

Meinig's dominant theme is the expansion of the United States within what he terms the "frame" offered by the North American continent. As in volume one, he details the conflicts that thereby resulted, not only in the expansion of the national space we know today but also at the extremities, as in our dealings with Mexico, Canada, Cuba, and the West Indies, where American ambitions were more than occasionally focused. Questions about the U.S.-Mexican border were particularly complex. In yet another intriguing map ("The View from Washington: 'How Much of Mexico Should We Take?'" ), Meinig swaps latitude and longitude to show the vast array of possible borders, ranging from the southern limit of Oregon to a line just north of Mexico City.

Well within this frame of national aspirations were the four familiar regional cultures (New England, Midlands, Virginia, and Cotton Belt/South Carolina), to each of which he appends the suffix *Extended* to signify their westward expansion. Strangely, in this case he omits cartographic proof that the cultures were separate or that their extensions mattered, a potential problem for interpreting regions such as the Middle West, given the importance he grants to internal cultural divisions. One can only wait for volume three to learn the answer.

*Divided Houses: Gender and the Civil War*, edited by Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992. xvii, 418 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, notes. \$15.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY WENDY HAMAND VENET, EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

In his brief foreword to *Divided Houses*, James M. McPherson writes that the book "marks the full coming of age of social history for the Civil War era" (xvii). Complaining that military historians of the war have ignored the home front and that social historians are equally culpable for having disregarded military issues, McPherson correctly views this volume as an important bridge that can help create a broader understanding of the war. Its eighteen essays offer a wide variety of topics, encompassing military as well as nonmilitary issues, all with gender as their central focus.

Divided into five sections, the book includes two overview essays — "The Civil War as a Crisis in Gender" and "The Politics of Yeomen Households" — then groups the remaining sixteen articles under the general categories: "Men at War," "Women at War," "The Southern Homefront," and "The Northern Homefront." Each section includes a brief introduction providing background and tying together the

common threads of essays in the section. The editors conclude with a brief epilogue analyzing some of the historiographical debates contained in the essays and raising issues in need of further investigation.

The editors are to be commended for defining gender to include masculinity as well as women's activities and perceptions during the war. Several essays explore ways nineteenth-century male conceptions of courage and manhood were challenged by the death and destruction they encountered. Articles about southern and northern women's experiences focus on how women gained self-confidence by running farms and plantations or acting as charity workers, nurses, or even spies. One of the historiographical debates to emerge from this volume is whether women's wartime activism, independence, and leadership opportunities led to long-term changes in their postwar economic status or political roles or in their attitudes toward men and treatment by them.

Students of regional and local history will find a number of essays of interest. Reid Mitchell's "Soldiering, Manhood, and Coming of Age: A Northern Volunteer" focuses on the experiences of Cyrus F. Boyd from Palmyra, Iowa, who joined the Fifteenth Iowa Infantry Regiment. Mitchell uses Boyd's experiences as revealed in his diary to discuss the war as part of the process of "becoming a man" (44) for the Civil War generation, which included the act of entering military service as fulfilling a duty to family and country. The war was also a "hardening" process (46), in which men were faced with challenges such as the temptations of alcohol and prostitutes, the possibility of plundering southern farms for food, and, most importantly, the struggle to cope with suffering and death all around them. Other essays with a regional focus include a study of guerrilla warfare in Missouri and divorce in Reconstruction North Carolina.

As in all volumes of this nature, some of the essays are stronger than others. Drew Gilpin Faust's fascinating study of gender as a factor in Confederate defeat is one of the best. Faust sees women's growing resentment of death and deprivation manifested in bread riots among the poor and wild indulgence among the wealthy. She concludes that the Confederacy did not endure in part because "so many women did not want it to" (199). The editors call on scholars to study the degree to which women's support for the Union cause aided northern victory. Other essays in the volume tackle subjects heretofore ignored or slighted, including the perceptions and actions of slave children in wartime and illicit sex between white women and slave men. Essayists use a variety of approaches to study the war's social impact, from assessing the perceptions of elite individuals such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, to the revelations of common soldiers in the

Union army, to viewing the Civil War from the perspective of its impact on a single southern marriage.

There are few shortcomings in this volume. More of the articles focus on the South than North, but that reflects scholarly trends and not the editors' deficiency. There are only two essays covering Reconstruction, but the social history of that period deserves a separate volume. All in all, this is an excellent book. It includes a good mix of articles by senior scholars, junior scholars, and doctoral students. Its authors investigate important topics and raise significant questions for future investigation and analysis. Finally, it confirms the centrality of the Civil War in U.S. social history.

*Illinois: Crossroads of a Continent*, by Lois A. Carrier. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993. xi, 283 pp. Illustrations, maps, charts, graphs, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROBERT P. SUTTON, WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Lois A. Carrier fulfills a long-standing need to provide "young people" with an up-to-date narrative of the Prairie State (xi). In twenty-six chapters divided into five chronological segments, she introduces the "many gifted men and women who were born in or lived in Illinois" (ix), and analyzes briefly the major events in which these individuals participated. The author keeps a focus on the constant interaction between state and national developments. She emphasizes the importance of the changing roles of women during and after the Civil War. Her chapter, "Sampler of Frontier Towns," adds a new dimension to the state's urban history. By covering Illinois history from 1945 through the four terms of James Thompson, she provides a necessary supplement to Pease's *The Story of Illinois* (which for all practical purposes ends at World War II) and Robert Howard's *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State* (which stops with the Kerner administration). At the end of each chapter she includes a list of books "For Further Exploration." The author's writing is crisp and lucid and moves along at a fast pace.

*Illinois: Crossroads of a Continent* has some defects—some minor, others serious. For example, in treating communal societies, Carrier discusses the Jansonists and Mormons but says nothing about the Icarians, Illinois' most successful sectarian utopia at Nauvoo from 1849 to 1860. Many chapters are much too superficial. She deals with the troubled history of labor unions during the Gilded Age in only eight pages. The chapter "Decades of Conflict" treats Korea, Vietnam, the

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