

Because only Chapter IV ("Race, Slavery and the Republican Party of the 1850's") and Chapter VII ("The Irrepressible Conflict") are here published for the first time, the remaining six essays restate and reiterate previously held views and, thus, offer little that is new to scholars. To be sure, however, these essays have been revised and refined in the light of new and additional scholarship since their original publication.

Whether in book or article form, Stamp's scholarship has stimulated critical response. *The Imperiled Union* will undoubtedly also generate further critical discussion. He strongly castigates, for example, Stanley Elkins' *Slavery* as well as Robert Fogel's and Stanley Engerman's *Time on the Cross*. In fact, he rather convincingly demolishes their hypotheses, assertions, and conclusions, all of which should provoke further rebuttal. Again, in "The Southern Road to Appomattox" (Chapter VIII), Stamp argues, not very persuasively, that many southerners were not averse to a Union victory over the Confederacy. Finally, in "The Irrepressible Conflict," he offers again quite convincingly, the view that the antislavery movement and the proslavery response each produced their own internal dynamics which made for an irrepressible conflict during the antebellum era.

The Imperiled Union is highly interpretive, strongly historiographical, and an interesting and worthwhile addition to the existing literature. Only two lapses in proofreading are discernible: "patry" for "party" (p. 107) and "stiring" for "stirring" (p. 194). Somewhat puzzling is Stamp's failure to cite Herbert Gutman's *Slavery and the Numbers Game* anywhere in Chapter III ("Time on the Cross") or in its notes. One caveat should be added: Stamp's excellent craftsmanship and fine literary style may well mesmerize the unsuspecting or incautious reader to concur with his views, which have been brilliantly argued. In any case, this volume will provide several hours of delightful, stimulating, and rewarding reading.

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The Orphan Brigade: The Kentucky Confederates Who Couldn't Go Home. By William C. Davis. (Garden City: Doubleday & Company, 1980. Pp. xv, 318. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$12.95.)

Kentuckians have always believed that they were Americans *sui generis*. Spawned from Virginia, descended from

Scotch-Irish folk, and proud of their trans-Allegheny origins, residents of the Commonwealth recognize fully their unique geographical position just below Mason and Dixon's line. Although the state remained in the Union during the Civil War, Kentuckians were divided deeply over the secession crisis. Writing in 1860, Philip Lightfoot Lee of Bullitt County best represented Kentucky sentiment. Lee avowed his allegiance to his hearth and home. Should the South secede, Lee said, he would support Kentucky. Should Kentucky fall, then Lee would defend Bullitt County. If Bullitt County dissolved, Lee proclaimed his allegiance to Shepherdsville, his hometown. Should Shepherdsville fall, then Lee would defend his side of the street. Kentuckians were and are unique.

In this engaging volume William C. Davis chronicles the Civil War experiences of an extraordinary band of Kentuckians—the First Kentucky Brigade. Independent and resourceful, these sons of the Commonwealth cast their lot not with the North, but with the Confederacy. They served with distinction in some of the fiercest fighting of the war—at Shiloh, Stone's River, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Atlanta, and finally, in the Carolinas Campaign of 1865. Because they were removed from Kentucky throughout most of the war, these expatriates later were dubbed "The Orphan Brigade." Their heroism earned for them a reputation not only among Kentuckians but throughout the Confederacy as well. Proud of their accomplishments, members of the First Kentucky Brigade possessed a remarkable esprit de corps. Recollecting this sense of comradeship, brigade captain and historian Ed Porter Thompson recalled proudly that his unit had "a kind of title of nobility" (p. xv).

Pride was the common denominator for members of the First Kentucky. While General John C. Breckinridge is perhaps the best-known member of this unit, Davis probes the wartime experiences of a variety of other men, many of whom were observing the carnage of war for the first time. He views combat, disease, and fatigue duty through the prism of the common soldier. Readers learn of Johnny Green and John Jackman, of Ed Bishop and Leander Applegate. They follow them not only in battle but also constructing rude fireplaces of sod in their tents and celebrating in camp with a barrel of "Kentucky shuck." Although disciplined fighting men, these Kentuckians refused to bow to an abusive superior officer. In one episode a captain demanded that a private sweep his tent for him. Responding promptly, the enlisted man informed the officer that he might "go to hell" (p. 54).

Davis is the author of four other books on the Civil War, and he narrates the marches and battles of the First Kentucky with the charm and grace of a seasoned hand. He relies heavily on an invaluable collection of the Orphan Brigade's official papers now housed in the National Archives. Davis also draws frequently upon Captain Thompson's excellent *History of the First Kentucky Brigade* (1868) and *History of the Orphan Brigade* (1898). Both surpass the usual poor quality of Civil War reminiscences. While Davis' assertion that Kentuckians are "perhaps the most independent Americans of them all" (p. 46) is open to debate, few will question the valor of the Orphan Brigade or the quality of this superb unit history.

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The Development of American Agriculture: A Historical Analysis. By Willard W. Cochrane. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1979. Pp. xii, 464. Suggested readings, maps, tables, figures, illustrations, notes, index. Clothbound, \$25.00; paperbound, \$10.95.)

Willard W. Cochrane is an agricultural economist who, in addition to having served many years as a college teacher, has been an agricultural policy adviser to presidents since the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He has also written extensively on a variety of topics related to his field. For all these reasons, any assessment he makes concerning the development of American agriculture is likely to be of some value.

Although billed as a historical analysis, the work is long on analysis and short on history. The discussion of events up to 1900 comprises only the first third of the book and is somewhat facilely done. The narrative here is written in a straightforward, textbook-like manner, and it contributes little new information. References to events indirectly related to the development of agriculture, such as changes in attitudes toward slavery in the territories between 1820 and 1860, are often hasty and the explanations sometimes simplistic.

The valuable material in this book is to be found in the last two-thirds of the text. Dealing with the area of his expertise, Cochrane explores and assesses developments in American agriculture in the twentieth century. With the use of models, charts, and graphs, he also evaluates the effects of current and possible trends in the field.