

Book Reviews

compelling argument that the economic rationale for current farm policy are vacuous. To the extent that he is correct, it would seem that factors other than pure economics are determinative and thus should be the focus of analysis. An economic analysis of policies determined by non-economic factors may be very effective as advocacy for the market, but it is also uninformative as to the social and cultural realities underlying the problem.

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STEVEN C. KRUMPE

The American Farmer and the New Deal, by Theodore Saloutos. Ames: The Iowa State University Press, 1982. pp. xviii, 327. Photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$25.75.

This, the last book by the late Professor Theodore Saloutos, is a fitting memorial to his pre-eminence in the field of agricultural history. Although the author adds nothing new to our knowledge of New Deal agricultural policies and programs, he contributes a masterful synthesis which will undoubtedly stand for a long time as the major reference in the field.

In his treatment of the conception, launching, activities, and decline of the New Deal program for the farmer, Saloutos skillfully unravels the tangle of philosophical and personal conflict which permanently handicapped the efforts of Henry Wallace and his associates. Particularly strong is his treatment of the struggle between the agrarians led by Chester Davis and Cully Cobb and the urban liberals led by Jerome Frank over the issue of landlord versus tenant rights. Saloutos clearly outlines the manner in which politics and personal rivalry affected the lives of millions as this fight led to the ultimate removal of the liberal influence from the AAA. The spirit of complacency which prevailed thereafter permanently affected the direction of government agricultural policy.

The book contains an analysis of the effort to reopen world markets to American agricultural products between 1934 and 1936 and the reason for these efforts being only partially successful. It also includes a discussion of the problems peculiar to the efforts to handle rural poverty and an analysis of the failure of these efforts to provide the rural poor with a level of assistance commensurate with their needs. Included here is an excellent summary of the activities of the Resettlement Administration and the Farm Security Administration as well as an assessment of the impact of the Bankhead-Jones Act.

In a summary chapter notable for its insight and clarity, Saloutos evaluates the New Deal agricultural program. It was an effort, he concludes, to resolve the unresolvable. The multifaceted nature of the

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problem itself rendered complete success unattainable whether by a policy of price manipulation, or conservation, or the application of the ever-normal granary concept. Yet, the achievements of the New Deal were remarkable. It enabled many farmers to avoid the abyss of economic calamity, and what is more important, it set the pace for all future policymaking.

MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

KENNETH E. HENDRICKSON, JR.

The Danish Americans, by George R. Nielsen. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1981. pp. 237. Notes and references, selected bibliography, index. \$14.95.

Through the years, Iowa has played a major role in the history of Danish Americans. Approximately one out of every ten Danes who emigrated to the United States came to the Hawkeye State, and the nation's largest rural Danish settlement is centered in Shelby and Audubon counties. Here, at Elk Horn in 1878, the immigrants established the first Danish Folk School in America. Grand View College in Des Moines is also of Danish origin and from 1896 to 1959 it served as the seminary for one of the two Danish Lutheran church bodies. Given the close ties between Danish immigrants and Iowa, many readers will welcome the publication of this first single-volume account in English of the Danish presence in America.

The Danish Americans is part of Twayne's "Immigrant Heritage of America Series" which aims to provide separate overviews of the many groups comprising the nation's rich ethnic mosaic. Accordingly, George R. Nielsen, who earned a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, identifies and interprets the main aspects of Danish American history while conveniently summarizing the relevant work of other scholars. After a brief review of Danish history, he describes the factors which led to the migration of one-third of a million Danes to the United States. Some emigrants, such as the Mormons and Baptists, were motivated by religion while others, most notably the socialists, sought political freedom. The overriding impetus behind the migration, however, was economic; the author presents a neatly-done abridgement of the literature on this topic, particularly the recent work of Danish historian Kristian Hvidt.

In subsequent chapters, he recounts the history of Danish settlements in various sections of the United States, details the development of Danish-American institutions such as the Folk Schools, and describes the unsuccessful efforts of Socialists Louis Pio and Poul Geleff to create a colony in Kansas. Undergirding the entire book is the thesis that Danes were among the most rapidly assimilated of all

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