

Book Reviews

ment in the antebellum and immediate post-Reconstruction eras but considerably better in its treatment of the accelerating changes occurring in the twentieth century. Cobb is at his best when describing the varied and sometimes shortsighted efforts of state and community leaders to entice industrialists to locate manufacturing operations in their vicinities. Economic historians may fault the volume for a lack of sophistication; nevertheless, Cobb's book provides a useful introduction to the complex story of the South's industrial evolution.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

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Southern Progressivism: The Reconciliation of Progress and Tradition, by Dewey W. Grantham. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1983. xxii, 468 pp. Introduction, bibliographic essay, index. \$34.95 cloth, \$16.95 paper.

In *Southern Progressivism*, Dewey W. Grantham provides a much-needed comprehensive overview of progressive reform in the southern states. He contends that economic growth and diversification, urbanization, increased social differentiation and class rigidity, political changes occurring around the turn of the present century, and a rising tide of humanitarianism and self-criticism constituted the matrix out of which regional progressivism evolved. Believing that "state politics provided the basic arena for social reform in the early twentieth century," the author devotes considerable attention to political developments in each of the southern states (36). He then examines in some detail the various causes with which southern progressives were concerned and concludes that reform in Dixie was an essentially conservative phenomenon. In his opinion southern progressives were sincerely committed to improving the quality of life in their section and were responsible for much constructive change. Their desire to reconcile progress and tradition, however, meant that their efforts were fraught with contradictions and limited in scope.

This book offers no fundamentally new interpretation of progressivism, but it is important because it elucidates the way in which the reform impulse developed in the South. It suggests that the movement there differed in degree but not in kind from that in other parts of the nation. Grantham has done an admirable job of synthesizing a mass of primary and secondary material into an occasionally dry but always comprehensible and plausible analysis of a complex and amorphous reform phenomenon.

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