

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-

lieved that the future of the civil rights movement was at stake in the battle over democratization of the organization" (127). In addition to redistributing power within the NAACP from the Wilkins-controlled national organization to the grassroots, the Young Turks pushed the NAACP to focus on the needs of the poor and to cooperate with advocates of Black Power. When the Turks lost their 1968 convention challenge and their ability to influence the organization, Lewis severed all ties to the NAACP. *Dissent in Wichita* contributes significantly to civil rights studies by telling the story of this failed internal revolution for the first time and by modeling how to integrate a midwestern case study with the events and trends of the national movement.

Our understanding of the struggle for black equality after World War II will change significantly as we add the study of communities outside of the South and of varying populations. In her conclusion, Eick calls for the study of "specific cities outside the South before broad generalizations about the movement in the Midwest (or in the North or West) are presented with much certainty" (208). How will the untold histories of civil rights activities in Des Moines, Davenport, Dubuque, or any Iowa community contribute to this new conceptualization?

*A History of Missouri*, volume 6, 1953–2003, by Lawrence H. Larsen. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2004. ix, 212 pp. Tables, essay on sources, index. \$39.95 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer John D. Bunker is professor emeritus of history at the University of Wisconsin–Parkside. He is the author of volume 4 of the *History of Wisconsin* and coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*.

The more things in Missouri change, apparently, the more they remain the same. On the one hand, according to Lawrence H. Larsen, "floods, contaminated waste sites, federal activities, court cases, equal rights, minorities, desegregation, education, organized labor, crime, religion, sports, and cultural change all formed a mosaic of life in Missouri as the state crossed the bridge from the twentieth to the twenty-first century." On the other hand, "earlier trends continued with few new wrinkles. The state moved along in keeping with its Show Me State traditions. . . . There were few dramatic new beginnings" (155). (One clear exception was the U.S. Census Bureau's transfer of the state from its North Central to Midwest Region.) Such, it would seem, are the wages of writing a history of the very recent past.

Larsen candidly admits the limitations inherent in writing such a history. The sheer volume of undigested source material is staggering, so his strategy was to "research and compile *representative* [emphasis

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