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Review of The Twentieth Century West: Historical Interpretations.

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The Twentieth Century West: Historical Interpretations. Edited by Gerald D. Nash and Richard W. Etulain. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1989. Prologue, notes, epilogue, selective bibliography, contributors' notes, index. xiv + 454 pp. \$40.00 cloth, \$17.50 paper.

Readers of *The Twentieth Century West* are urged to review the prologue (Etulain) and epilogue (Nash) before tackling the works of contributing authors. These two pieces explain the guidelines of the editors and their purpose in dividing the book into five parts: People, Economy, Environment, Politics, and Culture.

Etulain's prologue offers a very readable overview of twentieth-century western historiography and sets the tone for most of the essays that follow. The literature reviewed is as much a strength of the volume as the editors' stated goal of delineating major historical trends and approaches leading toward a clearer image of the twentieth-century West. Nash's epilogue helps pull the diverse essays together while contrasting myths and images of the nineteenth century with suggestions for new approaches to writing about the twentieth century. One can only lament that he did not comment on directions taken recently by Patricia Limerick, Donald Worster, Richard White, Richard Brown, and others.

The thirteen contributed articles begin with the people of the West. Walter Nugent and Carl Abbott write about urbanization, providing data on growth patterns in the eleven western states. Karen Anderson compares the roles of women in the urban West to those of women elsewhere. Ricardo Romo describes three stages of Hispanic development in the West and shows how United States foreign policy toward Mexico has affected treatment of Hispanic immigrants. Donald Parman writes about Native Americans in the Progressive Era and urges more study of the later periods of their history.

Unfortunately, Howard Lamar's illuminating comparison of the Depression in the Canadian Prairies and the Great Plains is the only con-

tribution dealing with western economy, but it is followed by several good essays on the West's environment. John Opie focuses on the polemical tendencies of environmental historians to reject technology in favor of a simpler life. William G. Robbins discusses the extractive timber industry and appeals for historians to address fundamental issues in the industry rather than celebrate corporate successes. Donald J. Pisani evaluates writings on water history since the publication of Lawrence B. Lee's 1979 bibliography then goes on to discuss the development of irrigation districts and the conflict between state and federal authorities over water rights.

Paul Kleppner uses statistics to demonstrate that the West has rejected traditional party loyalties in favor of charismatic leaders. His essay is followed by William D. Rowley's discussion of reform patterns in the West. The thirteen selections conclude with an excellent summary of western literature by Fred Erisman and H. Wayne Morgan's review of twentieth-century western art.

Along with historiographical information provided in most chapters, extensive endnotes and selected bibliography make this book a useful reference volume. Students may find it difficult to read from cover to cover, but selected essays may be appropriate in courses on the American West.

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