

## Book Reviews

*Indiana Through Tradition and Change: A History of the Hoosier State and Its People, 1920-1945.* By James H. Madison. *The History of Indiana*, Volume V. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1982. Pp. xvii, 453. Notes, illustrations, maps, tables, figures, bibliographical essay, index. Clothbound, \$12.00; paperbound, \$6.00.)

The Indiana Historical Society should be proud of its selection of James H. Madison to author this volume in the *History of Indiana* series. He has produced an exceptionally well researched study of the state between 1920 and 1945. He has diligently pulled together available primary materials, including oral history, and an excellent array of secondary sources. An example of the latter is his use of M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations.

The first five chapters of the book use a chronological format, and the succeeding seven chapters are topical. This arrangement enables the reader to establish political pegs on which to hang the economic, social, and cultural developments of the period. In addition the author provides an illuminating backdrop of national events in order to provide an interesting comparison between Indiana and the rest of the nation.

Although Madison was not able to use Joel Garreau's *Nine Nations of North America* (Boston, 1981), he reached similar conclusions about Indiana's political, social, and economic makeup. According to Garreau, Indiana is one of the few states that manages to incorporate three regions within its boundaries—"The Breadbasket," "The Foundry," and "Dixie." Madison uses the concept to illustrate Indiana's changes in the twentieth century.

Hoosiers in the southern half of the state are related politically, economically, and socially to their fellow Americans south of the Ohio River. Agriculture in the broad fertile central area west of Indianapolis illustrates the zeal for scientific agriculture as applied to corn and beans and livestock in the "Breadbasket." Indiana also developed a significant industrial base in primary industries such as steel production, transportation, and oil products during the first half of the century and thereby became an important component of the "Foundry."

Madison explores the complex political interests of Indiana with an appreciation for the three areas of the state mentioned above. The urbanization and industrialization of Indiana al-

tered political coalitions, and the Great Depression affected political leadership. Even today, however, the state retains its basic political outlook and remains divided along the dimensions observed by Garreau.

An interesting feature of this study is Madison's inclusion of thumbnail biographies of individuals who have shaped Indiana's history. Especially valuable are his observations about Claude R. Wickard, Paul V. McNutt, and Dr. Ada Schweitzer, to name only a few. These individuals reacted to events and helped to shape the state's response to the twentieth century.

Indiana's history reflects the triumphs and tragedies in our recent history. During the 1930s and 1940s labor organizations and scientific agriculture in the state helped to usher in a rising standard of living. Political reorganization in the 1930s enabled the state to cope with a mass society. Even the tragedy of Ku Klux Klan activities of the 1920s gave way to subsequent improvement in race relations.

Finally, the Society should be congratulated on the desire to produce a well-turned-out book. The type face is clean, footnotes appear at the bottom of the page, the bibliographical essay will be useful to students of the state's history for many years to come, and the index is carefully prepared. This effort has enhanced the author's purpose to focus on the relationship of Indiana to the rest of the nation.

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*Their Infinite Variety: Essays on Indiana Politicians. Indiana Historical Collections, Volume LIII. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1981. Pp. viii, 488. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic essays, index. Clothbound, \$25.00; paperbound, \$16.00.)*

*Their Infinite Variety* is a companion volume to *Gentlemen from Indiana: National Party Candidates, 1836-1940*, edited by Ralph D. Gray in 1977 and reviewed in this journal by Holman Hamilton (June, 1978, pp. 157-58). Like the earlier volume in the Indiana Historical Bureau's ambitious series, this book is composed of twelve essays, in this instance spotlighting "a variety of Hoosier politicians, from the famous to the relatively unknown" (p. v). Spanning the period from William Hendricks and early statehood to Charles Marion LaFollette in World War II and the early Cold War, these essays reassess the role of Hoosier politicians within biographic contexts. Lorna Lutes