

Iowa's Numbers: 150 Years of Decennial Census Data with a Glance to the Future

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With its many contributors, the dictionary fails to give any of their credentials, and the name of the author of each entry is rather lost by being positioned at the bottom of each article, even under the sources.

The major drawback is the lack of photos or artists' depictions of the notables. Matching facts with a face can be key to understanding and remembering.

Still, this book is great for the bookshelf of anyone who appreciates Iowa history and the people who made it the state it is today.

Iowa's Numbers: 150 Years of Decennial Census Data with a Glance to the Future, by Willis Goudy. Ames: Department of Sociology, Iowa State University, 2008. iii, 178 pp. Tables, graphs, maps, notes, appendix.

Reviewer Daniel Scott Smith is professor of history emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has published extensively about demographic history, including "How a Half-Million Iowa Women Suddenly Went to Work: Solving a Mystery in the State Census of 1925" (*Annals of Iowa*, 1996).

In this volume, Willis Goudy, emeritus professor of sociology at Iowa State University, compiles and comments on the state's numbers that have been tabulated from each federal census since 1850. Aiming at continuity with current data, he includes only those variables that appeared in the 2000 census of population and housing. Among these are demographic attributes such as age and gender as well as socio-economic characteristics such as education, occupation, income, and housing value. By my count, 81 tables, 43 color maps, and 16 figures appear in the 15 chapters that contain only 153 pages of text. In addition, an appendix contains the population totals of the approximately 1,000 incorporated places in the state every ten years during the twentieth century. The geographic frames of reference are to the other states in the United States and more commonly to the counties in Iowa.

Professor Goudy meticulously documents the sources of his tables and points out technical issues such as changing definitions of occupational categories. Those who might be interested in additional analyses of federal census data should be aware of the comparably formatted samples of individual records taken from the original manuscripts for each (except 1890) census; these are conveniently available for analyses from a University of Minnesota Web site (<http://USA.ipums.org/USA>). Although Goudy's focus is on the present and on the federal census, any historical discussion of Iowa's numbers should also point out that a century ago the state was highly innovative in its own census taking. For example, only one other state has been bold enough to ask individuals about their religious affiliation, as Iowa did in 1895, 1905, and

1915. The detailed questions on education and income asked in Iowa's 1905 enumeration came 35 years before the federal census finally inquired into those important topics.

Goudy's principal organizational framework is the division of the state's population history into five 30-year intervals, beginning with 1850–1880 and ending with 1970–2000. A decelerating rate of population growth characterizes each era compared to the previous one, with the exception of the absence of decline in growth rate between the third and fourth periods. A striking map (8) shows that in the twentieth century, Iowa was the only state in the entire country to grow less than 50 percent in population. In 2000 it was merely 31 percent more populous than in 1900.

Iowa's Numbers is considerably more than a compendium of data. Every chapter beyond the introductory one concludes with a "points to ponder" section. There Goudy cautiously draws out the implications of the results for a readership that implicitly is mostly other Iowans. Among those implications are an aging population, the "brain drain" of more highly educated people from the state, and Iowans' ambivalence about immigration. On the one hand, the economy needs workers, but, on the other, some are concerned about the increase in Hispanic population. Goudy's perspective on these matters may be characterized as that of an academic with a liberal orientation typical of sociologists, and as a concerned citizen of the state.

Goudy strongly believes that vigorous population growth is good. Some residents, Goudy asserts, will greet expert projections of the size of the future population with "a modicum of despair" (149). But only in the 1980s did the state actually enjoy a net population decrease. A worrier, Goudy would have employed a verb such as *suffer* rather than *enjoy* in the previous sentence. He downplays the advantages or irrelevance of a slow rate of population growth for the well-being of Iowans. He shows that median family income in 1999 was only 96 percent of the national average. On the other hand, the average value of owner-occupied housing was only 69 percent of that for the average American homeowner. Iowans thus enjoy relatively affordable housing. Moving beyond the census, Iowa's statistics, it seems to me, look pretty good. For example, in 2003 only two states had cheaper automobile insurance than Iowa (*New York Times 2008 Almanac* [2007], 376). In 2005 only one state had a smaller percentage of its population without health care insurance (416).

Goudy also frets about the decline in political power that results from the sluggish growth of the state's population. Iowa once had eleven seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, but now has only five

and is likely to lose another after the 2010 census. But because of the equal treatment of all states in the Senate, politicians from less populous states, which tend to have strong agricultural interests, have been able to garner lavish taxpayer subsidies for that sector. Finally, I doubt if Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton would regard Iowa as politically irrelevant. Sometimes, it is better to be smart (or lucky) than populous.

The Constitutionalism of American States, edited by George E. Connor and Christopher W. Hammons. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2008. xxix, 816 pp. Index. \$74.95 cloth.

Reviewer Silvana R. Siddali is associate professor of history at Saint Louis University. She is the author of a book on Civil War-era constitutional issues and is working on a book on antebellum state and territorial constitutions in the Old Northwest. Her article on debates over the location of Iowa's state capital appeared in this journal in 2005.

Most festschrift anthologies are collections of scholarly essays linked thematically because they address the honoree's area of scholarly research. Ideally, such compilations also represent the best and newest scholarship on that topic. *The Constitutionalism of American States* fulfills both missions splendidly. In compiling the chapters honoring distinguished constitutional historian Donald Lutz, George Connor and Christopher Hammons have edited a comprehensive collection of essays that address some of the most exciting topics in the area of political, governmental, and constitutional history: American constitutionalism (especially of the states), self-government, democracy, the limits and patterns of power in American states, and the development of political culture. The purpose of the book is twofold: first, to function as a collection of individual state constitutional histories; and, second, to enable scholars of American state constitutions to compare those histories within a common theoretical framework.

To accomplish this, the editors drew on a premise established by Donald Lutz. In his *Origins of American Constitutionalism* (1988) he prescribed eight criteria for analyzing and understanding state constitutions. Those criteria revolve around defining the "moral values and major principles" of the polity and their political institutions, and, by extension, the constitutions that support and define those principles. Lutz's eight criteria form a normative basis by which the success or failure of the resulting constitutions can be assessed. For example, a good constitution ought to establish the basis of authority, find a way to "structure conflict so that it can be managed," and distribute (Lutz explicitly uses the verb *limit*) power (xxi).