

to the mores of an eighteenth-century hybrid society were lazy and licentious — the antithesis of good citizens. Indeed, as Schwartz shows in an excellent chapter on cholera, they were literally associated with epidemics of disease that killed individuals and threatened the very fabric of community.

Conflict on the Michigan Frontier is a useful monograph. But it is also seriously underdeveloped. Schwartz tends to deploy terms and offer generalizations that need more formal explanation. *Yankee* is the most obvious example; some attention to who these people were, where precisely they came from, and what the worlds they left behind looked like would have helped. (Susan Gray has done this kind of work in *The Yankee West: Community Life on the Michigan Frontier*, a 1996 book oddly missing from Schwartz's bibliography.) Similarly, while not many historians will be surprised by Schwartz's assertion that the objects of Yankee disdain resisted efforts to control their lives and exclude them from community and power, some will likely wish that he had detailed the process more fully and subtly. Above all, Schwartz ought to have elaborated more on his fascinating contention that "Michiganians neither created a totally new culture nor simply recreated the one in which they had been raised. Instead, they established a landscape that resembled, but was not identical to, that of the East" (11). Engaging more directly and rigorously with secondary literature on the fate of other borderland societies (such as Kentucky, Missouri, and especially Canada) might have encouraged deeper and more wide-ranging analysis of a common phenomenon.

Schwartz's book poses important questions about the imposition of a new order on an existing society as well as the evolution of regional cultural variations in the nineteenth-century United States. I generally agree with the arguments he offers in reply to those questions, but I wish he had done more, particularly in moving beyond newspaper accounts and politics, to analyze the nature of conflict on local and individual levels. Schwartz's able charting of the subjugation (or eradication) of a borderland culture would have benefited enormously from using a wider range of sources as well as integrating the story of the transformation of Michigan into similar stories about other places in North America — Iowa, for example.

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates, edited by Rodney O. Davis and Douglas L. Wilson. The Knox College Lincoln Studies Center Series. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2009. xlvi, 341 pp. Textual annotations, glossary, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Brian Dirck is assistant professor of history at Anderson University. He is the author of *Lincoln and Davis: Imagining America, 1809–1865* (2001).

Many Americans would be surprised to learn that the exact text of the most famous political debates in the nation's history is a contested matter among historians. Newspaper accounts of the debates contain many discrepancies and inconsistencies, often colored by the political biases of the reporters in question. Democratic-minded correspondents slanted their record of the debates to shed the most favorable light on Douglas, while Republican reporters did likewise for their man Lincoln. For generations historians used the newspaper clippings saved by Lincoln himself — but, of course, Lincoln used Republican newspapers.

With the publication of this new edition of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, we now have a balanced and thorough edition of this crucial American political text. Rodney O. Davis and Douglas L. Wilson are eminently qualified for the task, having previously produced both first-rate scholarship on Lincoln and his career and superbly edited volumes of classic Lincoln primary source material. They bring a wealth of expertise to the Lincoln-Douglas debates, skillfully matching the competing Democratic and Republican accounts of the debates to produce a finely tuned text as well as a plethora of useful annotations for some of the more arcane and obscure references contained within the debates.

The debates themselves are rich, complex, and at times difficult for twenty-first century readers. But they reward the effort required to master their intricacies. Contained therein is a portrait not just of two famous midwestern politicians but also of an entire American age wrestling with the legacies of race, slavery, and public policy in what would prove to be a harbinger of a ruinous civil war.

John Brown's War against Slavery, by Robert E. McGlone. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009. x, 451 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Galin Berrier is adjunct instructor in history at Des Moines Area Community College. He is the author of "The Underground Railroad in Iowa," in *Outside In: African American History in Iowa, 1838–2000* (2001).

Robert E. McGlone justifies his contribution to the apparently endless stream of books about John Brown by arguing that none has yet achieved a persuasive explanation of either Brown's obsession with slavery or his plans for ending it: "Mystery still surrounds the origins of his fanaticism, his reasons for ordering the slayings at Pottawatomie Creek in Kansas, and why, at Harpers Ferry, he failed to pull his men out while he might