

1902 to 2002. This longitudinal study of the union unfolds through membership patterns, jurisdictional disputes, political activities, and struggles with management.

While writing a sweeping survey of the union, McKerley provides impressively succinct descriptions of the origins of unionism among carpenters and the American labor movement. His study also raises certain local contextual questions. What was the profile of the working class in Iowa City? To what extent did Local 1260 confront ethnic, racial, and gender issues?

Studies of local unions, such as McKerley's, help us to understand how wage earners shaped the material culture and public image of Iowa communities. We need more of these well-written labor stories.

*Crusading Liberal: Paul H. Douglas of Illinois*, by Roger Biles. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2002. vii, 259 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic essay, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Michael J. Anderson is associate professor of history and political science at Clarke College. His research focuses on Cold War domestic politics.

Roger Biles brings his considerable knowledge of twentieth-century political history to bear on this excellent biography of Paul H. Douglas, who in addition to serving three terms as a U.S. senator from Illinois was also a well-known economist, university professor, and lifelong social activist. Based not only on the Douglas Papers at the Chicago Historical Society, but also numerous other collections and an impressive body of secondary sources, Biles's thorough portrayal of Douglas illustrates much about politics in the mid-twentieth century. Biles argues that Douglas, in addition to his other accomplishments, was "one of the foremost spokesmen for liberalism in the post-World War II era" (3).

Beginning with a compact but clear account of Douglas's pre-Senate life and career, Biles shows that Douglas's upbringing (often in rural poverty), his training as an economist who specialized in wages, and his involvement in progressivism in New York helped make him an activist. In the twenties his association with the Society of Friends, his exposure to socialism, and his continued involvement in the reform community while a professor at the University of Chicago deepened his political views. By the mid-thirties, Biles concludes, Douglas could best be described as a "social democrat" with a "political outlook forged in the Progressive era, informed by socialism, and shaped by the Quaker notion of good works" (29). Elected to the Chicago City Council as a reformer, Douglas was a lone voice for reform in a body he once described as "the cunningest body of legislative bastards to be

found in all of the western world." Although Douglas had "decidedly little influence on city government," he did earn the "grudging respect" of many of his colleagues (34). He gained more respect—and fame—for his impressive but losing campaign in the Democratic senatorial primary in 1942. Following his loss, Douglas volunteered for the Marines. Despite his age, nearly 50, he used his connections to serve in combat in the Pacific, where he was seriously wounded.

The bulk of Biles's account is devoted to Douglas's years in the Senate. First elected in 1948, Douglas showed the combination of traits that defined his career: passion, independence, domestic liberalism, and staunch anticommunism. A classic Cold War liberal, he unwaveringly supported the Cold War policies of four presidents, including Johnson's escalation of the Vietnam War. A fervent anticommunist, Douglas voted for the notorious McCarran Internal Security Act and rarely spoke out against the abuses of McCarthyism, in part because he believed that the "existence of communist spies necessitated the unpleasant kind of investigative work" done by people such as McCarthy (100).

Biles argues that during his Senate career Douglas's championing of consumer rights, housing legislation, honesty in government, and the legislation of the Great Society, as well as his attacks on monopolies and tax loopholes for the wealthy and corporations, "reflected his fervent belief in liberalism as an instrument for improving the commonweal" and his "lifelong attraction to the cause of the underdog" (216, 121). His fierce independence and devotion to reform often brought him into conflict with leaders of his own party. Truman sometimes bristled at Douglas's "self-righteousness" (85), and LBJ "simply could not fathom" Douglas's devotion to ideals (170).

For Biles, the defining issue of Douglas's career is civil rights. Claiming that traditional narratives of the civil rights movement largely ignore events in Congress before 1964, Biles argues that a closer look reveals a different story: The work of proponents of civil rights in the Senate, led by Douglas, "set the stage for the legislative breakthroughs of 1964-65" (110). Although Biles shows convincingly that Douglas genuinely believed in civil rights and tirelessly fought a long, frustrating, and usually losing battle for civil rights legislation, many may be unconvinced that Senate work prior to 1964 made civil rights legislation possible. Clearly, many admired Douglas for his devotion to the struggle, and Biles fills in many details of the fight in the Senate in those years, but the story that he tells actually reinforces the traditional narrative.

For both specialists and the general reader, Douglas's story offers insight into the political history of the mid-twentieth century and its legacy. It reminds readers of the importance of the experiences of the

1930s in shaping the post–World War II period, the power of anticommunism and racism, and the importance of regionalism in American politics. Lastly, this well-crafted story reminds us of the importance of individuals and that there is more continuity and more complexity to the story of twentieth-century politics than we sometimes realize.

*Dissent in Wichita: The Civil Rights Movement, 1954–1972*, by Gretchen Cassel Eick. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2001. xiv, 312 pp. Illustrations, map, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95 cloth.

Reviewer Kristin Anderson-Bricker is associate professor of history at Loras College. Her research and writing have focused on the role of the Congress of Racial Equality in the civil rights movement.

In this readable volume, Gretchen Cassel Eick surveys the story of the local people of Wichita, Kansas, and their efforts to bring community institutions and customs into alignment with the principles embodied in “the Declaration of Independence and Fourteenth Amendment” (x). Specifically Eick presents the work of the Wichita branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its president between 1957 and 1968, lawyer Chester I. Lewis Jr. These grassroots activists engaged in a variety of tactics to achieve integration of public accommodations, end employment discrimination, promote fair housing, and desegregate public schools. Often at odds with the NAACP’s national policy, the Wichita branch also undertook antipoverty work and embraced the Black Nationalist message of racial pride, economic development, and community control. The level of detail presented about previously unknown individuals and events allows Eick to provide an exciting and compelling history. Her extensive use of oral history—more than 80 interviews—helps connect readers to the people of Wichita.

*Dissent in Wichita* is a strong addition to the growing field of scholarship on midwestern civil rights activity. Significantly, it not only tells a local story but also sets that story in the context of the national civil rights movement. Eick focuses her study of this interrelationship primarily on the efforts of the “Young Turks” to transform the policy and tactics of the national NAACP. Chester Lewis, the principal spokesperson for the Young Turks between 1964 and 1968, worked with other members of the national board of the NAACP to challenge the leadership of Roy Wilkins and his supporters. The Young Turks wanted younger people with fresh ideas to assume leadership, and through committee memberships, state conferences, and annual conventions they worked to revise the NAACP’s vision. By 1967, this group “be-

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