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Review of Region and Regionalism in the United States: A Source Book for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Frederick C. Luebke

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, fredluebke@comcast.net

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Region and Regionalism in the United States: A Source Book for the Humanities and Social Sciences. By Michael Steiner and Clarence Mondale. New York: Garland Publishing, 1988. Bibliography, index. xvii + 495 pp. \$69.00.

This multidisciplinary bibliography with annotations offers a judicious sampling of the best published work on American regions and regionalism. It is so useful that most scholars seriously working in regionalism will want to benefit from the authors' wide-ranging yet measured assessments.

Entries are arranged by discipline rather than by subject matter. Steiner and Mondale are themselves active in American studies and are especially well-grounded in geography and history. Entries from these interrelated disciplines take up more than one-third of the book, not

an inappropriate emphasis because scholars in these fields have produced much of the best theoretical work in regional studies. The authors' interdisciplinary reach is nonetheless impressive and includes anthropology, architecture, art, economics, folk studies, language and literature, philosophy and religion, political science, psychology, and sociology.

The authors elucidate their principles of organization and selection in the introduction. One may quibble with their decisions but should remember that alternative modes will produce comparable incongruities, overlappings, and repetitions. Each section is introduced by one of the authors to provide the reader with the background necessary for understanding the relationship of the field to American studies.

The volume contains 1652 entries, including books, articles, and collections of essays. The typical entry is five to ten lines long. Judging entries of materials with which I am personally well acquainted, I found that the authors usually have gotten to the heart of the matter. Their abstracts are well written, informative, and succinct.

Most entries predate 1985. Fortunately, some of the best works to appear very recently have been shoe-horned in at the last minute. All the well-known regionalist scholars of the past are included, such as Frederick Jackson Turner, James Malin, Howard Odum, Carl Sauer, Howard Mumford Jones, V. O. Key, and Henry Nash Smith, but the selection of recent scholarship is necessarily more restrictive. In sum, this is an impressive work.

FREDERICK C. LUEBKE
Department of History
University of Nebraska-Lincoln