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Review of *The Rise of the Centennial State: Colorado Territory, 1861-76*. By Eugene H. Berwanger

Stephen J. Leonard

*Metropolitan State College of Denver*

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*The Rise of the Centennial State: Colorado Territory, 1861-76.* By Eugene H. Berwanger. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2007. xii + 205 pp. Maps, photographs, notes, bibliography, index, \$40.00.

Ever since 1866 when Junius E. Wharton published his *History of the City of Denver from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*, Coloradans have been churning out histories. Practically every city, town, and railroad has gotten attention, as have a fair sampling of politicians and entrepreneurs. Consequently, today the trees obscure the forest. In *The Rise of the Centennial State*, Eugene H. Berwanger tends to both trees and forest so well that scholars and students will thank him for at least the next century.

Berwanger's focus on the 1861 to 1876 period makes sense. Colorado's years as an organized territory began in 1861 and ended in 1876 with statehood. During that formative era, Colorado eliminated or contained its Native Americans, connected itself to the national rail network, created a useful, although far from complete, internal transportation system, diversified its economy beyond its mining beginnings, and refined its society. Because other historians have treated Colorado in its 1858-1865 years, Berwanger concentrates on the 1865-1876 period, including enough of the pre-1865 story to give necessary background. Fortunately, he occasionally extends his narrative beyond 1876 to tie up loose ends.

Chapter 1 notes that between 1861 and 1865 Colorado regressed rather than progressed, a situation out of keeping with most of its history. Two of the many merits of chapter 2 are the author's concise account of the aftermath of the Sand Creek Massacre and his well-organized summary of Ute tribulations in western Colorado. Chapters 3, 7, and 8 concentrate on politics. Some readers may fault the book for devoting more than a third of its 157 text pages to politics. Others will thank Berwanger for his coherent account and for his balanced treatment of the ever-changing cast of governors.

Chapter 5 explores the connections between technology and the revival of mining and covers the rise of farming and ranching. Chapter 6 expands on the importance of farming in eastern Colorado, making clear that the territory's economy transcended precious metal mining. Chapter 8 serves a tasty goulash of social history, including crime, recreation, religion, daily life, women, African Americans, Chinese, and Hispanos. A dash of information on foreign-born immigrants, particularly large groups such as Germans, would have added additional spice to this section.

Berwanger's bibliography alone is almost worth the price of the book. His extensive research has borne fruit in a well-organized, informative, concise history that ranks high among the thousands of books written about Colorado since 1866.

STEPHEN J. LEONARD  
Department of History  
Metropolitan State College of Denver