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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS


This book is a contemporary anthropological study of the Alabama-Koasati (commonly spelled “Coushatta”) Indians set within a historical context. It is not a tracing of the step-by-step developments of this Indian “national” group throughout the past several centuries as its title suggests. The author, however, relies upon events in the chronological development of the Alabama-Koasati to answer what he terms “the problem.”

To find its answer, Folsom-Dickerson lived on the East Texas reservation during a period of intensive research. He posed six questions and sought to define the problem through a thorough examination of the Alabama-Koasati Indians’ past, including their social and cultural development, their economic and political structure, and the physical environments which they seemed increasingly prone to inhabit. From this historical perspective, Folsom-Dickerson attempts, in his own words, “to determine with more exactness the qualities of character which cast them into their present day form.” (p. 5.)

The first section of the book looks at the antiquity of the present tribe and briefly describes how the Alabama-Koasati Indians maintained cultural and tribal unity and continuity throughout successive contact with the Spanish, French and English explorers, with the frontier colonists and under the Texas governments of Spain, Mexico, the Republic, the State, the Confederacy, and the present day political powers.

Then, through a series of detailed examinations of the tribe’s religion (including the dominating influence of the Presbyterian Church missionaries), its cosmic and natural conceptions, its language, and its internal and external relations with whites, Folsom-Dickerson finally draws some conclusions based on his observations and questions, taking into account his self-admitted “... mental slants and pet theories.” (p. 133.) Setting up a skeleton framework on which to hang the answers to the six previously mentioned questions, the author very satisfactorily, in my opinion, accomplishes the purpose for which he wrote the book.

Although each question is answered separately and thoroughly, Folsom-Dickerson is emphatic in stressing that the ultimate solution to the Alabama-Koasati Indians’ past problems lies in the “... one outstanding trait which holds them together today: their group impulse toward cooperation.” (p. 139.) A listing of the traditional cultural traits native to the Alabama-Koasati, together with a listing of acculturated white social traits show to what a remarkable degree these Indians have maintained their anthropological and racial integrity, despite the integrating forces still present today.
The book reads easily, and Folsom-Dickerson's scholarly approach is tempered by his frequent use of line drawings depicting village society and a string of often humorous anecdotes. While the book contains excellent sections on the identification of medicinal and non-medicinal plants used by the Indians as well as an interesting study of phonetic and phonemic language patterns, the reader often feels the need for an index which the author unfortunately omitted.

Wilbert Love Jr.
Grapeland, Texas


Tracing the history of a ranch is a difficult and arduous task. To include enough facts to make the book coherent and at the same time not to include too many non-essential details is the primary problem. Dulcie Sullivan attempts to solve this problem, but she falls short of doing so.

The LS Brand is the story of the birth, growth, and death of a West Texas ranch. The book is divided into eighteen chapters, for the most part arranged chronologically, which deal with incidents in the life of the LS Ranch. The incidents are, however, not related enough to produce a story line for the entire book. In two consecutive chapters, Miss Sullivan may be talking about the same problems, but the characters and the situations change so much that it is difficult to establish the continuity that would have made this more attractive.

The characters in this book also pose a problem. There are certain individuals who are discussed throughout the entire book, and it is easy to follow their development. Yet in each chapter there are characters introduced with no background or buildup. This same character may then leave and never be heard from again. Too many characters are introduced in this way, leaving the reader to wonder about what becomes of the individual.

The author's purpose in depicting the history of the LS Ranch and the individuals who are connected with the ranch is achieved interestingly. The author shows the hardships that the cowboy went through at round-up time. Miss Sullivan also demonstrates how the introduction of "bob wire" completely changed the philosophy of the cattle ranch. Finally, she demonstrates the loyalty that the cowboy has to his brand and ranch.

This book is good, enjoyable reading, but Miss Sullivan covers too much in a short book and leaves the reader guessing too much. The best feature of the book is the personal anecdotes relating to the individual characters.

