

respond to the radicals in large numbers is, of course, obvious. That they did not respond because their needs were not accurately perceived by the radicals is not convincingly shown by Kraditor. So much depends on the *workers'* perceptions, which Kraditor acknowledges but does not thoroughly explore, that it is difficult to accept, without further evidence, the view that the worker was not alienated—that he was content in the bosom of family, community, church.

Kraditor seems to want her readers to accept this book as a more objective study of American radicalism than is usually written. Since historians of radical movements have heretofore tended to write from the perspective of the political extremes, one is more than ready to do so. *The Radical Persuasion*, however, is not the book Kraditor claims it is; it becomes apparent early in the volume that the radicals are not going to receive evenhanded treatment.

One cannot do justice to so rich a book in so short a review. If this review appears too negative, it is because the book promised so much more than it produced. Although it does fall short of expectations, *The Radical Persuasion* remains an insightful, important work that must not be missed by any student of the American radical experience.

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*One Third of a Nation: Lorena Hickok Reports on the Great Depression.* Edited by Richard Lowitt and Maurine Beasley. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1981. Pp. xxxv, 378. Illustrations, notes, index. \$18.95.)

*One Third of a Nation* is the second book in the last two years to focus on the life and career of Lorena Hickok, a journalist, reporter, and publicist for the Democratic National Committee, and close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt. Unlike Doris Faber's *The Life of Lorena Hickok* (1980), which deals primarily with Hickok's relationship with Mrs. Roosevelt, *One Third of a Nation* centers on her role as an investigative field reporter for Harry Hopkins and the Federal Emergency Relief Association in 1933-1934.

While employed by FERA, Hickok interviewed thousands of citizens and government and political leaders about the effects of the Depression and the newly instituted federal relief programs. She related these findings in hundreds of letters and reports sent to Hopkins, Aubrey Williams, and Eleanor

Roosevelt. Ninety-three of these letters and reports, taken from the Lorena Hickok and Harry Hopkins papers at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, comprise this volume. These letters, dating from August, 1933, through January 1, 1935, describe in elaborate detail the economic and social conditions caused by the Depression. For this reason *One Third of a Nation* is a valuable contribution to the literature on the New Deal era.

Preceding Hickok's letters is a lengthy and well-documented introduction by Richard Lowitt and Maurine Beasley, who edited the correspondence. It adds much to the reader's understanding of the background and content of Hickok's letters. Twenty-two pages of photographs supplement the work and provide visual support for Hickok's assessment of the Depression's tragic impact on the American people.

The importance of Hickok's correspondence lies in the insight she provides into the deteriorating morale of citizens left destitute and homeless and into the benefits and limitations of federal relief programs that were designed to alleviate these problems. Her letters speak of bankrupt businesses, farmers plagued with severe droughts and falling prices, minorities suffering from increased poverty and discrimination, and workers with large families and no jobs. These are not new revelations, but Hickok's firsthand accounts have a more personal impact. Equally important is what Hickok has to say about federal relief programs. Her letters highlight many of the problems still associated with the relief system today, including inefficiency, inequality of benefits, corruption, patronage, and politics. This was the beginning of the federal relief system, and her observations on these issues are worthy of consideration.

Hickok's interviews and reports did have a political purpose; namely, to gauge public opinion toward the president and his programs. Ironically, some of her predictions and concerns in this area proved premature and incorrect. Her frequent claim that Roosevelt was in trouble politically in many states and her fear that left-wing protest groups would make vast inroads with the voting populace turned out to be inaccurate and exaggerated.

Specialists in Indiana history will be disappointed to find that there are no letters about the Hoosier state in this volume, nor are there any concerning Illinois. The editors might have explained the reasoning behind Hickok's itinerary and why some states were omitted. This is a minor point, however, and does not detract from this compilation of important primary

source material. *One Third of a Nation* should prove valuable to economic, social, and political historians of the twentieth century.

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*The Invisible Minority: Urban Appalachians*. Edited by William W. Philliber and Clyde B. McCoy, with Harry C. Dillingham. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1981. Pp. 192. Tables, notes, maps, references, index. \$15.50.)

Since 1950 over three million people have migrated from Appalachia to the cities of the South, East, and Midwest. This population shift is a folk movement on a vast scale, comparable to the immigration of the Irish, Italians, and Puerto Ricans. The literature of American immigration history is voluminous; yet, for a variety of reasons, this great movement of Appalachians has gone largely unstudied. The result is that "so little actual research has been done that no one really knows what happened to the 3.3 million people who left the Appalachian region nor what problems and contributions were created in the cities which were the receiving centers" (p. 3).

The Academy for Contemporary Problems and the Urban Appalachian Council sought to encourage research in this neglected area by organizing a conference for Appalachian specialists. The meeting was held in Columbus, Ohio, in March, 1974. Most of the chapters of *Invisible Minority* were originally presented as papers at this conference, though some have been revised in light of developments in the intervening years, and two papers have been written since that time.

The editors have collected ten papers which deal with various aspects of the life of urban Appalachians. Two papers deal with Appalachians as an urban ethnic group; four study patterns of migration to urban areas; and another four evaluate the attainments of Appalachians who have moved to the city. An introduction and a conclusion help to focus and summarize the various contributions. The book will be of great interest to Appalachian specialists. The papers selected for inclusion deal with the major issues and point out areas that need further research. One can only hope that the institutions that must cope with the presence of urban Appalachians will be enabled to perform their tasks more effectively as a result of this kind of research.