BOOK REVIEWS

Photographs and illustrations. $6.95.

"[B]y interpreting the background of the life in Texas and the whole region of the Southwest in terms of literature . . . [Dobie] has given us dignity, something solid underfoot that was not there before, the foundation of a culture." So said the great historian Charles W. Ramsdell. It is with this quotation that Mr. Bode closes, and in a sense, sums up his little biography of J. Frank Dobie.

Bode calls his book a portrait; and it is more that than it is a formal biography. Although the book deals with Dobie chronologically, it is only roughly chronological. It is a warm, chatty, anecdotal picture of the great writer, teacher and Texan. As such it captures the genuine western, poseur, idealist, mule-stubborn, witty, intellectual, kind, gruffer, story-telling Dobie. It is an uncritical work written by a man who genuinely admired Dobie. If this is a fault, it is a fault easily understood and easily overlooked.

Bode describes Dobie as a man of principle. His critics might have described him as being too unbending, too inflexible and too vocal in defense of his principles, but Dobie stood for them even when it was unprofitable to do so. Dobie was a man of definite ideas and opinions on subjects ranging from politics to pedagogy to parking meters. But freedom was his great cause.

Yet for all of Dobie's flamboyant personality, it is probably Dobie the story-teller who is best known. His many works on the Southwest have the wit, color and authenticity which make them not only great stories, but captures the spirit of our section of the country. Dobie did not write formal history or "scientific" folklore. He would not be bound by such narrow limitations. "The Lord loveth a cheerful liar," he said. And again: "My custom is to try to tell a tale as the original teller should have told it." [italics added]

The author of A Portrait of Pancho has captured the essence of the Dobie legend. One of the best summations of this book was given by Senator Ralph Yarborough who said: "Winston Bode has written a refreshing and authentic work. His Portrait of Pancho reflects the wit, courage, and genius that made J. Frank Dobie a giant among men and a symbol of freedom to those of us who knew and loved him."

The book is highly readable and very entertaining. It has more than a hundred well-chosen photographs with appropriate captions. But most of all it is a good story—I think Dobie would have liked that.

CARL L. DAVIS
Stephen F. Austin State College

This is a deeply moving, usually amusing but occasionally sad, account of life on a small North Texas farm in the latter part of the 19th century. The writer, a distinguished emeritus professor of history at the University of Oklahoma and author of numerous books on the American West, was born on a rented prairie farm in Tarrant County in 1879. Three years later his father moved the family to a new home in the sandy soil of the Cross Timbers, approximately fifteen miles north of Fort Worth. For the next ten years the Dale family lived here in a modest home on a fifty-six-acre farm.

This nostalgic story of Dale’s youth, written largely from memory, recaptures a pattern of rural life rapidly vanishing from the American scene. Older readers, especially those who themselves were reared on a farm, will find much in Dale’s story that is familiar—the salt pork, molasses, mustard greens, corn bread, and potatoes that constituted the “vittles,” plain and fancy; the rather plain farm house with the wood stove, the dining table covered with oilcloth, the tall chairs with rawhide seats, and big open fire-place; the “chores” of the young boy consisting of gathering eggs, bringing in corn cobs for the kitchen stove, pulling up weeds in the garden, chopping cotton, thinning corn and cutting sprouts; and the hunting, fishing, ball games, hide-and-seek, horseshoes, mumble-peg, and marble games that made up the amusements of a rural folk. Especially interesting is Dale’s description of schooling in rural North Texas. Here in a two-room setting with educational materials that would be considered quite crude today, Dale and his classmates learned not only their three R’s of reading, writing, and arithmetic but seemingly a good deal more as well.

In 1892 Dale’s father, who had previously moved to California in 1850, to Pike’s Peak in 1859, to Nebraska shortly after the Civil War, and finally to Texas, decided once again that the time had come to push on and the little family moved westward to a new home in Greer County (then in Texas). Thus the Cross Timber years ended for the family, but obviously the memory is still very fresh in Professor Dale’s mind.

This is an excellent book. Well written, handsomely illustrated by John Biggers, and attractively designed by the publishers, The Cross Timbers is a significant contribution to American social history.

RALPH A. WOOSTER
Lamar State College of Technology


This is a story of the Devereux family who came to Texas in 1841, and of their Monte Verdi plantation. Julian Sidney Devereux was born
in Georgia on July 23, 1805, and after his mother’s death, moved in 1817 with his father to Alabama. By 1839, Julian had become a plantation operator and had some financial success. But like many other men who came to Texas, Julian had experienced financial reverses and marital problems in Alabama and must have decided the best way out was to change his allegiance to the Republic of Texas.

