

dinate themselves to an increasingly powerful state, which for the first time began to investigate their private lives (281). Thus, by looking at northern women, Silber is able to add a new dimension to the scholarship on the growing power of the state in American society.

In exploring the effects of the war on the lives of American women, Silber also does a fine job of linking women's wartime political activity to some of the newer historiography on women's prewar political involvement, in order to contrast prewar and postwar attitudes. However, the notions that even middle-class women were uninvolved in business, and that women's moral authority was tied to the home in the antebellum North, have been challenged in recent years by scholars. Some of the more recent works on the nature of domesticity and antebellum women's involvement in economic life could have helped her complicate arguments about the "liberating" nature of the war even further.

This important book fills a significant gap in existing scholarship on women and the Civil War. By focusing on northern women in general, rather than on the minority who left home to engage in war work, it reveals that paying attention to women—even those who did not play a large role in organized war work—changes our understanding of the legacy of the Civil War itself.

Illinois: A History of the Land and Its People, by Roger Biles. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005. x, 341 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$37.00 cloth, \$22.00 paper.

Reviewer Cullom Davis is professor of history emeritus, University of Illinois at Springfield. He is the author of the chapter on Illinois in *Heartland: Comparative Histories of the Midwestern States* (1988).

Iowa and Illinois share a winding river border and many similarities in agricultural and manufacturing development, but socially and politically their histories have diverged. Roger Biles clearly and cogently traces the Prairie State's distinctive history, from its earliest geological and Indian eras to the present. It compares favorably to previous general Illinois histories, not only because it carries the story forward to our own times, but also due to several important features.

Chief among the book's notable achievements are the author's generous use and sound interpretation of demographic and other statistical data. These insights permeate the text, but a few examples should demonstrate the point. Combining explanatory text with a map (78), Biles illustrates the rapid spread of railroad lines and linkages in the 1850s, and then assesses their broad economic and social impact. Simi-

larly, he documents and analyzes dramatic ethnic shifts in the state's foreign-born population between 1870 and 1910 (130–31). The most striking use of census data and official state reports is his chapter on the post-1945 years. There, among other things, readers will learn about the public and private efforts, largely successful, to meet the employment, emotional, and educational needs of returning war veterans (248–52) and the massive challenges of rapid suburbanization (252–55). The author skillfully marshals quantitative information to illuminate these and other subjects.

There are other noteworthy virtues of this book. Its account of the relatively peaceful interaction among French colonists, Indians, slaves, trappers, merchants, and explorers in the late eighteenth century is vivid and instructive. The Illinois home front during the Civil War may have escaped military battles, but there were loud and sometimes violent disagreements over slavery and the Union, recruitment, and conscription. With southernmost Cairo a key inland naval base, 177 Illinois generals in the Union army, several Confederate prisoner-of-war camps, and commander-in-chief Abraham Lincoln in the White House, the state was vitally involved in the war.

It should not surprise readers that the author of highly regarded political biographies of Mayor Richard J. Daley and Senator Paul Douglas is comfortable leading us through the maze of modern Chicago politics. Biles brings good judgment and wry observations to his extensive knowledge of that subject.

Each chapter ends with capsule profiles of a notable or otherwise interesting community and person of the time. These vignettes afford the opportunity to digress from—but also enrich—the historical narrative. Obviously, Biles has taken pains to diversify his selections and also to make hard choices. For example, he includes two planned communities (suburban Riverside and Park Forest), but bypasses a more troubled dream, the company town of Pullman. His 15 capsule biographies range from Jane Addams to Phyllis Schlafly, Stephen A. Douglas to Jesse Jackson, and Black Hawk to Red Grange.

While compact, this work is genuinely inclusive in its coverage of topics and peoples. The author incorporates artistic, religious, and scientific developments with more familiar subjects, and comfortably weaves the concerns and achievements of women and minority groups throughout the state's history.

A useful 15-page bibliographical essay guides readers to the best secondary literature, although I was disappointed to find no reference to four highly regarded books: *Bloody Williamson* by Paul Angle, *Sugar Creek* by John Mack Faragher, *Altgeld's America* by Ray Ginger, and

Building for the Centuries by John Keiser. These works rightfully belong in any serious library of Illinois history.

The product of a well-grounded scholar of Illinois history who also writes gracefully, this book should interest a general audience and be an obvious choice for college courses in Illinois history. Iowans curious about their peculiar neighbor to the east will find it lively and informative reading.

Confronting Race: Women and Indians on the Frontier, 1815-1915, by Glenda Riley. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2004. ix, 326 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$39.95 cloth, \$21.95 paper.

Reviewer Jane Simonsen is assistant professor of history at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. She is the author of *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the American West, 1860-1919* (2006).

Glenda Riley's *Women and Indians on the Frontier*, first published in 1984, was one of a path-breaking group of books published in the 1980s that helped create the field of western women's studies. It was significant in making relationships between women and Native Americans central, suggesting that contact between cultures was critical to understanding white women's western experiences. In *Confronting Race*, Riley has undertaken the admirable task of updating that book to incorporate myriad new works that look at western settlement as an imperialist endeavor. Riley's revisions stress the subtle and blatant ways that imperialism influenced how white women saw themselves and their mission in the West, even as contact with Indians brought them into sometimes intimate relations with these native "others."

Riley begins by surveying ideologies that shaped white men's and women's attitudes towards Indians, including both American and, usefully, European ideas. She summarizes the domestic ideology that constructed white women as civilizers as well as emerging feminist ideals that imagined a wider realm for women in the West. Drawing on dime novels, popular literature, and art, she iterates the various images of Indians—as savages, as drudges, as natural nobility—that whites projected onto them. By including whites' economic, moral, and social belief systems, Riley illuminates the context in which Indian-white relations took place. The middle chapters draw on letters and diaries to reconstruct how women and men who settled the West really saw their Indian neighbors. The imperialist mentality had a significant effect on whites' beliefs, leading women, for example, to see themselves as "potential victims" and Indians as "savage and rapacious"—in part to justify their own roles as civilizers. Yet Riley finds