

Charles Lindbergh, Sacco, Vanzetti, Leopold, Loeb, Hitler, Churchill, Eisenhower, Nixon, Khrushchev, George Gallup. And long-forgotten news events—the Graf Zeppelin, Black Tuesday, the drought and depression, bank closings, Farmer's Holiday, Ku Klux Klan, and all the various wars.

This intermeshing of once-famous names and events with the growth of the Cowles-Ingham publishing empire presents the older reader with a pleasant nostalgia of how things were and wonder of how they might have been.

When Cowles envisaged an all-state daily newspaper at a time when farmers and small-town residents had only their local weeklies he could not have foreseen the extent to which the *Register* blankets Iowa today. And surely Harvey Ingham could have had no conception of this newspaper's national reputation for excellence that grew out of the inspiration of his personality and the journalistic guidelines he established. Suffice it to say that staffers have won twelve Pulitzer prizes, a record second only to the *New York Times*.

—Ralph Hollander
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Hoover, Roosevelt, and the Brains Trust: From Depression to New Deal, by Elliot A. Rosen. New York: Columbia University Press, 1977. pp. x, 446, notes, illustrations. \$16.95.

As contemporary Americans continually debate the economic issues facing the United States, the role of the federal government becomes essential to any rational discussion. And few individuals maintain neutral attitudes concerning the responsibility and duty of the national administration as it attempts to establish and supervise the achievement of specific societal minimums, a better distribution of income, and a reasonable pattern for economic and social intervention. These concepts are the legacy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Brains Trust.

In *Hoover, Roosevelt, and the Brains Trust*, Elliot Rosen—who uses the term “Brains Trust” as it was originally coined in the plural form—presents a detailed examination of the birth of that legacy. Primarily, this study is concerned with the years 1931-1932. However, the author is extremely adept at glancing to earlier years and piecing together the various elements and influences which created the diverse responses of Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt to the developing depression.

Rosen forthrightly rejects revisionistic attempts to rehabilitate the Great Engineer. Hoover was totally consistent; he constantly relied upon the nineteenth century values of individualism and voluntarism to confront the new economic disparities of the twentieth century. The author contends that the 1920's could be understood better as the “Hoover decade” rather than the New Era. Hoover underestimated the causes and scope of the Great Depression, and thus contributed to the downward spiral.

Nevertheless, the slipping support of President Hoover did not throw open the doors of the White House to Roosevelt. As the Republican Party verged on collapse, conservative Democrats, who shuddered at the thought of an expanded government under FDR, engaged in a tremendous struggle for retention of control of the party machinery. Believing in certain victory in the presidential election of 1932, the Democratic factions maneuvered for position at the nominating assembly. Rosen vividly describes the numerous arrangements to halt the selection of Roosevelt, and the perplexing bargaining at the Chicago convention.

However, perhaps the most significant contribution of Rosen's work is his investigation of Roosevelt's economic synthesis as suggested by a group of advisers recruited from Columbia University. The Brains Trust of Raymond Moley, Rexford Tugwell, and Adolf Berle suggested a program which insulated the economy of the United States from world influences, and offered the view that appropriate functions of the federal government required expansion—a new constitutional order was needed. Many of the author's conclusions are based upon new research of the papers and manuscripts of Moley, as well as interviews with Tugwell and Berle.

Thirteen years in preparation, *Hoover, Roosevelt, and the Brains Trust* is an excellent addition to the scholarship of the New Deal era. Fifty pages of exhaustive notes are included; however, a bibliography would have been useful in amassing this information. Rosen maintains objectivity throughout his work as he marshalls all available evidence to illustrate and explain this complex and influential period of American history.

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Harry Hopkins: A Biography, by Henry H. Adams. Foreword by Averell Harriman. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1977. pp. 448. \$15.00.

In 1934, Harry Balkin, a vocational counselor, conducted personality studies of several New Dealers and concluded that Harry Hopkins was admirably suited to be an administrator of a social service agency or an educational institution. Early in his career, the ambitious social worker selected the administrative path to advance both the cause of mankind and Harry Hopkins. This tension between public service and self-interest propelled the feisty Iowan through the age of the Great Depression. Hopkins' victory over Harold Ickes in the "battle of relief" marked the rise of the WPA chief's star because it guaranteed a controlling interest in the expenditure of federal work relief funds for Hopkins' agency. The WPA under Hopkins spent over ten billion dollars on a variety of community projects ranging from airports, bridges and roads to murals, state histories and symphony concerts. Hopkins was a Crolyean nationalist who advocated Hamiltonian means to secure Jefferson-

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