In his move to Texas, Devereux bought thirty-three slaves and the equipment necessary for establishing a plantation in Montgomery County. After receiving a divorce from his first wife and experiencing the birth of an illegitimate son, who, incidentally, was named for him, Julian Devereux married Sarah Ann Landrum who was sixteen years old, twenty years younger than her husband. The Devereux’s were not happy, at Terrebonne, their Montgomery County plantation, because of the climate and chose to move to southwestern Rusk County. In Rusk County Julian established another plantation which he named Monte Verdi. Julian soon became a leading citizen of Rusk County. He was progressive and energetic, and became one of the ninety largest slave owners in Texas. He favored annexation of Texas, navigation of the Sabine, the expansions of industry, the development of railroads, and the establishment of schools. He was a friend to the leading men of Rusk County and knew most of the outstanding state leaders.

The history of Monte Verdi is an informative story of a large slave plantation. It depicts the hardships and the pleasures of a culture that disappeared with the Civil War; of the relations of a kind master to his slaves, and tells something of the life of a slave. As Julian Devereux became prosperous, Monte Verdi became the center of a community which depended on Monte Verdi for medicine, material to bury the dead, and for all types of advice.

Julian Devereux was elected county commissioner with the largest vote ever given a commissioner in the county. He was elected also to the legislature and served one term without particular distinction, perhaps because of illness. Before he left for Austin to serve in the legislature he started the construction of his mansion. Devereux returned from Austin in January, 1856, a very ill man. Monte Verdi was only partially completed, but Julian spent the last three months of his life in his new home and died May 1, 1856, at the age of fifty. Sarah Devereux completed the mansion, but the problems of the Civil War and reconstruction, droughts, low prices for cotton, and an unfortunate second marriage caused her to lose most of her property. At her death her estate was valued at $600.

Julian Devereux and His Monte Verdi Plantation is an interesting and scholarly production. Dr. Winfrey, however, implies on page 109 that the people of Texas voted to locate the state capital in Austin in 1850. This election was held in 1872.

C. K. CHAMBERLAIN
Stephen F. Austin State College
The American Presidency: Leadership, Partisanship, and Popularity.


The American Presidency has been a fertile field for continuous scholarship. The early 1960's witnessed the publication of the greatest quantity of material on the subject to date; however, no matter what the quantity the topic remains unexhausted, and each occupant of the White House challenges the student of the political process to delve deeper for a fuller understanding of the office. Stuart Gerry Brown's new approach to the study of the Presidency "... is an essay, or series of related essays, on the connections between presidential popularity and presidential leadership." The author's stated purpose is "... to illuminate the process of presidential leadership from the perspective of presidential popularity." (p.v)

The book is divided into five chapters, a section on notes and references, and an index. Chapter One is an introduction to the subject of presidential popularity in which two types are identified—partisan and unpartisan. Brown writes that partisan popularity is sustained by vigorous action on the part of the President while unpartisan popularity is sustained largely by inaction. Although popular presidents have a means of accomplishment at their disposal, they cannot be expected to use that popularity to achieve objectives contrary to the source of their popularity. One interesting hypothesis in the introductory chapter is that "... the practical usefulness of a President's popularity as a means to leadership seems to vary in proportion to its relevance to the purposes for which it might be used." (p. 3) Brown fails to support this hypothesis with empirical evidence.

In the second chapter, the popular presidents are identified by the author as those who were able to sustain popular support at the polls. The fact is emphasized at this point that all popular presidents have been successful leaders. Thus Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Grant though elected by large popular majorities are removed from consideration in this book.

The last three chapters contain the bulk of the essay. In these chapters the author presents case studies of the leadership provided by popular presidents in three selected areas—constitutional issues, domestic policy, and foreign policy. Not all of the popular presidents are considered in each of the three fields; however, all but Washington are considered in at least two of the three. The presidents selected other than Washington are Jefferson, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

Basically, this book is a compilation of case histories of the ability of presidents popular at the polls to exert leadership in the political process in which they found themselves after election day. Admittedly, there was no attempt by the author to show a one-to-one correlation between presidential leadership and presidential popularity, but such an effort would have been welcomed. As history this book contributes
no new information, but it does approach an old subject from a new direction that may encourage empiricists to proceed further.

