

## Capitalist Pigs: Pigs, Pork, and Power in America

Wilson J. Warren

*Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo*

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midwestern histories. Future works could help us understand the Midwest's post-1945 transformations due to deindustrialization, suburbanization, white flight, global immigration, and other forces. Susan Gray calls Native American history in the region a "map in motion" and broadens this idea, stating, "So, too, is the history of the Midwest as a region" (56). This volume's introduction and 21 essays demonstrate that the Midwest is a fascinating region in motion, both in its rich history and in its evolving identity, which provides a useful road map for future scholarship.

*Capitalist Pigs: Pigs, Pork, and Power in America*, by J. L. Anderson. Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2019. xiii, 285 pp. Tables, maps, illustrations, notes, index. \$99.99 hardcover, \$34.99 paperback.

Reviewer Wilson J. Warren is professor and chair of the Department of History at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. His most recent book is *Meat Makes People Powerful: A Global History of the Modern Era* (2018).

The field of human-animal studies is a rapidly growing area of historical inquiry. *Capitalist Pigs* is an important contribution to this literature. J. L. Anderson's focus on pigs is especially salient in terms of the human-animal connection since Americans and many others around the globe have continuously reshaped the animal to suit their changing needs. Anderson argues that this changing relationship especially illuminates the dynamics of power in economics and human dominion over animals. Conveyed in clear prose enhanced by well-chosen tables, maps, illustrations, and an enticing title, the book is valuable for scholars and accessible to a broad audience.

*Capitalist Pigs* examines the entirety of American history with chapters that delve into production, consumption, marketing, and scientific and state intervention in the hog's transformation into food and other products. Although comprehensive in scope, the book focuses especially on pre-twentieth-century developments when free-range husbandry characterized hog production, especially in the South but also in northern rural and urban locations. Lard-type hogs were dominant early on because their meat could be readily processed and preserved and because lard was essential in American cooking practices. They were also relatively low-maintenance animals. Well into the nineteenth century, hogs foraged for food and then were rounded up in fall for either subsistence or marketing. Hogs also roamed American cities, especially through the mid-nineteenth century. Although no longer allowed to forage in cities during the twentieth century, pigs nevertheless served as convenient waste recyclers. Anderson points out, "By 1940

almost every American city of over twenty-five thousand residents utilized swine to reduce market waste" (96). Federal and state government intervention to control hog cholera and trichinosis began in the nineteenth century, but the importance of farm sanitation and eliminating garbage feeding to control pig diseases did not achieve success until after World War II, when pig-raising followed broiler-raising confinement practices that managed diet, housing, and sanitation. These postwar developments contributed to the emergence of a leaner, meat-type hog as producers hoped to capitalize on Americans' heightened health concerns. Nevertheless, pork's popularity sank below both poultry and beef. In recent years, pig meat has captured renewed consumer attention in the form of bacon—once the epitome of poor people's food—and a return to so-called heritage pork with higher amounts of fat (and flavor) than the meat-type hogs produced during the middle and late twentieth century.

Anderson's book provides valuable insights for those interested in Iowa's role in hog developments. Although the center of the country's pig production in 1860 was in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee, by 1900 Iowa was the center of the corn-hog belt. Starting in the 1970s, contract hog farming practices opened up new areas outside the Midwest, particularly in North Carolina, largely because of the location of Smithfield Foods' slaughtering facilities in the region. Anderson provides excellent maps of hog locations in 1860 and 1900, but unfortunately not for the middle or latter twentieth century. Iowa's hog farmers were also at the center of disease control and prevention efforts. They were somewhat reluctant adopters of confinement methods. More recently, Iowans have voiced protests about the effects of confinement production on quality of life due to air and water pollution.

Anderson makes the case in several places that working people, especially African Americans, preferred pork for much of American history. Beef was what most Americans, when they could afford it, wanted to eat. "Only with the onset of the Great Depression and the spread of poverty did pork challenge beef for primacy" (152). The discussion of pork versus beef's primacy is belabored and difficult to arbitrate with any certainty given that consumption statistics are unreliable before the twentieth century. However, U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics show that pork was first among retail meats consumed between 1900 and 1950. Also unfortunate is the near absence of discussion of the role of the major meat companies in shaping hog production as well as consumer preferences.

The conclusion of *Capitalist Pigs* focuses on the very direct connection between people and pigs in terms of xenotransplantation. Our re-

spective biological similarities make the potential for organ transplants promising yet also ethically controversial. Anderson is hopeful about such developments, but the growing animal rights movement may create significant roadblocks. Nevertheless, this topic demonstrates, as do so many discussed in the book, not only pigs' importance in our food culture but also their central role in the evolution of the American economy.

*Peoples of the Inland Sea: Native Americans and Newcomers in the Great Lakes Region, 1600–1870*, by David Andrew Nichols. New Approaches to Midwestern Studies Series. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2018. xiii, 271 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Claiborne Skinner is an instructor at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. He is the author of *The Upper Country: French Enterprise in the Colonial Great Lakes* (2008).

In Harpers Ferry, in the northeast corner of Iowa, stands Effigy Mounds National Monument: silent, mysterious designs of bears, birds, turtles, and panthers raised by the Ho Chunk and other nations some 1,400 years ago. Old as these mounds are, they are Johnny-Come-Latelies to Iowa, whose human history actually begins more than 10,000 years earlier in the Pleistocene Era. Few Iowans, or anyone else for that matter, have any conception of this story. It is said that “history is written by the victors,” but it is also written by those who can write. Early Europeans concluded, therefore, that the Indians were a people without a history, with all that that implied and still does.

David Andrew Nichols has produced a potent corrective to this misconception with his extraordinary *Peoples of the Inland Sea*. The periodization in the title is ambitious enough, but Nichols, an ethnohistorian, draws deeply on archeology, environmental science, and ethnology to push the dates back to the Ice Age. The Mastodon Hunters are here, the Copper Age, the Archaic agricultural revolution, and the Hopewell Mound Builders. Nichols fills the region with a history rarely seen in such a short survey. His coverage is as wide as it is deep: The Great Lakes “region” is stretched to include much of the Mississippi Valley. His treatment of the historic period is of a piece, with sharp analysis grounded in good sources. His choice of when to close his study is significant. Where many treatments conclude with a significant date in Euro-American history, Nichols ends with the execution of 38 Dakota warriors in 1862 and the return to Wisconsin of the Ho Chunk people, who had staked their claim to the country more than a thousand years before, thus bringing the story full circle. This might seem anticlimactic