Allan Dinsmore
Eldorado, Texas

The literature of the American Civil War has long inspired writers of fiction and serious history to their more prolific work. More has been written on this subject than any other, except perhaps Christ. During the years of the Centennial it was fashionable for reviewers to compare war-related publications to a flood, a heavy weight, or some other superlative, usually accompanied by a ho-hum and a sneer. "Here's another one on THE WAR," they would often whine, "if all the books on THE WAR were laid end to end, they would bridge the Mississippi lengthways." It is the truth of such statements that gave the sarcasm its greatest sting. There had been many books published on the subject, and there were going to be many more. Some were good, some very bad, and many, too many, were mediocre. The number, the weight, the volume of them was so staggering that only a few emerged over the years as "regulars," those identifiable to professionals and knowledgeable amateurs as the best. Yet even the worst has a use for somebody, if he can only find it. The two volumes under discussion are designed for that purpose.

Nobody knows how many books have reached print on this particular subject, and the three senior and fourteen (Robertson has a double role) associate editors have made no attempt to list them all. Of the estimated 40,000 to 60,000 possible titles, they have attempted to provide bibliographic references for only about 5,700. They have excluded manuscripts, articles (with a few exceptions), doctoral dissertations, master's theses, poetry, drama, fiction, and juvenile, satirical and tongue-in-cheek works. Volume I contains approximately 2,700 annotated titles, divided into seven major divisions: Military Aspects—Mobilization, Organization, Administration, and Supply; Military Aspects—Campaigns; Military Aspects—Soldier Life; Prison and Prisoners of War; The Negro; The Navies; and Diplomacy. Volume II contains approximately 3,000 annotated titles, divided into eight major divisions: General Works; Biographies, Memoirs and Collected Works of Important Leaders and Key Personalities; The Confederacy—Government and Politics; The Confederacy—State and Local Studies; The Confederacy—Social and Economic Studies; The Union—Government and Politics; the Union—State and Local Studies; The Union—Economic and Social Conditions.

The format is simple and easy to follow. The arrangement is alphabetical within each major division, and each entry looks like an off-set reproduction of a library catalog card. It gives the author's name, the title, publisher, place and date of publication, and a brief physical description. The latter includes the number of pages, and whether or not it contains illustrations, portraits, maps, and related information. In somewhat larger print there appears a two to five line editorial comment outlining the book's most notable attribute.
The uses of such a work are as numerous as its users. It, and other works like it sponsored by state agencies, may be the most lasting contribution of the Centennial years, and especially of the U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission, which is its sponsor. The fact that the index for the whole work is just now available in Volume II is but a minor irritation; the author who does not find his book or the reader who fails to locate a favored classic may doubt the compiler’s yardstick, but it is a major work that should grace every library that can afford it, public and private. But it must be used to be appreciated.

Archie P. McDonald
Stephen F. Austin State University


The Westward Movement is written as a textbook summary of the migration west in America. It begins with chapters on the colonial settlements moving gradually to the Mississippi and beyond to the Pacific. After discussing the crossing, Professor Steckmesser studies the “last” frontiers of miners, cattle, transportation and the Great Plains.

Although there is nothing new in the treatment, The Westward Movement contains a great deal of factual and anecdotal material. This combined with an interesting and readable style should succeed in making the volume popular with even the lay reader.

However, “...as a basic text for an undergraduate course in westward movement ...” (p. v), one finds a surprising lack of depth. Major economic, social and political trends are barely discussed. Unfortunately, this is coupled with hasty generalizations that could cause the reader to question the validity of other statements that are well researched. This point in particular might have been avoided with the addition of footnotes.

Since the author explains in his preface that he did not intend to include strict economic and political discussions, some of these omissions are understandable. His intentions for the use of the book as a text, however, would seem to indicate their inclusion.

In summary, The Westward Movement definitely possesses some merit as a text for a survey course or for reference. It would be acceptable for junior or senior university level history only as a supplement.

H. L. Latham
Nacogdoches, Texas


This work is one of many of a similar nature dealing with the eco-
omic inequities of American life. Kolko's work, like many of the others, represents a sharp departure from the general affluence consensus of the economic, social and political writers of the 1950's. This general affluence thesis holds that because of the changes which have occurred in the United States in the last fifty years, and particularly since the New Deal of the Thirties, the distribution of goods, services, and income has become more equitable. All of this, the holders of the general affluence thesis believe, was brought about by such things as more social services, progressive taxes, mass production and broader marketing techniques. The thesis further holds that the United States is moving toward a more equitable standard of living and that through the marvels of modern technology and management, both governmental and private, we are eliminating poverty. Kolko takes to task the holders and propagators of the thesis—John Kenneth Galbraith, because his work is misleading; and Frederick Lewis Allen and Seymour M. Lipset, because he obviously considers them almost completely ignorant and totally unqualified to speak on any subject.

