

attitudes toward the Indian as a reflection of whites' self doubts. In his early chapters, Mitchell analyzes the nostalgic image of the Indian in various works of fiction such as Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales*. In a later chapter, "Toward Cultural Relativism," he turns to a more specific examination of the evolution of anthropology from the highly ethnocentric views of the early nineteenth century to the more enlightened perceptions of scholars such as Frank Hamilton Cushing and Franz Boas. The author is unusually successful in showing the relationship between concern for conservation and respect for indigenous people.

As seems typical of many intellectual histories, this book's organization is occasionally redundant and confusing. Readability improves considerably as the study progresses. Despite the writing problems, this is a solidly researched, insightful, and exciting first book.

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The American Frontier Revisited. By Margaret Walsh. (Atlantic Highlands, N.J.: Humanities Press, 1981. Pp. 88. Notes, tables, maps, select bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$5.00.)

Almost a century ago Frederick Jackson Turner delivered his paper on "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" at the World's Congress of Historians in Chicago. With his explanation of American history as a process of "European germs developing in an American environment," Turner introduced the analytical approach to the study of the American West and endeavored, as the late Ray Allen Billington noted, to promote the study of the "Great West" as a field of legitimate historical scholarship. He certainly succeeded. Perhaps no historian has had a professional paper examined so intensely. The Turner hypothesis has been modified and revised, but it largely has stood the test of time.

The American Frontier Revisited is just that, a re-examination of parts of the Turner hypothesis from an economic perspective and a discussion of what historians have written on the subject. Margaret Walsh of the University of Birmingham, England, uses a topical, analytical, and interpretive approach, stressing four themes: the availability of "free land"; agricultural development; the non-agricultural stages of western growth; and the demographic aspect of settlement. For

each theme she introduces Turner's views, examines criticisms by later historians, and evaluates the validity of the original hypothesis. Particularly valuable is her case-study examination of six farming frontiers ranging from the Genessee Valley to the Far West, an examination which leads her to conclude that "frontier farming suggests diversity rather than similarity in the process of settlement" (p. 42). Although this conflicts with Turner's repetitive pattern, she recognizes that the hypothesis is not totally invalid since it can be applied to some regions and contrasted with others.

This objective, thoughtful study shows an awareness of controversial parts of the Turner hypothesis. It also provides insights into nineteenth-century Indiana experiences and will be most useful as a problem study for students and historians of the American West and the United States.

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Mary Chesnut's Civil War. Edited by C. Vann Woodward. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1981. Pp. lviii, 886. Illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95.)

"I write daily for my own distractions. These memoirs *pour servir* may some future day afford dates, facts, and prove useful to more important people than I am. I do not wish to do any harm or to hurt anyone. . . . It is hard, in such a hurry as things are in, to separate wheat from chaff" (p. 301). Written by Mary Boykin Chesnut on March 10, 1862, as the Civil War entered its second year, these words restate the purpose for which Chesnut claimed she began her diary. Mary Chesnut did indeed chronicle events of the Confederacy between 1861 and 1865, but she continued to work on her diary until her death in 1886. C. Vann Woodward has now issued a definitive edition of this diary, using not only the 1880s version, as previous editors have done (*A Diary from Dixie*, 1905, 1949), but also material from the 1860s version and later revisions.

Mary Chesnut, a South Carolinian and wife of James Chesnut, the first southern senator to resign after Lincoln's election, reported daily on social gossip and events such as parties, marriages, and funerals, as well as on political intrigues among Confederate leaders and military strategy. She remained loyal to the Confederacy, although at times she criticized the actions of its leaders. Her diary entry of April 27, 1862, reads: "New Orleans gone—and with it the Confederacy.