

Out Where the West Begins, Volume 2, Creating and Civilizing the American West

J.T. Murphy

Indiana University South Bend

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nearby states, North Dakota in particular. His findings offer a fruitful basis from which other scholars can draw comparisons between the Scandinavian influence on Minnesota politics and other states with large Scandinavian American populations, such as Iowa.

Bergman's background as a journalist and author is evident in his accessible and engaging writing style. The book is written for a broad audience, but scholars will also be interested in Bergman's findings. His arguments are based on extensive research, including an impressive number of interviews. One of the major drawbacks of the book is the way the references have been relegated to the back of the book. The "Notes" section provides citations for the sources used in the text but is relegated to the back of the book, and individual notes do not correspond to a number or symbol in the text itself; one must hunt to find where exactly the quoted material and contextual analysis come from.

That flaw aside, *Scandinavians in the State House* is an excellent resource for anyone interested in regional politics in general and immigrant engagement in and influence on U.S. politics specifically. Bergman draws thought-provoking parallels between the historic development of Scandinavian settlement and active participation in politics with Minnesota's newest population of immigrants from Somalia. These arguments, along with the many others he presents throughout the book, promise to stimulate much discussion of the legacy of Scandinavian influence on Minnesota politics and the ways immigrants can shape the nature and character of a state's political identity.

Out Where the West Begins, volume 2, *Creating and Civilizing the American West*, by Philip F. Anschutz. Denver: Cloud Camp Press; distributed by University of Oklahoma Press, 2017. 392 pp. Illustrations, timeline, bibliography, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer J. T. Murphy is professor of history at Indiana University South Bend. His research and writing have focused on frontier settlement, the Oregon Trail, and the military history of the nineteenth-century U.S. West, among other topics.

In volume one of *Out Where the West Begins*, Philip F. Anschutz, a Denver-based corporate executive, celebrated past economic success in the American West by profiling 49 men whose success seemed to herald his own. For his follow-up, subtitled *Creating and Civilizing the American West*, he focuses on 100 men and 8 women who "stand out for their achievements in western policymaking, exploration, innovation, military defense, conservation, image making, opinion shaping, and social reform" (13). It is an idiosyncratic list that includes Thomas Jefferson

and Thomas Moran, John James Audubon and Jeanette Rankin, a list intended to underscore Anschutz's view of the West as a special place shaped by special people who could "turn their dreams into reality" (13). He concentrates on anyone reinforcing his belief in Manifest Destiny or whose ideas and innovations aided western development (and in what seems a stretch, this includes Thomas Edison and Iowa-educated George Washington Carver). Most are well known, even legendary, and he has nothing new to tell us, but in the telling, Anschutz displays his love of the West, with its romance and beauty, and his appreciation of a Turnerian narrative that links the central characteristics of being an American—individualism, self-reliance, and democratic values—with the advance of the frontier. "The settlement of the American West," he argues, "instituted a pattern, still in evidence today, of an entrepreneurial, intellectually curious, highly mobile, and transactional population" (14).

In the first of five categories, "Western Leaders and Policymakers," Anschutz begins with Jefferson, whose "vision of the West, his force of personality, and his political strategy laid the groundwork for all that followed" (34). And what followed was territorial acquisition, whether through negotiation or war, and Anschutz praises the political figures, such as James K. Polk, and the military men, like Philip H. Sheridan, who made it possible. He also credits the federal government, particularly Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Homestead Act, Morrill Act, and Pacific Railway Act, all in 1862, with "spurring settlement and economic development and setting the stage for the region's absorption into the nation as a whole" (81). In the arid West, each layer of government assumed responsibility for making water accessible, and the key figures, in Anschutz's view—Francis G. Newlands, Delph Carpenter, and William Mulholland—"represented different aspects of the transformation of western rivers into a vast hydrological machine" (123). But if Anschutz measures American progress with western settlement, what can he say about the fate of native peoples? In business terms, they were simply at "a competitive disadvantage" (93) and, as the Lakota leader Red Cloud and Ute leader Ouray came to realize, "the numbers and technological might of the Americans" (99) could never be overcome. Despite his embrace of conquest and triumphalism, Anschutz admires Indian resistance and concludes that "their continued cultural, political, and economic strength is integral to the development of the twenty-first century West" (103).

Anschutz's admiration for historian Frederick Jackson Turner's "frontier thesis," first articulated in 1893, is unmistakable. He is correct to recognize Turner's long-lasting influence, particularly in how Americans perceive the West in popular culture, but professional historians

have questioned, even repudiated, most elements of the “thesis.” Turner’s “safety valve,” associated here with Horace Greeley, suggested that “the pressures of unemployment and poverty building up in eastern cities” would be released once people migrated westward (195). But relocating can be prohibitive for poor people, a point Anschutz makes in his discussion of Benjamin “Pap” Singleton’s work to move black families to Kansas after the Civil War. To his credit, and unlike Turner, Anschutz includes women and people of color in describing individual success in the West. As he measures achievement, he considers not only what people gained by going west, but also what they contributed to the region. Father Junípero Serra established Franciscan missions in California that “underpinned European and American civilization in the West” (131); Abigail Scott Duniway traveled the Oregon Trail in 1852 to become an important voice for woman suffrage; and architect Mary Colter popularized the Pueblo Revival style of architecture. Anschutz’s affection for the West extends to his extensive art collection, the basis for Denver’s American Museum of Western Art, and he interlaces the book with examples. Not surprisingly, then, his discussions of George Catlin, Frederick Remington, and other well-known painters are quite good.

As in his first book, Anschutz often draws simplistic conclusions and is prone to overstatement, but his idea of what the West represents is embedded in American life. It is an image many readers probably share.

Farming across Borders: A Transnational History of the North American West, edited by Sterling Evans. Connecting the Greater West Series. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2017. xxv, 460 pp. Maps, illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$65.00 hardcover.

Reviewer R. Douglas Hurt is head of the Department of History at Purdue University. He is the author of many works, especially about the history of agriculture, the Great Plains, and the West, most recently *Food and Agriculture during the Civil War* (2016).

Historians have given considerable attention to specific areas of western agricultural history, particularly migrant labor, cattle ranching, and water. Scholarship dating to the 1930s has also focused on commodities. In this sense, *Farming across Borders* does not, despite the editor’s claim, break new ground for historical inquiry. It does, however, provide an important integration of selected subjects, the scholarship and story of which crosses international boundaries with Canada and Mexico. This context expands our knowledge of well-covered subjects, and, in most cases, the essays contribute new knowledge about farming in the North American West.