From the beginning of the work the lines are clearly drawn. Economics and economic determinism are the themes. Kolko even dismisses race as secondary to the problems of income and advantage distribution. The question of race aggravates the problems, but the Negro's problems, according to the author, are essentially no different from the other low income groups. The lack of opportunity existing in the lower socio-economic levels cuts across racial lines.

Kolko's attack on the view that there is a leveling tendency is devastating. He produces facts and figures to prove quite the opposite. Income is as concentrated now in the United States as it was in 1910. Indeed because of hidden income and what he calls "income in kind," the upper ten per cent of the population has perhaps a larger share of the national income than it did in 1910. The changes which have occurred in the last fifty years in income distribution have been slight. In the bottom eight of the ten ten-percentile brackets the change has been less than two per cent except for the bottom two brackets. In the bottom bracket, for example, the share of income concentrated there has fallen steadily from 4.3% in 1910 to 1.1% in 1958. Figures such as these hardly indicate a movement toward the equalization of income.

Kolko's thesis throughout the book is that all the good things of American society—health and medical care, education, opportunity and accumulation—are distributed in an almost direct proportion to income level. His figures on health care and education, including the distribution of scholarships support his thesis in vivid detail.

The system works to the advantage of the "haves" and to the disadvantage of the "have nots." The structure of the income tax, often cited as a leveling influence, has made no appreciable effect on the change of income distribution. The many loopholes work to the advantage of the rich, who through expense accounts and business expenses write-off
everything from safaris to diamonds. The author points out, also, that the income tax is the only tax that is even faintly progressive. All of the others are regressive and fall most heavily on the poor, taking a disproportionately large share of their already meager income.

In education the same situation prevails. In studies of high school students with the same grades and the same I.Q. scores, three times as many students of the upper fifty per cent of the income groups are offered scholarships to college. The fallacy that intelligence is concomitant with accomplishment has no basis in fact. Accomplishment and education are related more to socio-economic standing than to any other factor.

Other examples, supported by huge amounts of statistical data, show the increasing concentration of purchasing power, mobility, housing and tax benefits into the hands of the upper income groups.

The author points out that poverty, instead of decreasing, is on the increase in the United States, and that this increase is likely to continue. The profile of the lower classes, particularly the lower thirty per cent, has seen changes in the last fifty years which, as things stand now, makes their continued decline almost inevitable. Their lack of access to education and therefore to opportunity, the increased numbers of heads of households who are mothers with dependent children, the concentration into cities where survival is impossible without aid, and other factors contribute to the decline of the lower class.

Kolko in his last chapter says that it is not his intention to offer solutions to these problems. True to that principle, he does not. But it is clear that he is saying that since income distribution is the number one problem with both poverty and power, some means for a significant redistribution of income and opportunity is necessary to stem the tide of increasing economic and social difficulty in the United States.

Wealth and Power in America, despite all of its statistical data, is a well written book; and is both interesting and provocative. It is well worth the reading and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in the subject of national income distribution and the relating problems of poverty, the tax structure and economic opportunity.

Carl L. Davis
Oklahoma State University


Essays on the New Deal is the second volume of lectures given in memory of Walter Prescott Webb. The essays are a tribute to the influence of his work upon other men's thinking as seen through new and continuing scholarly research.
The first of the three essays is "The New Deal's Shelterbelt, 1934-1942" by Wilmon H. Droze. The essay begins with news that startled America in 1934—a forest one hundred miles wide was to be planted across the prairie from Texas to Canada. Mr. Droze reveals the trials and tribulations that the project had, in a short, compact essay. The author has done an excellent job of research, and his essay is one of the best accounts on the Shelterbelt project.

