

cate, but Dunlay might have been better served to spend some time on them rather than to generalize about the factions existing in tribal societies. In all other areas Dunlay is to be commended for his scholarship and first-class presentation of a hitherto neglected facet of American Indian studies.

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Indians of California: The Changing Image, by James J. Rawls. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984. vii, 193 pp. Photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$19.95 cloth.

Periodically, but never often enough, historical scholarship is enriched by a fresh synthesis, a study that prudently weaves together both primary and secondary source materials into an entirely new pattern. Historian James Rawls's scholarly documentation of the demise of California's native peoples at the hands of various white invaders is so comprehensive that social scientists researching this topic will wish to consult his splendid bibliography.

Rawls details both *why* the Euro-Americans created such a negative stereotype of the California Indians—one that still lingered when this reviewer was a graduate student during the 1950s—and how this image oscillated throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries between hopeless "digger Indians" to redeemable laborers, depending, of course, upon white economic needs. There is no doubt where the author's sympathies lie. Nevertheless, he has wisely eschewed writing what historian Roger Daniels has aptly branded "victimization history." The book's detailed analysis ends at approximately the 1870s. By then the natives were frequently either viewed as forlorn scientific objects or "more like animals than men." And while many Californians might decry their ultimate extinction, other citizens believed the Golden State would thereby "be purified and cleansed of a set of degraded and repulsive creatures" (201). Possibly the author might have noted in passing the awful fate of Australia's Tasmanians, Japan's Ainu (and Eta), Russian America's Aleuts, or Apaches at the hands of Mexican scalp-hunters, *ad nauseum*, however that is not yet the fashion.

During his graduate work at the University of California, Rawls benefited from the earlier ground-breaking American Indian studies by Berkeley notables such as Alfred and Theodora Kroeber, Robert Heizer, and Sherburne F. Cook. They could only applaud his crisp, well-organized writing style. Certainly readers itching for an "Injun book" with the narrative hold a la Louis L'Amour are warned off.

Rawls, for example, supplies no more than a brief paragraph on the entire Modoc War. Maybe it says something for his even-handedness that both Indian militants determined to scalp Uncle Sam, as well as the 1980s government attorneys trying to defend the Great White Father will find within these pages an abundance of historical evidence to buttress their respective arguments.

The decline of California's indigenous population from an estimated 300,000 when the Spanish first arrived there to about 15,000 by the beginning of this century was due much less to the invader's guns and aggressive behavior than to the diseases which he introduced. Nevertheless, the culture shock induced by the technologically superior culture must surely have accounted for a rapid erosion in the natives' desire to sustain their traditional way of life. Concentrating his copy on the whites' changing perceptions permits little room for an accurate socio-anthropological analysis of "the realities of California Indian culture" (xiv). For that the reader must consult Rawls's fine bibliography and other sources.

Even a splendid achievement such as this synthesis cannot possibly cover every aspect of the author's subject. How Russia's fur-hunting *promyschleniki* impacted on California's original inhabitants is not probed, nor is there any real in-depth examination of the profound social bridge provided by the mestizo. Particularly jarring to this reviewer was Rawls's breezy introductory generalization that "the status of the Indians in Hispanic California . . . was not much different from the status of Indians throughout Spanish America" (21). In a book that is outstanding for its meticulous documentation, this conclusion jumps wildly beyond its evidence. Spanish America was (is) immense. To assume that so diverse a body of people as the southwest Pueblos, Peruvian highlanders, and the Araucanians of Chile were similarly confronted, and matched the handling of Alta California's indios, is on the face of it impossible. Any who doubt that Rawls writes from the perspective of a comfortable gringo need but consider another gaff. "In return for their labor the [mission] Indians usually received nothing more than shelter, food and clothing" (20). Even today in parts of Mexico, in much of Asia, and most of Africa the majority of people lack these "nothing more" basics. Fortunately such lapses are rare.

An invaluable concluding epilogue supplies readers with a twelve-page summary of what has happened to California's natives since the 1870s. There are a few surprises. "By 1980 California had the largest Indian population of any state in the nation," up from 15,377 to 198,095. Like their white counterparts Midwest Native Americans have been succumbing to the "western tilt." In time "the Indian race

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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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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