

in its California aspect will almost have vanished as an independent genetic entity" yet "their cultural survival is ensured" (213-215). Surely if one seeks proof of humankind's extraordinary capacities to survive and rebound from cruel adversity, the case of these West Coast aboriginals is remarkable indeed.

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TED C. HINCKLEY

*Government Agencies*, edited by Donald R. Whitnah. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1983. xxviii, 683 pp. Appendixes, annotated bibliographies, index. \$49.75 cloth.

Greenwood Press has published numerous informative reference series on American political, economic, and social life. This anthology is the seventh volume in the Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Institutions series, which provides concise, interpretive histories of major voluntary groups and non-profit organizations that have played significant roles in American civic, cultural, political, and economic life from the colonial era to the present. Previous volumes have featured labor unions, social service organizations, fraternal organizations, political parties and civic action groups, research institutions and learned societies, and private colleges and institutions.

This anthology, ably edited by Donald R. Whitnah, is a welcome addition to the series. Whitnah, professor and chairman of the department of history at the University of Northern Iowa, also has published *A History of the United States Weather Bureau* and *Safer Skyways: Federal Control of Aviation, 1926-1966*. This volume contains articles on over one hundred government agencies, stressing their history, administrative structure, tasks, achievements, failures, and internal problems. The articles, arranged alphabetically from the Agency for International Development to the Works Progress Administration, are written by highly qualified college and university professors, government historians and archivists, and other authorities. The vast majority of existing agencies, along with selected former agencies (e.g., New Deal and World War II) are examined. Various types of agencies described include cabinet departments (e.g., State, Defense, Treasury, Commerce, Labor); bureaus (Census, Indian Affairs, Mines); commissions (Interstate Commerce, Federal Communications, Federal Power); corporations (Tennessee Valley Authority); and quasi-independent agencies (National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Smithsonian Institution). General subject areas of these agencies include communications, defense, domestic protection,

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economy and employment, education and the arts, environmental growth and resources, governmental housekeeping, health and welfare, international relations, science and technology, and transportation.

This anthology accomplishes its two major objectives. First it stimulates scholarly interest in studying the federal government. Academicians will benefit from the concise, detailed summaries and analyses of the various government agencies. This reviewer, for example, particularly like those essays on New Deal agencies (Works Progress Administration, Public Works Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, National Youth Administration, National Recovery Administration) and on World War II boards and commissions (War Manpower Commission, War Production Board, Office of War Information, Office of Price Administration). This anthology also furnishes the general reader with an excellent reference source. Nonscholars will find concise overviews of particular government agencies without having to search through a myriad of other sources.

This anthology contains several other attractive features. It is well-organized by subject, with appropriate agencies cross-referenced. Since federal agencies have been reorganized frequently, Whitnah's cross references will aid readers considerably. The highly qualified essay contributors, whose major publications are listed at the outset, present not only descriptive, but interpretive accounts of their respective government agencies. Several federal agencies included in this anthology have received little or no scholarly treatment previously. In these instances especially, the contributors supply valuable new information and analysis. The articles collectively are well written and often stimulating, particularly those segments involving agencies with considerable internal conflicts or crises. Brief annotated bibliographies following each entry give interested readers other pertinent sources to investigate. Useful appendixes list a chronological compilation of agencies and the dates of their establishment, the evolution of agency names, various umbrella agencies, and the categories of agency service.

This anthology has relatively few drawbacks. Space limitations unfortunately did not permit the inclusion of all government agencies, even several present ones. Some articles stimulate less reader interest, while other essays cover government agencies already examined in numerous scholarly books and articles. The articles treating more recently created agencies furnish less historical perspective. Nevertheless, this anthology is an important addition to the Greenwood American Institutions series. This reviewer highly recommends it as a reference source to college, university, and public

libraries, government agencies, historical societies, and interested historians and political scientists. Scholars will find the volume a handy reference guide, but the \$49.95 cost may be restrictive.

WILLIAM PENN COLLEGE

DAVID L. PORTER

*Regulation in Perspective: Historical Essays*, edited by Thomas K. McCraw. Cambridge: Harvard Business School, 1981. ix, 246 pp. Notes. \$14.95 cloth.

Scholars and laymen today ponder the tangles of federal deregulation and weigh its effects, positive or negative, on aviation, banking, and the telephone. Two years after Congress opted for deregulation of aviation, the Harvard Business School held a conference on the various approaches to the history of governmental regulation in the United States. This book resulted from the revisions of five of the conference papers and includes an excellent conclusion which covers the entire conference program. The collection presents the interesting assessments of four historians and a political scientist who examine selected aspects of regulation history, generally beginning with the Progressive Era.

Thomas McCraw uses a new model vocabulary to survey early American business. He acknowledges the crucial role of leading business historians and the newer tools of economics as a discipline. He describes the complexities of large growing combinations, why they persisted, and why other trusts failed. The belief that all trusts were evil and unnatural could not survive modern scrutiny. Louis D. Brandeis, a liberal hero of the antitrust movement, was blind to the advantages of trusts and the more important basic needs of his favorite small businesses because he abhorred modern advertising and materialism. He wasted his time by attempting to compare American trusts unfavorably with European cartels and by battling price-fixing.

Morton Keller discusses the European traditions of regulation which America inherited in the late nineteenth century. In America, the national mood included a deep suspicion of central government which, after 1900, became a tremendous zeal to control the size of industry. Keller denies the New Left charge that entrepreneurs contrived to gain controls which they could manipulate to their own advantage. He sees a variety of constituents and goals which resulted in further regulation. Keller cites the ambiguities of early Supreme Court decisions in cases of business regulation as examples of how complex the government-business relationship has been. By 1914,

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