CHARLES W. SIMPSON
Stephen F. Austin State College

Kalita’s People. By Aline Rothe. Waco (Texian Press), 1963 xx + 141 pp. Illustrations, footnotes, appendix, bibliography, index. $5.95.

This is the first complete history in one volume of the last distinct Indian tribe in Texas, the Alabama-Coushatta tribe.

The colorful history of this tribe is traced through 422 years, from the time they were first recorded in history in 1541 during the siege by Hernando De Soto of their province in the territory now known as the State of Alabama, named for the valiant tribe bravely resisting the invasion of their homeland by Spanish troops. The Alabama, with the Mobile Indians, fought De Soto’s army in one of the largest Indian battles that ever occurred in the area now known as the United States. This battle is vividly described in the book.

In addition to the history of the tribe, there is much other interesting information in the book: legends and customs of the tribe, accounts of their famous Chief Kalita, the work of devoted missionaries, the development of tribal education, and of the friendship between the tribe and their “white brothers” in Texas during the last one hundred and fifty years.

Documented evidence of long research in recording this story of the Alabama-Coushatta Indians of Texas gives it authenticity. A project of the Polk County, Texas, Historical Survey Committee for the proposed Polk County Public Library-Museum, this book is a significant addition to the history of American Indians.

Kalita’s People is well researched, well written and will be welcomed by collectors of Indian lore and history and libraries containing Texana and Indian sections. It is an attractively arranged and printed book using a heavy grade of paper with running headings and is double-leaded for easy reading. The endsheets contain an interesting pictorial map of Polk County.

COLONEL HAROLD B. SIMPSON
Hill College


This collection of nine essays by distinguished western economists and historians along with an introduction by the editor comprises another in the “Main Themes in European History” series appearing under the general editorship of Professor Bruce Mazlish. The collection centers around a general thesis, i.e., capitalism rose and flourished when and where relative free rein was given to individuals and individual effort as
opposed to conditions where collective units and collective action were the rule.

In support of the thesis, the British historian Christopher Hill demonstrates that the “central theological attitude” of protestantism which emphasized to artisans and small merchants that they should follow the dictates of their own hearts as their standard of conduct. The Swiss historian Rudolph Braun shows that the Scottish wool industry developed because the organic unity of the three-field system broke down leaving the Highlanders free to develop the individualized cottage industry system. Neil McKendrick, British biographer of Josia Wedgwood, argues that Wedgwood's success came because he conceived the notion of training highly skilled workmen as individual artisans. Finally, Professor Alexander Gerschenkron, American economist, develops the notion that the degree of speed and the character of industrial development in any non-industrial nation depended as much on the individualistic philosophy and psychology of its people as it did upon the technology developed and the natural industrial potential of the area.

According to editor Landes, the cessation of foreign invasion and incursion in the tenth century, the overall growth in population, the colonization and conquest of vast areas, and the rise of Protestantism all contributed to the rise of commercial capitalism, that is, a capitalism dominated by commercial activity. The advent of a series of industrial revolutions of several distinct types beginning in the late Bronze Age and continuing into the Twentieth Century transformed the original commercial capitalism into industrial capitalism, that is, a capitalism dominated by industrial production and distribution. When an adequate supply of capital became available after the development of the partnership, the joint-stock company, and the corporation, a third form of capitalism emerged, finance capitalism. While most seem to accept the first two forms as authentic, some debate still surrounds the third.

A consensus concerning the rate of speed with which capitalism rises is another feature of the collection. The rate of growth, most agree, is affected by such factors as technological innovations, distribution of population, degree of competition, nationalism, and imperialism. The tendency, increasingly evident since World War I, for governments to intervene in the economic processes of the nations has led to a final (or most recent) type of capitalism, mixed capitalism.

The editor’s conclusion seems warranted from the evidence presented by his essayists: “Capitalism has a flexibility today that it did not have a century ago. As a result, it is also less monolithic, less uniform. There has never been a purely capitalistic economy; but today more than ever there is a wide range of mixed systems, combining various degrees of private enterprise and state intervention.”

Like all such compilations of essays, The Rise of Capitalism is uneven. The introduction by Landes is well written, a concise readable summation of the major ideas presented by the various writers in the collection and an excellent introduction to the history of capitalism in the western world. The collection also contains a good survey of “Protestantism and
the Rise of Capitalism" by Hill and of "Industrial Growth and Industrial Revolutions" by Coleman. The other essays, though worth reading, suffer by comparison.

The total impact of the work may be summarized as especially valuable to economic historians, intellectual historians and students of the history of political philosophy; and useful for all economists, historians and political scientists. It would be improved substantially by the inclusion of even a modest index.

