

Creating Colorado: The Making of a Western American Landscape, 1860–1940, by William Wyckoff. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999. xiv, 336 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$30.00 cloth.

Reviewer C. Elizabeth Raymond is associate professor of history at the University of Nevada, Reno, with a research interest in western and midwestern sense of place. She is completing a book on mining landscapes.

In *Creating Colorado*, historical geographer William Wyckoff sets out to understand one state as a case study of the ways "nature, capitalism, and the impress of American culture produced a new human geography" in the trans-Mississippi West (1). His book is a comprehensive guide to the intermingled influences that produced the modern Colorado landscape out of five disparate subsections: the mountains that attracted miners beginning in 1858, the "piedmont heartland" that contains the modern state's urban core, the agricultural eastern plains, the Hispanic southern periphery, and the western slope. After tracing the geographic history of each section from 1860 to 1920, he concludes with a chapter covering the entire state between 1920 and 1940, when Colorado was drawn "forever into the machinations of the modern world" even as it remained "a distinctly western American place" (253).

An introduction succinctly presents the work's geographical concerns: location (how areas are organized spatially), place (how people give meaning to areas), and landscape (how people and nature relate and make an imprint on the visible scene). Wyckoff then lists five precepts that guide his interpretation of particular geographical patterns: the importance of first settlement to subsequent development in a section, the diversity of cultures that met and melded (or didn't) in Colorado, the influence of capitalism and individualism on the landscape, the enduring power of the natural environment, and the impact of political institutions. Subsequent chapters reflect these emphases. In a chapter that covers the situation prior to 1860, Wyckoff describes Colorado's physical geography and provides brief synopses of Native American settlement and the establishment of American claims to the land.

The five chapters devoted to individual subsections of the state are the heart of *Creating Colorado* and provide much historical detail. Emphasizing economic considerations, especially transportation and land use, these chapters are generally informative about location and landscape, less insightful about place. Physical Colorado is thoroughly explained, but perceptual Colorado never clearly emerges from among the facts and figures about ore production, federal land policies, county seats, and irrigation practices. Indeed, Wyckoff finally seems to give up on place altogether, concluding that "ultimately . . . Colorado places were utterly personal creations" (290).

Although *Creating Colorado* provides a wealth of data for readers curious about why the state looks the way it does, the final synthesis is not as compelling as the individual parts. A reader might well wonder whether a single Colorado was in fact ever created, except as a map-maker's convenience. Even during the final twenty years covered in this study, as national forces played an increasing role in Colorado's development, the five individual sections, Wyckoff points out, continued to develop differently. He offers his precepts and his organizing principles of location, place, and landscape as a "larger set of ideas [that] can . . . help us understand common processes at work across the state, indeed across much of the West" (287). Nevertheless, his finely detailed accounts of the individual subsections of Colorado—in all their diversity and detail—resonate more strongly than the conceptual framework he applies to unify them. There may be common processes at work here, but they do not seem to produce even one state with common characteristics, let alone an entire region. Iowa readers might contemplate the degree to which Wyckoff's framework fits their own corner of the trans-Mississippi West.

Such questions notwithstanding, Wyckoff's book is a welcome contribution to the literature of historical landscape studies. Whether or not the processes he identifies can be generalized across the American West, he demonstrates convincingly that they have molded Colorado. Iowans will have to decide for themselves.

Domesticating Drink: Women, Men, and Alcohol in America, 1870–1940, by Catherine Gilbert Murdock. Gender Relations in the American Experience Series. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999. 244 pp. Illustrations, notes, essay on sources, index. \$38.50 cloth.

Reviewer Mary Murphy is associate professor of history at Montana State University. She is the author of *Mining Cultures: Men, Women, and Leisure in Butte, 1914–1941* (1997) and "Bootlegging Mothers and Drinking Daughters: Gender and Prohibition in Butte, Montana" (*American Quarterly*, 1994).

Women drank, too. That is one of the underlying premises of *Domesticating Drink*, a book that explores the gendered culture of alcohol from the late nineteenth century to the aftermath of Prohibition's repeal. In the course of this expedition, Catherine Gilbert Murdock seeks to untangle the knotty relationship between the woman suffrage, temperance, and prohibition movements; examines the use and abuse of alcohol by women and men; and charts the rise of women's action on behalf of Prohibition repeal. The heart of her argument is that there was continuity in the domestic consumption of alcohol by respectable

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