

leaving Iowa City and heading *west* toward Des Moines [83]) and awkward geographical groupings of sites, the book offers a light and breezy introduction to the abundant artistic landscape to be discovered in Iowa.

The Crusade Years, 1933–1955: Herbert Hoover’s Lost Memoir of the New Deal and Its Aftermath, by Herbert Hoover, edited by George H. Nash. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press, 2013. xlv, 519 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendixes, index. \$39.95 hardcover.

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Herbert Hoover remains a relevant presence. In 2011 the Hoover Institution Press published his account of the Cold War, *Freedom Betrayed*. *The Crusade Years, 1933–1955* followed two years later, after lying fallow in the vaults of the Hoover Institution for more than 50 years. The ex-president began work on the books during World War II and suspended his labor in about 1955, then halted without completing either study, turning to more immediate pursuits. They were turned over to a committee comprising his sons, Alan and Herbert Jr., and several friends and relatives who feared that some tart passages might damage living persons or Hoover’s own reputation. With the publication of *Freedom Betrayed*, a lengthy dissertation on foreign policy, and *The Crusade Years*, a prolific complement, chiefly on domestic policy, specifically the trend toward collectivism in government, focusing on the New Deal and socialism abroad, it is as if an archivist had uncovered a musty epilogue to *Romeo and Juliet* or Charles Dickens had surprised us with another chapter dealing with the “Ghost of Christmas Past.” As these classics continue to fascinate, so, too, does Hoover.

After his presidency, which ended with the bitter defeat of 1932, Hoover became the most prolifically published ex-president in history. His interests ranged from the welfare of children to fishing, food relief, and world peace. Denied his party’s presidential nomination in 1936 and 1940, he moved to the right and remained influential in GOP politics, speaking at conventions and campaigning during biennial congressional elections. He feuded with Franklin D. Roosevelt for more than three terms, befriended Harry S. Truman, became reasonably close to Dwight D. Eisenhower, was active in relief during and especially after World War II, and chaired two government commissions on reorganization of the executive branch. He traveled as an emissary to Europe in 1937, had audiences with Hitler and Goering and with

countless other public officials. He squabbled with Churchill over food relief during World War II, as he had done during World War I. A leader in the Boys' Clubs of America, an opponent of the Morgenthau Plan to deindustrialize Germany, and also an opponent of dispatching American ground troops abroad, he partly won his point in Eisenhower's "New Look" defense policy. Hoover was not always on the winning side during the events of his times, but he was always a factor.

Hoover knew everybody who was anybody, including every president from Theodore Roosevelt to Lyndon Baines Johnson as well as Charles Lindbergh, Henry Ford, and Amelia Earhart. He was a happy workaholic, not a born writer but a made one. Every page of this ponderous tome was written longhand. It is a combination of history, biography, and opinion. The orphan from Iowa was not content to leave the judgments of history, or his role in it, to others. As in his other lengthy books, one weakness is the author's tendency to repeat himself and to incorporate full-length speeches he delivered, which, though meaty, are also verbose. Iowa readers will find little specifically about Hoover's residence in West Branch, although a few speeches he delivered there to commemorate his birthday on several occasions are included in their entirety.

These recently published companion volumes, with their lengthy gestation period, birthed long after his death, are among the prolific ex-president's most important legacies. They demonstrate the most highly consistent philosophic vein since he penned *American Individualism* in 1922. They also help solidify Hoover's place in history, not as a great president, but as a highly versatile individual, and someone who never gave up, who experienced his share of setbacks and successes, led a momentously absorbing life, and put it down on paper.

The meticulous editing of George H. Nash, the dean of Hoover scholars, adds value to Hoover's own work. Nash clarifies, confirms, amplifies, excises, and explains, with impeccable judgment, letting Hoover speak, but elucidating language and obscure references. Eminently fair, Nash has devoted his life to Hoover scholarship. He adds an introduction that sets the manuscript in perspective and traces in painstaking detail via a comprehensible chronology the development of the stages of the book. He also adds appendixes, which Hoover had wavered over including. This work, for both Hoover and Nash, required inordinate dedication. With its publication, Nash adds additional complexity to the multifaceted tapestry of Hoover historiography.