The second of the essays, "The New Deal Critics: Did They Miss the Point?" by George Wolfskill, is an interpretative rather than a narrative account of the facts on the New Deal, but the presentation does not do justice to the subject, due to its wide scope. The New Deal had many more important critics whom Mr. Wolfskill did not discuss. His interpretations of the critical materials were overwhelmed by his own viewpoint, a disguising respect for Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt's Supreme Court Packing Plan" by William E. Leuchtenburg is the longest and most thorough of the three essays. He begins with Roosevelt's first controversy, the court decisions on the Agricultural Adjustment Act and then moved swiftly into the threatened Court packing. The author tells of the 1937 message to Congress by Franklin Roosevelt, and approaches the issue it presented, in a balanced and objective manner. In conclusion he places a great emphasis on the effect the incident had on later American politics.

The essays are good and accomplish the aims of their authors, but each leaves the subject open to further research.

Donald L. Smiley
Lufkin, Texas


This recent analysis of the ideas of a leading American political theorist, Father of the Constitution, author of the national Bill of Rights, and fourth President of the United States, is another volume in the Great American Thinkers series. In it Neal Riemer, well-known student of American political thought and professor of political science, has attempted to prove the contentions that Madison was "our most creative political theorist."

According to Riemer, the basic problem for the infant state as seen through Madison's eyes was the creation of a republican government over a large area. Madison's "creative" solution to the problem thus posed was a "new kind of federal government," one that strengthened the necessary powers of the central government and at the same time limited the discordant activities of the states. To be "republican" as Madison saw it, this new government would have to be a "limited, representative, responsible." Madison's unique contribution to the theory of republican government,
Riemer contends, included “his conception of genuine religious liberty, his articulation of a new republican system in federalism, and his theory of a republican political opposition.”

Madison's approach to this new federalism was basically pragmatic. The powers of the central government and of the state governments, for example, should depend upon their success in serving their respective constituents rather than some abstract legal formula. His unique contribution here was his advocacy of a free, popular government in a large and strong republican state and his construction of specific plans to achieve it.

To achieve his goal of a strong, though limited, federal government in a large republican state, Madison evolved the first American theory of pluralist democracy. He, much earlier than most political theorists, here or elsewhere recognized that there must be in all societies a vast diversity of interests and parties. They could not be eliminated and a homogenous society created except on a very small scale, a scale far too small for the United States. Madison thus argued that they can be controlled only. He advocated such devices as majority rule, limited government, representative institutions, basic civil liberties, and a republican party system.

Professor Riemer has stated his case plainly and defended it well. His study of Madison's political philosophy should help to persuade American students that Madison deserves to be considered as one of the most important of our political theorists. In a practical sense his contributions to American government easily equal those of either Thomas Jefferson or Alexander Hamilton and perhaps exceed either.

Stylistically Riemer's treatment suffers from unnecessary repetitions and from uneven passages, but neither of these caveats should detract from the significant contribution that he has made to Madison's place in American political thought.

J. E. Ericson
Stephen F. Austin State University


Mr. Perry endeavors to discuss two dominating topics in his volume. Initially, he narrates the documented and factual story of the Panay and her crew. Then the author examines more clearly the rumors and mysteries surrounding the bombing of the neutral ship by the Japanese.

Elaborating upon the several stories which have, since 1937, attempted to discover motivations and discern sources of blame for the sinking of the Panay, Mr. Perry discards some which seem altogether unlikely and emphasizes a few which seem more credible. The author does not pretend to have solved the riddle of the Panay incident, an incident about which the
complete truth may never be known. However, Mr. Perry does cite accounts which he considers probable.

Most of the author's efforts are devoted to reporting the adventure of the crew of the Panay; and here, perhaps, is found the most significant contribution of the work. Having interviewed a considerable number of the old Panay sailors, Mr. Perry gives an exclusive account of their bombing, escape, and ultimate rescue. In his detailed chronicle of their heroics and sacrifices, Mr. Perry has authored a tribute to the men of the Panay, a tribute that one could scarcely regard as unmerited.

John M. Fountoulakis
Texarkana, Texas


Daily Life in Colonial Peru, 1710-1820 is a basic social history of vice-regal Peru as typified in the lives of Viceroy Don Manuel Amat and Micaela Villegas (la Perricholi), a controversial actress of the Lima stage. Briefly Descola sketches basic geographical and ethnic data about Peru as well as Spain's administrative machinery for her colonies. Then he proceeds in a leisurely fashion to make a detailed examination of Peruvian intellectual life, religion, homelife, amusements, military organization, and economic system.

