

a welcome addition. For example, unless a reader knows where in a state a town is located, they may not know that Old World Wisconsin is actually in easy reach of the Chicago metro area.

The descriptions of Clampitt's personal experiences in various sites often highlight the excellent work of engagement and public history presented by site interpreters, historic crafts persons, and docents. Her own professional insights as a food historian provide specific comments on the culinary aspects of various visits, including a couple of recipes.

A deeper evaluation of the interpretive content of each site is outside the scope of this book. In recent years many museums, historic sites, and public historians have been actively reviewing and reconsidering how they tell their stories and whose voices are represented. Readers who seek to learn about each site's involvement with diversity and inclusion efforts or its engagement with Indigenous voices may wish to pursue additional sources for information about how recently those interpretations have been updated.

Overall, Clampitt has provided a welcome resource for history buffs and midwestern travelers. Her descriptions offer a personal perspective of how to experience a site, how much time and energy each place requires, and where to be sure to visit the gift shop. She offers tips for further resources, such as online searches for local and state historical societies, and encourages travelers to pay attention to road signs and historical markers. Even a well-traveled fan of midwestern history is likely to find a new itinerary in the pages of *Destination Heartland*.

*A Failed Vision of Empire: The Collapse of Manifest Destiny, 1845–1872*, by Daniel J. Burge. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2022. xvii, 246 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$55.83 hardcover.

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Daniel J. Burge's first published book, *A Failed Vision of Empire*, is an outstanding addition to the historiography of America's westward expansion. Burge takes on one of the most enduring myths of American history, that Manifest Destiny was both a popular ideology and hugely successful, and he conclusively demonstrates that it was never universally followed, nor did it live up to the grandiose visions of its proponents. Summing up his well-reasoned argument, Burge concludes that "Manifest Destiny was left unfulfilled, except in the pages of most history books" (180).

Burge begins with an excellent and thoughtful historiographic treatment of Manifest Destiny and clearly places his contribution into the existing framework. He points out that Manifest Destiny was never thought to halt with the acquisition of California but instead was to secure the entirety of North America and beyond. Burge notes that it is “only by jettisoning the myth of Manifest Destiny that we will be able to more fully understand the contingent and contested nature of U.S. Empire” (22). Burge focuses his attention on a period from the years immediately after the Mexican-American War through the Grant administration’s failed attempt to acquire the Dominican Republic in the 1870s. In seven well-paced chapters Burge reiterates the many schemes, designs and plans to fulfill Manifest Destiny. He methodically chronicles the many expansionistic endeavors from this period, such as the varied filibuster expeditions to Latin America, Southern attempts to ignite expansion for the Confederacy and the many voices of opposition that arose to each of these notions.

Burge is particularly adept at using the evidence as it exists rather than only including evidence that supports his argument. The reader does see territorial expansion succeed, such as in Alaska, but Burge also showcases the dissent that accompanied each endeavor. The majority of Burge’s evidence stems from political speeches, congressional records, and a massive amount of newspaper editorials. Readers will be amazed to learn of the many often-overlooked attempts at expansion that ultimately failed due to domestic opposition. This top-down approach works within the context of the process of how territory was acquired and the natural limitations on sources of available land in the nineteenth century.

Burge is at his best when he sheds light on the overlooked opposition to expansionism. He argues that this opposition could take many forms, sometimes environmental such as decrying that Alaska was a barren wasteland full of nothing but ice with opponents even terming it the “Western Greenland” or “Wallrussia” (129–32). Other times the opposition fell back onto familiar racist tropes that would see much usage during the age of American imperialism in the early 1900s. For example, some opponents to Grant’s attempt to annex Santo Domingo argued that the populace there were too dark skinned to be proper citizens and were little more than untamed “savages” (163–65). These chapters are particularly illuminating and clearly showcase his argument of how notions of Manifest Destiny were often thwarted.

Although Burge’s writing is clear and his argument is sound, there were a couple of curious omissions. When discussing the 1850s and the sectional and partisan nature of expansion in the years leading to the

Civil War, he strangely fails to mention the Knights of the Golden Circle. This semi-secret society of dedicated pro-slavery advocates pushed for the United States to acquire territory in Central and South America by any means necessary in order to expand the reach of slavery. While Burge does discuss the sectional crisis fully, it was a bit unusual to omit this particular group. Less consequential but still noticeable was that Burge occasionally cited and described appropriate political cartoons yet failed to include the illustrations (167). Such omissions do not harm his overall argument, but their inclusion would have further solidified the point he was making. Aside from these very minor missteps, Burge's contribution is outstanding.

Ultimately, Burge has refined and updated our understanding of territorial expansion in an important way. He has offered a clear, concise, and persuasive argument that should substantially alter how we look at Manifest Destiny and the mythology surrounding it. *A Failed Vision of Empire* should not be missed by any fan of nineteenth-century American history.

*Bonds of War: How Civil War Financial Agents Sold the World on the Union*, by David K. Thompson. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022. xvii, 268 pp. Illustrations, appendix, notes, index. \$95.00 hardcover; \$29.95 paperback; \$23.99 e-book.

Reviewer Mark R. Wilson is professor of history at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. His research focuses on military-industrial relations and war mobilizations in U.S. history, and he is the author of two books, including *The Business of Civil War: Military Mobilization and the State, 1861–1865* (2006).

Mobilizing and sustaining the armed forces that fought the Civil War was enormously expensive. The Union covered part of the cost by printing money and imposing new taxes, but most of the bill was footed by borrowing. By the end of the war in 1865, US war debt had swelled to more than \$2.5 billion. A significant portion of this debt was held by ordinary Northerners, hundreds of thousands of whom purchased war bonds.

In *Bonds of War*, David K. Thompson uses original research to offer a valuable new account of the story of Union war finance. The book succeeds in combining domestic and international perspectives. Several chapters focus on the already well-known tale of the mass marketing of war bonds across the Union, led by Philadelphia banker Jay Cooke. But Thompson also emphasizes the importance of European markets for bonds sales, especially in the German states and the Netherlands.