

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Great Plains Quarterly

Great Plains Studies, Center for

---

1992

## Review of Wyoming: From Territory to Statehood

Micheal A. Amundson

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly>



Part of the [Other International and Area Studies Commons](#)

---

Amundson, Micheal A., "Review of Wyoming: From Territory to Statehood" (1992). *Great Plains Quarterly*. 712.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly/712>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Great Plains Studies, Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Plains Quarterly by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

rent condition. Originally published in 1968 by the Yale University Press under the title of *Wyoming: A Political History, 1868-1896*, Gould explores both the early political history of Wyoming and the origin of its often tenuous relationship with the federal government.

By 1900 the state of Wyoming, without the agriculture, mining, or industry of other western states, was uniquely tied to the purse strings of Washington. Originally organized by the Union Pacific as it built through what was then Dakota Territory in 1867, nineteenth-century Wyoming has long been depicted as the product of the railroad and cattle industries. Gould, however, suggests that the success of the state instead hinged on the machine politics of Wyoming Senator Francis E. Warren.

Although much of the success of Warren's pork barrel politics occurred after the turn of the century, the groundwork was laid in Wyoming's first three decades. In the absence of local economic resources, Warren quickly realized the need of order and system for Wyoming to compete in Washington. Warren also rejected the narrowness of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the individualism of Democratic leader Joseph M. Carey. Instead, Warren, looking at politics as a business, tried to land as many federal projects as possible for the Equality state. His legacy of federally funded forts, irrigation projects, public buildings for the state's towns, and offices for his friends (including Wyoming's only Supreme Court Justice, Willis Van Devanter) served the state long after his death in 1929.

Long out of print, *Wyoming: From Territory to Statehood* will provide a new generation of readers a thoroughly researched and well-written account of Wyoming's early political history. In so doing, Gould's book will also outfit new readers with a solid basis for understanding the Wyoming of today.

MICHAEL A. AMUNDSON  
Department of History  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

*Wyoming: From Territory to Statehood*. By Lewis L. Gould. Worland, Wyoming: High Plains Publishing Company, Inc., 1989 (Centennial Edition). Photograph, bibliographical essay, index. xiii + 298 pp. \$24.50.

As Wyoming began its second century of statehood in 1991, Lewis L. Gould's *Wyoming: From Territory to Statehood* remained an important examination of the state's history and cur-