

into the culturally conservative southern opposition camp. In privileging a North/South binary, Wood ignores midwestern farm families, as well as western agribusiness and migrant child labor. Certainly, conflicting cultural ideologies increasingly marked child labor reform debates in the early twentieth century, but those conflicts could not be contained neatly within sectional boxes. Granted, child labor was a significant issue at the dawn of the modern era, but I am unconvinced that it was the cause célèbre behind a new sectionalism.

The American Steppes: The Unexpected Russian Roots of Great Plains Agriculture, 1870s–1930s, by David Moon. Studies in Environment and History. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2020. xl, 431 pp. Figures, maps, tables, notes, index. \$126 hardcover.

Reviewer John Husmann is a historian who lives in Mitchell, South Dakota. His research has focused on environmental history, comparative transnational history, and the history of the Great Plains.

The American Steppes is a well-researched history that reveals the global connections between two similar regions. David Moon digs extensively and deeply to uncover and examine how Russia's agricultural development of the steppes influenced agricultural developments in the Great Plains. Moon's impressively researched transnational history analyzes the impactful migrations, exchanges, and explorations of plants, knowledge, and techniques from the Russian steppes to the Great Plains.

The first chapters of Moon's transnational history provide important "context" (37) for the reader. These chapters address the contours of Euro-American agricultural settlement of the Great Plains and, more briefly, the agricultural settlement of the steppes. They also analyze various factors fettering and fostering transfers from the latter to the former region. Although the two regions had very similar semi-arid grassland environments and agricultural settlement experiences, Moon emphasizes that Russian agricultural settlement of the steppes got an earlier start than similar Euro-American processes on the Great Plains and that the steppes had relatively harsher climatic elements. These historical and environmental elements would in part underwrite the predominant direction of the transfers from the steppe encounters to the subsequent, parallel encounters with the Great Plains half a world away.

Moon diligently tends to the identification and analysis of these transfers, both material and ideational. "Barriers" (54) to these transfers came from global agricultural competition between the regions, low regard for Russia and later the Soviet Union in the U.S., a lack of knowledge

of Russian, and various individual and structural inertias working against the adoption of innovations. These obstructions were countered by the construction of several “bridges” (85) of connectivity. According to Moon, the recognition of the strong similarities between the two regions by visitors, the immigration from the steppes to the Great Plains, the development of scientific exchanges and networks, and bioprospecting by American scientists in the steppes contributed to significant plant and knowledge transplantations from steppe to Great Plains agriculture.

The heart of the work consists of several chapters that delve into major plant and knowledge “transfers” (127) from the steppe to the Great Plains. The breadth and depth of Moon’s primary source research and analysis, which includes a fluency in Russian sources and deep dives into collections spanning continents, is particularly highlighted in these chapters. In significant part through the use of Russian source materials, Moon provides nuanced insights into the steppe provenance of important varieties of wheat in the Great Plains and the respective roles of immigrants (particularly Mennonites), entrepreneurs, bioprospectors, scientists, and agribusiness in the introductions. Moon then excavates the Russian foundations for soil science that recognized the climatic and environmental dimensions of soil formation rather than a rigidly geological understanding. This soil science was ultimately adopted in U.S. official scientific circles despite extended resistance at the very top. It was a soil science that would classify a large portion of their distinctive soils as “chernozems” first in the steppes and later in the Great Plains.

Moon examines the connections between earlier Russian tree-planting work and investigations on the steppes and the rollout of federal shelterbelt plantings on the Great Plains in the Prairie States Forestry Project (PSFP) of the 1930s and early 1940s. Russian Jewish emigre forester Raphael Zon in particular drew upon pioneering Russian tree-planting studies from the steppes in an effort to promote the federal program on the drought-stricken Great Plains in the 1930s. The work of Russian scientists figured quite prominently in the early efforts to roll out the project. Further reflecting those roots steeped in the steppes, Moon also gives some attention to the many tree species originating from the steppes that would be utilized in the shelterbelt plantings of the PSFP.

The last major transplant from the steppes that Moon examines was an accidental and unwanted one that nonetheless became quite ubiquitous on the Great Plains—the Russian thistle or tumbleweed. As Moon indicates, unlike the introduction of valued varieties of wheat, there is a lack of claimants for the introduction of tumbleweed to the Great

Plains where it has become a greater nuisance than in its native steppes. Along with the cultural imprints that it has made, the story of tumbleweed further attests to the significant and globe-spanning impacts that historical encounters with the Russian steppes had with the Great Plains.

Moon has crafted a solid and sophisticated environmental history that avoids environmental determinism; as he summarizes, “it was human choices, made first in the grasslands of the Russian Empire and later in North America, to engage in similar activities in similar environments themselves, that explain the ‘Russian roots’ of elements of Great Plains agriculture” (406). *The American Steppes* is a highly recommended work that enriches both regional and global perspectives.

Suffrage: Women’s Long Battle for the Vote, by Ellen Carol DuBois. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2020. viii, 303 pp. Appendices, notes, additional reading, illustrations, index. \$28.00 hardcover.

Reviewer Katherine Kitterman is historical director at Better Days, a women’s history non-profit organization in Utah. Her research interests include suffrage history, women’s history and western history.

Suffrage: Women’s Long Battle for the Vote is a comprehensive account of the suffrage movement from eminent women’s historian Ellen Carol DuBois, timed to coincide with the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment in 2020. DuBois has researched and written on feminist history, the women’s movement, and suffrage for more than forty years, publishing titles such as *Feminism & Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women’s Movement in America, 1848–1869* (1978), *Harriot Stanton Blatch and the Winning of Woman Suffrage* (1997), and *Woman Suffrage & Women’s Rights* (1998), as well as co-authoring and co-editing several textbooks on women’s history.

In *Suffrage*, DuBois revisits the long fight for women’s voting rights at a crucial juncture in its history. Although she builds on previous work in the field, she also utilizes newspapers, correspondence, conference reports and more, allowing a diverse range of suffrage leaders’ voices to come through in the narrative. The result is admirable: a readable, accessible, and yet complex picture of women’s agitation for the vote over more than three-quarters of a century.

DuBois’ account highlights a diversity of women and organizations who moved the suffrage issue forward, shows the difficulty of securing the Nineteenth Amendment, and critically examines women’s political activity after 1920. She recounts the origins of women’s agitation for the vote, details the painful split in the equal rights movement over the Fifteenth Amendment, and traces the rise of rival organizations focused