By employing a background of historical personalities, the author succeeds in bringing to life a gripping era of Peruvian history. The book is made even more appealing by the inclusion of contemporary commentaries on the Peruvian scene and the use of appropriate illustrations.

Jean Descola possesses an eminently readable style which bears the marks of logical organization, discreet selection of material, and a sense of humor. His primary purpose was to relate Peru's history under the viceroys, and his narrative gift enables him to succeed admirably. On the whole, Daily Life in Colonial Peru, 1710-1820 is a witty and entertaining account of Spanish colonization in South America. Consequently, it merits the attention of any reader interested in Latin American history.

Carolyn Warren
Center, Texas


Few cities in history have captivated the human heart as has Rome. There is an aura about the Eternal City that is both mysterious and
enigmatic. To walk the ancient streets in reflection is to feel a ghost-like presence of the past that is difficult to explain. Here the pagan and Christian antiquities blend together as one. The secular and sacred appear inseparable.

Such emotions as these may create a strong desire to become better acquainted with Rome’s past. Since this is physically impossible, Maurice Andrieux, a French historian, has done the next best thing by recreating the modes of everyday life in the city during the 1700’s.

His book, *Daily Life in Papal Rome in the Eighteenth Century*, is a successful and thorough presentation of the social milieu found in Rome two hundred years ago. This work sustains interest by the use of lively anecdotes and a varied approach. While much of the material is delightfully entertaining, the author’s more serious purpose is to place the essentially static Roman society within the context of revolutionary change that swept through Europe at the close of that century.

During this age the Romans were an essentially conservative, if not reactionary, lot. The long entrenched status quo maintained by the church and ruling elite vigorously resisted drastic change of any sort. However, life was basically care-free with few restraints to hamper the personal activities of fun-loving citizens. “Do whatever you like,” said the priests, “but come and tell us about it afterward.” (p. 118.)

Change, however imperceptible, characterizes human society in every period of history. This is certainly true of an eighteenth century Rome whose every facet of life depended on the rapidly diminishing power of the church. The city remained oblivious to the spirit of revolution that enveloped France during the years of the century. Unabated optimism continued to direct the Roman spirit until the invading armies of Napoleon forced the city to accept the reality that the old order had passed.

Written particularly for the layman, this book is an excellent example of social history. However, it is marred by the omission of references and extremely long, awkwardly constructed sentences. Translation from the French may account in part for this latter flaw.

Myriads of unsubstantiated facts detract from the value of the book. Though the bibliography is adequate, it is of limited value to the reader. The lack of direct references in the text to the works listed makes the task of documentation an impossible one. Despite its weaknesses in style and lack of documentation, *Daily Life in Papal Rome* is well worth reading.

C. Barnwell Anderson
Jacksonville, Texas


*Daily Life in Early Canada* is an interwoven description of the social, economic, and political forces which shaped Canada from the arrival of
Champlain in 1603 to the Treaty of Paris in 1763. It is composed of ten chapters discussing geography, climate, transportation, economy, religion, and social life of colonial Canada. While this book is primarily a social history for the general reader, it contains a satisfactory treatment of political history. A scholarly approach is attained by this blend.

Direct quotations and detailed descriptions from prominent Frenchmen and their journals, illustrations, and early maps give the book a realistic quality, which facilitates reading and understanding. One of the prime sources of the aforementioned quotations and descriptions is the Jesuit society.

The Jesuit priests, who came to Canada in order to Christianize and civilize the Indians, were not completely successful. Their main contributions included easing of relations between Indians and whites, persistent and unswerving missionary work, gathering scientific data, exploring new regions, and accurate recording of early Canadian history in *Journal des Jésuits et Rélations des Jésuits*.

The book lacks footnotes and bibliography, and contains some unsubstantiated facts. There are also several French words in the text for which there are no explanations. Despite the lack of documentation and a bibliography, the book is informative and worth reading. It will appeal to those interested in the history of early Canada, early America, and the colonial possessions of France.