J. E. ERICSON
Stephen F. Austin State College


Bay City and Matagorda County: A History is an interesting and valuable contribution to the local history of Bay City and Matagorda County. While the author deserves the major credit for this contribution to local history, she generously acknowledges that the research was carried out by the Junior Service League of Bay City.

The merit of this volume is determined not only by the careful research of the author, but by the fact that the true history of the State of Texas—and certainly the history of the Gulf Coast—cannot be written until the several histories of the Gulf Coast counties and cities are written.

No researcher, however diligent, can do all the work. The historian must depend upon the semi-professional scholar oftentimes to do the real spadework and to draw the outlines from which he or she, researching in the larger frame, may be able to delineate the complete historical picture. This, then, is the real value of Bay City and Matagorda County: A History. This work gives the historian concerned with the whole Gulf Coast or the State of Texas much detailed material to employ in drawing the total picture.

This study is a true history, beginning as a survey of the early Spanish and French explorers, continuing on with the great days of the Republic, statehood and the War Between the States.

There are, as well, interesting chapters on Matagorda County dealing with the nineteenth century, the early twentieth century, and the first World War period. One of the best chapters narrates the hardships experienced by the area during the depression period of the 1930's. The commercial impact of oil and sulphur industries upon the region is noted by the author as she sketches the "remarkable progress" of Bay City and Matagorda County.

If a reviewer were to cite the most valuable contributions of Stieghorst's work to local Texas history, these achievements would include the index, which is excellent; the footnote citations which are invaluable for local history; and the colorful anecdotes of local historical
events which give the reader an impression of what Matagorda County was like during the periods covered by this interesting book.

EARL W. FORNELL
Lamar State College of Technology


There are several interesting ways of comparing political institutions. We can compare the institutions of a particular political system with each other at a given time, compare the political institutions of one country with those of another, or compare similar political institutions—political parties or interest groups or legislatures—from several different political systems. Different aspects of these institutions can be compared: their origins; their internal structure and patterns of decision making; their goals and values; their strategies and tactics; their share of power in the political systems in which they operate. It is with this last-mentioned aspect of the political institutions—their relative power—that this book is concerned.

In seven chapters dealing with executives, legislatures, courts, bureaucracies, the military, political parties and electorates, the author suggests some of the reasons why these institutions are powerful in some countries and weak in others. In brief, the argument is that every political institution has certain potential resources or handicaps in the struggle to win, maintain or expand its share of power in the political system. Each of the chapters is divided into three parts: first, there is a consideration of the potential sources of power of that institution (called potential resources); second, there is a consideration of the potential weaknesses of that institution (potential handicaps); third, there is a ranking of examples of that type of institution into classes of power. These classes of institutional power are, in descending order of magnitude, totalitarian, dictatorial, oligarchy, strong, independent, weak, captive-ceremonial-nil. No attempt is made to determine the proper strength of each type of institution (are our political parties too strong or too weak? etc.) but merely to objectively and systematically measure the relative power of the institutions. According to the author, "The political scientist can attempt to determine the impact of the institutional power on the distribution of satisfactions, but he cannot rule on who should be satisfied."

In the main, the author succeeds in his purpose. Although the thoroughness of the discussion varies with the topic under consideration, the bulk of the book is of real value to the serious student of political science. The most enlightening chapters are the two dealing with "The Military" and "Electorates." These chapters are valuable for their analysis of the role of the institutions in the political process and for the abundance of current examples used to substantiate the author's thesis. These and other portions of the book are valuable not only to the student of comparative government but also for those looking for new insight into political parties, bureaucracies and the like.

Mr. Fried's presentation seems to be weakened by a certain amount
of unevenness. Each institution is analyzed by considering twelve "rubrics": (1) information; (2) expertise; (3) social power; (4) popularity; (5) legitimacy; (6) leadership skills; (7) organization; (8) violence; (9) rules; (10) economic power; (11) manpower; and (12) office. Consideration of the various rubrics varies in quality and in length, and it soon becomes evident that to analyze each institution in this manner is a most tedious and unmanageable process. The length of the considerations varies from a one-sentence evaluation, as on the case of the potential resources of the court in regard to manpower ("Courts are possibly strongest when there are enough judges to carry the case load.") to a two-and-one-half-page discussion of the potential use of information by the executive. Likewise, the author tends to elaborate at some length on political institutions in western countries while making relatively few references to political institutions in the Asian, African, and Latin American countries. In his rather systematic examination of the potential executive handicaps, he completely omits a discussion of the lack of economic power by the executive—a rather substantial handicap it would seem.

