

set up cutthroat competition in any friendly locale, meant that it was a pyrrhic victory.

Barnett's useful summary of the causes of the economic downturn emphasizes the worldwide causes and effects of the slump. He also underscores the failure of agricultural economists to understand the political and historical realities of the era because of their emphasis on microeconomic analysis. Dudley's essay, which is adapted from an earlier published book, tries to help readers understand the consequences of the rapid transformation of agriculture through the human drama of the loss of the farm. She found that rather than blame agricultural economists, the government, or bankers, her western Minnesota farm families preferred to shoulder the responsibility of their actions themselves. Family farmers, whatever their ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or management orientation, were entrepreneurs. The ethic of "the entrepreneurial self" channeled these individuals inwards. Thus, contrary to the contemporary media emphasis on farmer solidarity, the image Dudley portrays is one of lonely individualism. Anyone who witnessed the 1980s farm crisis firsthand might disagree with such an assessment. However, Dudley's work is relevant to the Iowa farm experience, and, compared to most chapters in this volume, is fresh and readable.

Across This Land: A Regional Geography of the United States and Canada, by John C. Hudson. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. xxi, 474 pp. Illustrations, index. \$29.95 paper.

Reviewer Michael Steiner is assistant professor of history and coordinator of the social science education program at Northwest Missouri State University.

John Hudson brings to the study of North America an elegantly written and concise regional geography. He begins with the premise that developments in the social sciences have estranged physical geography and human culture and diminished the value of regional geography. The point of this book is to recapture the importance of regional geography for weaving together a comprehensive understanding of North America. His methodology is also rooted in a belief that detailed knowledge of subregions, down to microcosmic levels, does not necessarily obscure the whole, but rather makes it more accurate and comprehensible.

The book's 27 chapters knit together seamlessly all of the varied elements of good geography—most importantly the interaction of geology and topography with the history of interaction between humans and the environment. Hudson has taken the five major themes of geography developed by the National Geographic Society—commonly

used in current texts—and integrated them into a graceful narrative that improves remarkably on the current tendency to rely too heavily on structured themes. The organization of the book takes readers on a tour from the Atlantic Coast of Canada in a serpentine route from east to west. The effect is to root North America's constituent subregions in their global region without sacrificing their identities as places. The result accomplishes the best intent of regional geography—to shape the character of the whole through careful description of its parts.

Iowa receives substantial coverage in the chapter on the Corn Belt, from its river border geology and geography in the east and west to the Des Moines Lobe. As in all of the book, the historical and cultural dimension of this section carefully seats Iowa and the Midwest within the larger framework of North America. The text will be a valuable resource for students of Iowa in various disciplines.

Dissent in the Heartland: The Sixties at Indiana University, by Mary Ann Wynkoop. *Midwestern History and Culture Series*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2002. xi, 214 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

Reviewer Robbie Lieberman is professor of history at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She is the author of *The Strangest Dream: Communism, Anti-communism, and the U.S. Peace Movement, 1945–1963* (2000) and *Prairie Power: Voices of 1960s Midwestern Student Protest* (2004).

Don't be surprised to find more books like this coming out: bottom-up studies of 1960s protest at campuses that were neglected by the media at the time and by scholars ever since. Mary Ann Wynkoop does an excellent job of narrating the development of the student movement at Indiana University (IU), which, she suggests, has had a lasting impact. Student activists succeeded in getting the university to make tangible changes: eliminating *in loco parentis*, getting rid of discrimination (as in the fraternities), instituting black studies and women's studies programs, increasing hiring of minority faculty. The antiwar, civil rights, and feminist movements, as well as the counterculture, she shows, were not products of "outside agitators," but homegrown responses to local, national, and international events.

None of this will be startling to those who have studied the era, but Wynkoop wants us to know "precisely that the social, political, and cultural movements of the 1960s were not just products of East Coast and West Coast elites" (188). It is worth noting that even IU is a fairly elite institution, and the narrative is liable to change even more dramatically when we get more studies of midwestern activism at a

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