

dletown suggests that Muncie lost its community cohesion as rapid industrial growth divided the city into distinctly different business and working classes.

As Goist shows, however, many American writers envisioned various degrees of community in the big city. Some, like Hamlin Garland, saw only stultification and a repressive sameness in the small town and took refuge in the cultural communities of European cities and New York. Jane Addams sought to develop community cohesion within the urban neighborhood through the settlement house. Radical journalists such as Hutchins Hapgood and Ernest Poole found group solidarity and meaningful social interaction within the labor movement. Sociologist Robert Park theorized that occupational groups, ethnic groups, churches, neighborhoods, and even street gangs provided social integration in the city. Although Charles Mulford Robinson and John Nollen, two of the most influential American city planners during the Progressive era, stressed the role of careful physical planning in enhancing urban group life, neither, Goist suggests, ever questioned the possibility of viable community in the city. Finally, Lewis Mumford had great faith in the potential ability of regional planning and new towns to provide community in the modern metropolis if only modern man would value the community experience above materialism.

From Main Street to State Street very successfully demonstrates the wide range of American thought about the possibilities of community life within large cities. The chapters describing reformers, sociologists, and planners are more successful than those describing novelists because of the greater focus and substance of the source materials. Clearer attention to the writers' viewpoints regarding the social and political limitations of community based upon only small intellectual, occupational, ethnic, or neighborhood subcommunities instead of the urban population as a whole would have been useful. Yet, overall, the book provides a valuable basis to compare the community images of many prominent American writers, including Tarkington and the Lynds.

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Trouble Downtown: The Local Context of Twentieth-Century America. By Henry F. Bedford. (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1978. Pp. x, 213. Illustrations, notes, maps, index. \$5.95.)

Henry F. Bedford designed his *Trouble Downtown: The Local Context of Twentieth-Century America* as a supplementary reading for an undergraduate course in recent United States history. His method is to employ six local incidents as "metaphors" of several facets of the national experience in this century. Bedford develops these incidents against two underlying themes: the "nationalization" of problems once thought to be entirely within the realm of local authorities and the concomitant growth of federal involvement and violence, or the threat of it, as a goad to reform.

The episodes include the strike by the textile workers of Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1912, the illicit booze business of Chicago in the 1920s, the unionization of the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant in 1932, the Detroit race riot of 1943, the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955, and the Watts riot of 1965. The best chapters are those dealing with Lawrence and Montgomery. Here the issues Bedford wishes to explore are sharply defined: the exploitation of factory workers and their eventual resistance and segregation and its legal demise. In both episodes, the winners achieved their limited goals through invoking the aid of non-local allies. And in both cases violence or its threat had a role in precipitating the settlement.

The remaining chapters are regrettably unfocused. In the chapter on Chicago in the 1920s, for example, Bedford recounts the Capone gang's rise to power, but what larger issue the chapter concerns is unclear. Possibly, it is the social consequences of urbanization, or the victory of big-city mores over the values of small-town America. It may also be the decade's weary disillusionment with reform or, indeed, the formation of crime syndicates as a particular form of the nation-wide integration of business. Mentioning all of these, the chapter analyzes none nor does it convincingly relate the Capone gang's history to any but the last. The chapter on the two incidents in Detroit, like that on the Watts riot, suffers from a similar lack of focus.

In *Trouble Downtown*, Bedford utilizes a definition of violence that encompasses not only riots, wars, bombings, and beatings, but also "the ritualized violence of frenzied production, the psychological violence of a disintegrating family, the internal violence that warped individual personalities" (p. 127). So elastic a definition as this renders the concept virtually useless as an analytical tool.

In brief, *Trouble Downtown* is an interesting effort to use local history to illuminate national problems, but any instruc-

tor utilizing it should provide students with a sharper focus on the issues than Bedford supplies.

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A Guide to the State Archives of Michigan: State Records. By Valerie Gerrard Browne and David Jerome Johnson. ([Lansing]: Michigan History Division, Michigan Department of State, 1977. Pp. xx, 401. Illustrations, appendixes, index. \$14.95.)

This guide, published as a bicentennial project, describes all records accessioned by the Michigan State Archives up to January 1, 1975, a total of ten thousand cubic feet. The introduction gives a history of the state government organization and instructions on how to use the guide. Other sections explain how record series are described and the rules and hours of the library. Administrative histories describe the creation, functions, and changes in authority, name, or structure of all state agencies. There are four appendixes, which list the governors and the federal records, census schedules, and individual finding aids in the archives. Finally, there is a detailed index.

The book contains four main sections—the executive and legislative branches, the state supreme court, and “Defunct, Miscellaneous, Superseded or Transferred Agencies.” Each agency constitutes one record group. In 1966 the executive branch was consolidated into nineteen agencies. If the records of an agency were sent to the archives before the reorganization, they are listed in the “Defunct, etc.” section under the agency’s old name. Otherwise, all records appear under the names of the new umbrella agencies. If a bureau or division moves to a different agency, the archives lists its records with the agency which actually deposits the records. When the name of an agency changes, but the responsibilities do not, all its records are listed under the latest name. All this requires the reader to use the administrative histories, “See Also’s,” and index very carefully to follow a particular governmental function as it moves around the governmental structure, appearing in different record groups under different names. A cross-reference listing all current and defunct agencies by function would have been helpful.

On the whole, the guide is very well done. The series have distinct titles and comprehensive descriptions, pinpointing the nature of the records available.

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