The book is further weakened by an occasional lack of clarity and by a lack of evidence to substantiate several of the author's assumptions. For example, he contends that "captive assemblies may be the most common type in the world today," yet supports this assertion by giving only one current example—the Supreme Soviet. Likewise, he fails to adequately distinguish between certain of his institutional classes, for example, between "totalitarian executives," "dictatorial executives," and "oligarchic executives." He lists Benito Mussolini as an example of a totalitarian executive and Marshal Petain as an example of a dictatorial executive, yet attributes to both men virtually complete control over all aspects of national life. He contends that the dictatorial executive "may, in fact, be the predominate form in the world today" yet concludes later in the book that "it would appear that most strong executives in the world today share their power with bureaucrats, the military, party leader, and the heads of powerful interest groups" (the oligarchic executive).

A major disappointment of the book seems to be its abrupt ending with no attempt to evaluate the material. One might have expected some theoretical analysis tying the chapters together, but this is missing. A final chapter to this effect would have added to the value of the book.

Despite the shortcomings of the book, its systematic analysis of the political institutions makes it a useful addition to the literature of comparative political institutions.

J. DAVID COX
Stephen F. Austin State College


From the "Dawning of Bayou History" to the "Pilgrimage" story, with many interest-compelling and thought-provoking pictures sand-
wiched in among the pages of Jefferson on the Bayou, the beautifully written saga of the medallion city, by Rebecca Cameron and Ruth Lester, is indeed a fascinating narration. The colorful history of Jefferson, coupled with the restoration of many lovely old houses and other buildings make a perfect setting for the annual Jefferson Historical Pilgrimage sponsored by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club.

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Glamorous Cultural Old City of Stern-wheelers and Wagon Trains
by
REBECCA M. CAMERON
and
RUTH G. LESTER

Numbered editions are from one to one hundred. Jefferson on the Bayou may be purchased from Mrs. Dan Lester, Post Office Drawer N, Jefferson, Texas.

MRS. C. K. CHAMBERLAIN
Nacogdoches, Texas

The stagecoach played a large part in the lives of early Texas, but the river steamers were just as important. They carried passengers and merchandise up and down the larger Texas rivers that emptied into the Gulf of Mexico along the coastline from the Sabine to the Rio Grande.

The Texas riverboats have been mentioned many times in literature and history of the state, but Edna McDaniel White's East Texas Riverboat Era and Its Decline, just released, is the first organized history of East Texas steamboating in its varied aspects.

The rivers of East Texas, including Buffalo Bayou, the Trinity and Red Rivers, were deeper and less dependent on flood waters to float the riverboats than those rivers to the southwest so it was natural for East Texas to hold the center of the stage in Mrs. White's history, yet she has not neglected to include the interesting and important role the shallow-draft steamers played on navigable rivers in other parts of Texas.

Historic boats, their masters, the towns they served—now ghosts—the rivers they traveled, the bridges, ferries and hazards of their work and the history they helped to make are all a part of this compact but comprehensive volume.

Years of careful research went into checking the authenticity of the material in this book which is put together with smooth writing without needless embellishment. This trait makes East Texas Riverboat easy to read, and the wealth of narrative incidents packed into it gives it sustained interest.

Included in the book are the original East Texas muster rolls of the Texas Revolution. Mrs. White says, “These list some names not on other published lists. Some were on leave, perhaps to get their families to safety ahead of Santa Anna's approaching army. (This section may be of interest to students of genealogy.)”

Also included in the book is the copy of the very rare 1835 map of Texas which shows the early land grants, the well known Camino Real, and the not-so-well-known La Bahia Road which Stephen F. Austin took with his first settlers when he turned south to Washington-on-the-Brazos. Other roads were shown, as well as the location of Indian tribes in Texas at that time.

Mrs. White, an ex-teacher, and a native of Sabine County whose ancestors had an active part in the steamboat era, has added a good and much-needed reference work to Texas history. She does not claim to have mined out the lode of material on her subject. Much remains undiscovered, but she hopes some day to enlarge her book with additional material on the East Texas riverboats.

Illustrations in the book are done by the author, and the silk-screen cover design is the work of Mrs. Myrtle Kerr's commercial art students at Lamar State College of Technology who comprise the staff of Blotter Press.

RUTH GARRISON SCURLOCK
Director
Lamar Writer's Workshop