

The Development of American Agriculture: A Historical Analysis, by Willard W. Cochrane. 2d ed. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993. xiii, 501 pp. Tables, graphs, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY DONALD B. MARTI, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, SOUTH BEND

This book's first edition appeared in 1979, after the author had devised and taught a course at the University of Minnesota on American agriculture's economic development. The book focused on that subject and still does. Now it also offers information about economic development since 1979 and a new chapter on environmental policy that will reward a fresh reading. Much of the book is still narrative history: the first section tells agriculture's story since Europe's American colonies were settled, and the second provides topical analysis of the forces that drove and organized development. Closing sections then offer a quantitative model of agricultural development (which may be a little challenging to noneconomists but is hardly opaque), and comments about agriculture's current developments and the climatic dangers that we now face.

This book has a unique place in agricultural scholarship. Few others survey the entirety of American agriculture's story, and none of them have Professor Cochrane's economic focus. In R. Douglas Hurt's new survey (see the review on pp. 263–65 above), economic development must share space with a wide range of other agricultural subjects; Walter Ebeling's *The Fruited Plain* (1979) hardly neglects economic development, but is especially valuable for its information on agricultural products and technologies. Cochrane offers a special focus. He also provides bibliographical suggestions, particularly of venerable classics, in his footnotes and reading lists, and an inclusive view of the whole country, including the Midwest. Iowans will find only a few specific references to their state, but Cochrane's economic story and analysis will surely advance understanding of their agriculture.

From Prairie to Corn Belt: Farming on the Illinois and Iowa Prairies in the Nineteenth Century, by Allan G. Bogue. 1963. Reprint. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1994. xxvi, 309 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, tables, bibliography, index. \$27.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY R. DOUGLAS HURT, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Little more than thirty years ago Allan Bogue published an important agricultural history of the Illinois and Iowa prairies from approximately 1840 to 1880. Today, it remains an essential study for anyone

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