but on his opposition to the proposals of others. Surely any study of Hoover's presidency—even a sympathetic one—must be as attentive to the positions he took in opposition as it is to his own program. What is more, some might find in this book an excessive attempt to elevate Hoover by denigrating his opposition. Thus, the Hoover program is described sympathetically, while those opposed to it are identified as obstructionists without any real effort made to understand the reasons for their opposition or the alternatives that they proposed.

In short, Professors Robinson and Bornet have produced a book of great value in understanding the Hoover program during his presidential years, but it does not adequately illuminate other aspects of his presidency and is not, therefore, a comprehensive study of the Hoover presidency. The definitive work on Hoover's presidential years remains to be written.

—Gary Dean Best

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Harry Hopkins and the New Deal, by Paul A. Kurzman. Fair Lawn, N.J.: R. E. Burdick, Inc. Publishers. 1974.

Paul A. Kurzman, a social worker, administrator and teacher, has written an admiring, somewhat superficial study of the public relief career of Iowan Harry L. Hopkins from 1931-1938, when the latter directed the major governmental relief activities for Governor, and later President, Franklin D. Roosevelt. The author concedes that this is not the definitive work on the pride of Grinnell College, Class of 1912. Indeed, Kurzman's short thematic chapters lack a substantive, detailed analysis of Hopkins' feelings. Kurzman is an unabashed admirer of Hopkins who hopes to rescue his hero from the limbo of historical obscur-

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