Bailey); C. Fred Stemm, a local politico and Knights of Labor member (by Don Jensen); Conrad Shearer, a conservative state senator and spokesman for the Kenosha Manufacturers Association (KMA) (by Thomas C. Reeves); Felix Olkives, the forty-year painters' union president, Trades and Labor Council president, then KMA public relations man, then AFL-CIO Council president (by Leon Applebaum); and George Molinaro, the progressive state assembly speaker and forty-five-year automobile worker (by John D. Buenker). Two institutional biographies are also included: Richard H. Keehn's piece on the Snap-On Tool Company, and Angela Howard Zophy's chronicle of UAW Local 72, which reminds readers that, contrary to the subtitle of Noer's chapter on Nash, there are no "self-made" men.

Two of the authors are reporters for the Kenosha News; the others, and the book's editors, work at a local state university and a private college. Overall, they do a nice job of placing their subjects in the context of local history (though not in historiography) and in relating local to national events. Some uncritically celebrate. The book can be ordered from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside's Archives and Area Research Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison


Although numerous works consider the political turmoil of the 1890s, this study is one of only a few that systematically evaluate Populism's development, its relationship with progressivism, and its role in transforming the political system. Robert W. Cherny divides the years 1885-1915 into four periods with breaking points at 1890, 1896, and 1904. Each period is discussed in two chapters. The first describes the issues, campaigns, and personalities; the second includes a relatively sophisticated analysis of voting behavior and summaries of leadership and the political system. Before 1890 Republicans dominated Nebraska, affiliation was based on ethnocultural factors, and prohibition was the most divisive issue. This system was substantially modified by the emergence of Populism—an economic movement which cut across ethnocultural lines and was
attractive to persons in poorer, rural areas. Populist support also had a pietist tinge, but, Cherny astutely argues, this was largely because those poorer farmers who strongly opposed liquor control remained wedded to the Democratic party.

Populist-Democratic fusion became official policy in 1896, and this coalition of economic and ethnocultural interests controlled Nebraska government until 1900. Renewed agricultural prosperity and agitation over prohibition then led many poorer, pietist farmers back to the GOP. Republican ascendancy was short-lived, however, for after 1905 the party split into competing factions. Democratic divisions were less serious, and the Democrats' emphasis on economic and political reform, opposition to moralistic legislation, and successful organization of old Populists began an era of Democratic control lasting until 1918.

Cherny closely examines the ancestry of progressivism in both major parties and the Progressive party. In general, he finds that economic distress motivated supporters of Populism and of a faction in each major party; that there was very little overlap in the leadership; and that Populist economic proposals differed greatly from progressive emphasis on regulation of business and individual behavior.

Cherny's study is important and insightful, but its elements are not equally impressive. His analysis of voting behavior is instructive; yet, his failure to consider turnout and his basic reliance on county data (and not even from all counties) raise questions. Furthermore, while the discussion of the 1880s considers religion, later analysis uses only ethnic variables. Finally, although Cherny makes some worthwhile points about leadership and the political system, his analysis is brief and largely superficial. These criticisms are caveats, however, not major objections, for Cherny has demonstrated his primary points and written an important work.

Purdue University, West Lafayette
Philip R. VanderMeer


Though the Historical Records Survey (HRS) was one of the most popular relief programs designed by the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration during the Depression, it has received surprisingly little attention from the historical profession. This neglect seems especially curious since the project was intended