

## Two Homelands: A Historian Considers His Life and Work

Mark Safstrom

*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

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the depression. Silber's chapters include analyses of artists, writers, filmmakers, government officials, monument builders, trade unionists, and scores of others, both black and white. She looks at how the Civil War—especially questions around emancipation—shaped the outlook of “New Dealers, Popular Fronters, civil rights activists, white southerners with pro-Confederate leanings, and anticommunists” (6). The book proceeds chronologically, tracing everything from how New Deal programs funded oral history interviews with formerly enslaved people to plays, murals, and novels that represented the Civil War and Reconstruction from a huge variety of perspectives. One interesting chapter analyzes the shifting public image of Abraham Lincoln in the United States and in a global context. By the early 1940s, the Civil War was increasingly mobilized as evidence of the willingness of the United States to fight fascism, causing discomfort to southerners and white supremacists who wished to downplay the comparison.

One of the most interesting insights Silber offers is that people of often opposed ideological views and social positions—as different as the NAACP and the United Daughters of the Confederacy—could mobilize support for their depression-era agendas by appealing to Civil War memories. Silber also argues that white Americans who suffered privation during the depression appropriated the memory and language of American slavery to articulate their plight—resulting in the downplaying of the true racism facing African Americans in the 1860s and in the 1930s and '40s.

Readers focused on Iowa history will find plenty of interest: New Deal programs headed by Harry Hopkins, Hallie Flanagan, and other notable Iowans anchor the first half of the book, and Silber includes several primary sources from Iowans describing their suffering during the depression. Civil War memory scholars must read this volume, as should those interested in the Great Depression but who are not necessarily steeped in the larger arc of Civil War memory scholarship. Silber is an agile, insightful scholar who writes without a trace of jargon.

*Two Homelands: A Historian Considers His Life and Work*, by Odd S. Lovoll. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2018. 256 pp. Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paperback.

Reviewer Mark Safstrom is assistant professor of Scandinavian Studies at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. His writing on Scandinavian history includes “Writing History Together: Norwegian- and Swedish-American Historians in Dialogue” in *Friends and Neighbors? Swedes and Norwegians in the United States*, edited by Dag Blanck and Philip J. Anderson (2011).

*Two Homelands* is a highly readable account of historian Odd Lovoll's career, set against the backdrop of the twentieth-century Norwegian migrations. This is more than a memoir; the subtitle might well have been "a historian considers how his life fits into his work." It gives a portrait of Norwegian and Norwegian American history in which the Lovoll family's experience as immigrants and his own career provide the organizing framework. Beginning in 1946, Lovoll's life and career took him back and forth from western Norway to America, notably the Pacific Northwest and Midwest.

The initial chapters set the stage for understanding the immigrant communities as well as the repatriates to Norway in their mid-century context (1930s and '40s). The section on the Norwegian and Norwegian American experience of World War II is particularly engaging. The value of this section, and the memoir overall, is that it fills a need for historiography of more recent immigrant history; by contrast, much past Scandinavian immigration history has focused on the nineteenth century.

The direct connection with Iowa history is that the author's research and professional contacts have frequently included Luther College in Decorah. Yet the broad impression a reader will gain from reading this memoir is to understand how highly interconnected ethnic groups like the Scandinavians have been across state lines. There is a fluidity in Lovoll's account that demonstrates how his research brought him to all the major places in the Norwegian American community, giving him a holistic view of its parts. This St. Olaf College history professor was a significant ambassador to and for the Norwegian community, and the vastness of his network of professional relationships and friendships is on full display here.

*Mrs. Ambassador: The Life and Politics of Eugenie Anderson*, by Mary Dupont. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 2019. 290 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$22.95 paperback, \$9.99 ebook.

Reviewer Jennifer Delton is professor of history at Skidmore College. She is the author of *Rethinking the 1950s: How Anticommunism and the Cold War Made America Liberal* (2014) and *Making Minnesota Liberal: Civil Rights and the Transformation of the Democratic Party* (2002).

Born in Adair, Iowa, Eugenie Moore Anderson went on to play a significant role in Minnesota politics, which led to her historic appointment as the first woman ambassador for the United States (to Denmark) in 1949. Committed to civil rights, human dignity, and democratic politics, An-