Mike Greer
Winnsboro, Texas

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*Daily Life at Versailles in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.*

The great palace at Versailles, at first a hunting lodge and retreat for King Louis XIII of France, transformed into a palatial seat of government by King Louis XIV, became the hub of Europe from which radiated the splendor—and moral degeneration—of the French court. Daily life there flowed easily until Louis XIV made it his principal residence, then it became a center of degrading and atrophied court life—a life in which the Sun King set the functions and progress. Though patterns relaxed and changed a bit under his successors in the eighteenth century, the Sun King’s influence stifled any real evolution.

There is little in this thin tome to attract the professional historian, but much that will appeal to those who like to keep the mistresses of Louis XIV and Louis XV in correct chronological order. There is little to indicate whether Marie Antoinette was as scandalous in her behavior as many suppose, but much to indicate her empty-headedness as Dauphine and Queen of France. In this and other areas, the author unwittingly and not very well has served a purpose, in that he has drawn a fuzzy
portrait of what happens when a leader divorces himself from his people. Also unwittingly, he indicates that hereditary monarchies do not always breed true. Had the drawing of this portrait been his primary object, the book would be infinitely better. As it stands this book is not needed, for any serious student can glean as much information, including anecdotes, from any good specialized treatment of France in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

There are a few poor translations of doggerel, a mistake in the date of the War of the Spanish Succession (p. 147), and misprints, notably “votre” instead of “notre” (p. 167), which do nothing to add to the value of the work. According to the table of contents there is a bibliography of sources listed, but it does not appear. There are, however, enough footnotes to indicate that the author relied heavily on such well-known sources as St. Simon’s *Memoirs of the Court of Louis XIV*. We still must wait for a meaningful volume concerned with daily life at Versailles, if indeed one is needed.

Ert J. Gum
The University of Nebraska at Omaha

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In this excellent volume, George Wolfskill and John Hudson, both of the University of Texas at Arlington, examine and analyze the critics of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. Basing their study on a wide variety of newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, books, and private collections, the authors have explored the “hate Roosevelt” literature and grouped it in appropriate categories. The resulting array of scurrility, calumny, defamation, slander, libel, and vilification is astounding, even for one who lived through the New Deal Era. Here is history by character assassination—history by rumor, by distortion, and by falsehood. This torrent of abuse raises the pertinent question that “granted that an opposition, free to organize and free to criticize without fear of reprisal, was essential to the democratic process in the United States, and granted that politics was a contest for power not a course of ethics, was there no limit? Did anything go, short of physical assault and bodily harm?” (ix)

Wolfskill and Hudson have arranged FDR’s critics under such intriguing chapter topics as “If You Were a Good Honest Man,” “We Don’t Like Her, Either,” “The Jew Deal . . .” “The Devoted Wall Street Lackey,” “A Traitor to His Class,” and “All Menu and No Meal.” The authors have purposely omitted the indecent and obscene but they have included sufficient vicious and insinuating criticism to demonstrate that much of the invective was of the “below the belt” variety. A single bit of verse will illustrate the nature of some of these attacks. Under the title of “Traitors Three” a
poem depicted Brutus, Benedict Arnold, and FDR in hell arguing over who was the greatest traitor of all time. After the first two had spoken Roosevelt gave such an impressive catalogue of his act that:

Brutus stood there filled with awe,
Arnold sat with fallen jaw;
Then Brutus said, "We've had our fling,
Get up now, Arnold, and salute your KING (33).

Like the Muckraker who raked the filth before him until it was piled so high that he could see nothing else, this study, taken alone, would give a distorted view of the New Deal years. This should not be the first book to be assigned for a study of the Era of Franklin Roosevelt. But this is not intended to be a history of the New Deal or the Roosevelt years, although there is a lot about FDR and the New Deal in it. It is an account of criticism and criticism. It is an effort to see the Roosevelt period through the eyes of its enemies, to let the Roosevelt haters speak for themselves. Some criticism was by honest and sincere men who disagreed on a question of principle, but much was vicious and vituperative abuse which delineated "a certain streak of madness" in American politics. This paranoid trend Wolfskill and Hudson have captured very well. All but the People is a most valuable addition, not only to the history of the New Deal but to the history of the Presidency as well.

Robert S. Maxwell
Stephen F. Austin State University