

context wrought by industrial capitalism. . . . His life was a profound refutation of the belief that critical dissent is somehow un-American or unpatriotic." Debs's support of the class struggle, Salvatore maintains, was "the very fulfillment of the basic democratic promise of American life and the values [of] manhood, duty, and citizenship that sprang from it" (pp. 343-44).

Although a few readers may feel that Salvatore is sometimes harder on Debs than the evidence warrants, objective observers must appreciate the merits of this fine work. It has been thoroughly researched; the documentation is extensive, the bibliography exhaustive. Its treatment of Debs is balanced. Ray Ginger's *The Bending Cross*, published in 1949, has long been the standard source on Debs, and, while this excellent biography must still be consulted by those interested in Debs and American socialism, it has now been replaced as the primary work on the great socialist leader.

Michigan State University,
East Lansing

Harold W. Currie

A Time of Terror. By James Cameron. (Fairbanks, Alaska: The author, 1980, as *From the Inside Out*; reprinted, Milwaukee: T/D Publications, 1982. Pp. 228. Paperbound, \$6.95.)

A Time of Terror is a memoir of the first twenty-one years in the life of James Cameron, a black citizen of Indiana. This small book claims special historical interest because its author, when sixteen years of age, found himself in the center of an especially dramatic and brutal double (and almost triple!) lynching in Marion, Indiana, in 1930. There is not a great deal new to be said about the tragedy of lynching, however, and, except for the still unexplained (after 228 pages) sparing of Cameron's life on that hot August evening in Marion, little that was exceptional emerges from the early career of this black youth.

Recollections and reminiscences of the ordinary and the everyday are, however, useful social history documents. The lynching information provided here is not really startling and, even with its unusual "victim's-eye-view," is hardly worthy of book-length treatment. Furthermore, the author indulges in considerable and repetitive sermonizing and moralizing on the obvious evils of racism and violence. Still, viewed with a soft focus and as an historical document, *A Time of Terror* is worthy of study. It is full of the smells, tears, laughter, and routine surroundings common to working-class black Americans during the early decades of the twentieth century. Perhaps the material of

greatest specific interest to scholars is Cameron's lengthy account of prison life during the almost five years he spent in the state prison at Pendleton, Indiana.

Indiana University at South Bend

Lester C. Lamon

The Red Scare in the Midwest, 1945-1955: A State and Local Study. By James Truett Selcraig. (Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press, 1982. Pp. xviii, 208. Illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

The revisionist historians of the 1970s who wrote about the Cold War argued that the domestic Red Scare began at the national level and then spread to the states. The revisionists developed their arguments by pointing to the activities of national leaders. Until now, however, no one has examined state and local activities with the conscious intention of determining whether or not they were simply a reaction to national precedents. In a study of the Red Scare in the Midwest, James Truett Selcraig concludes that the controversy did not originate on the national level. He is unwilling, however, to take the converse position that the Scare originated at the local level. Rather, it was caused "by a series of developments, both intensifying and calming, occurring at the federal, state and local levels" (p. xv).

Selcraig examines the impact of the Scare on politics, education, and voluntary organizations in five states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. In an attempt to determine the source of anticommunist sentiments, Selcraig takes the reader on an extended tour of local anticommunist controversies. A high school textbook is attacked for its positive view of the Soviet Union. A professor who openly campaigned for the presidential candidacy of Henry Wallace is dismissed from his teaching position. A state legislature adopts a measure requiring recipients of unemployment compensation to sign a loyalty oath. Scores of such cases are described in considerable detail. Although such a review is necessary in order to determine whether anticommunism originated on the national level, it does not make for good reading.

With this thorough case study of the Red Scare in one region, historians have better evidence with which to judge the merits of the theory that state and local activities simply derived from national precedents. Selcraig makes a convincing case that there was interaction between national and state levels and that influence did not always flow in one direction. This study fails, however, to the extent to which it ignores the international con-