

Company—which is becoming a leader in the production of Indian history—should be congratulated on their effort. *Indian Land Tenure* will be a valuable addition to anyone's library of the American Indian.

—Carl N. Tyson  
Oklahoma State University

*The Navajos and the New Deal*, by Donald L. Parman. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1976. pp. 316, xiii.

In *The Navajos and the New Deal* Donald L. Parman examines the philosophy of John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs from 1933 to 1945, the policies he instituted, and the operation of these policies on the Navajo reservation. Deliberately disregarding the events leading to the formation of Indian policies in Washington, Parman seeks instead to describe the tribe's experience with these policies. In this he is largely, though not entirely, successful.

Parman has produced an excellent administrative history in which he competently and interestingly describes the political environment in which New Deal policies operated, and the practical problems encountered in attempting to implement them. Collier's attempts to revive Indian culture, promote tribal self-government, improve education and health care, and establish a subsistence economy on the reservation met with resistance from "progressive" Navajos who urged that Indians be educated so as to be assimilated into white culture. Parman is at his best when describing Collier's attempts to halt the shrinkage of the reservation and to end overgrazing by herd reduction. These land-management policies met with resistance from whites who wished to prevent further expansion of Indian land and from Navajos who found their traditional way of life threatened.

Parman is considerably less successful in describing the cultural factors which influenced Navajo reactions to government policies and the effect of these policies on the Navajo way of life. For example, although he points out that resistance to herd reduction was due in part to the importance of livestock in Navajo religious and social life, he only superficially sketches the cultural factors involved and the adjustments required to comply with policy. Although he indicates the Catholic missionaries supported the "traditionalists" and Protestant missionaries favored the "progressives," he does not discuss the reasons behind these political alliances.

Parman's research is careful and well documented. He draws heavily on government archives and the private papers of those involved in the administration of New Deal policies on the reservation. Whenever possible, he personally interviewed participants. Relying on these sources, he tends to focus on political conflict and administrative details, somewhat neglecting the larger perspective. For example, although he points out that the Navajos

served in a sense as a test case for New Deal Indian policies, he does not indicate how the Navajo experience affected policies regarding other tribes.

Although the book would have improved by placing the events described within a broader context, overall it is a valuable scholarly contribution to a previously neglected area of study.

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*Immigrants in the Ozarks: A Study in Ethnic Geography*, by Russel L. Gerlach. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1976. pp. xiii, 206. Notes, illustrations, tables, appendix, bibliography, index. \$15.00.

The United States has long been known as the "melting pot" of the world's nations. Much attention has been given to the immigrant experience and the process of acculturation and assimilation, but few studies have focused on mid-America. Yet, one region—the Ozark Highland of Missouri—has been the scene of extensive immigration, an area where many cultures have met and mingled. In *Immigrants in the Ozarks*, Russel Gerlach from Southwest Missouri State University has given the region the attention it deserves.

Gerlach's study is well conceived and well written; it is a concise historical-cultural-geographical examination which covers immigration into southern Missouri from the arrival of the first Europeans to the ethnic groups of the present-day. The volume is well balanced, divided into eight chapters. Among the immigrants studied are the Germans, Poles, Swiss, Italians, Mennonites, and Amish. After a brief introduction Gerlach traces the early immigration into the Ozarks. Then in his next three chapters he provides in-depth treatment of German immigrants, including the expansion of their settlements, their agricultural practices, and their religion, language, and general attitudes. Chapters six and seven examine the patterns of settlement of other Europeans and of the Amish and Mennonites, while the last unit contains the author's conclusions.

The major conclusion of the volume is worthy of stress. Gerlach found that a degree of assimilation has occurred in the Ozark Highland, but no major immigrant group could be conveniently considered as part of the "melting pot" stereotype. Those of German stock, for example, still reflect a cultural pluralism. Their society remains distinct in its religion, agriculture, architecture, and the value placed on land and homes.

This definitive study was well researched. Gerlach's primary data included field observations, interviews, census materials, and church records—these sources supplemented by copious secondary works. Forty-five maps and nineteen tables add much to the study as does an appendix dealing with

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