

in a northern city. It supplements very nicely other contemporary works about Chicago and about blacks in public schools.

*DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind.*

Stanley Warren

*Making the Second Ghetto: Race and Housing in Chicago, 1940-1960.* By Arnold R. Hirsch. (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1983. Pp. xv, 362. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, index. \$24.95.)

I recall reading, some years ago, Robert Caro's *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* (1975) and wishing that someone would write a similar study of the creation of the modern westside and southside ghettos in Chicago. That wish has been fulfilled. While Arnold R. Hirsch's painstakingly researched *Making the Second Ghetto: Race and Housing in Chicago, 1940-1960* lacks the journalistic flair of Caro's work, Hirsch is to be commended for this solid contribution to urban studies. I grew up on the westside of Chicago during the tumultuous decade of the 1960s; thus, this volume possessed a special personal and professional poignancy. There always existed, among the residents of the westside ghetto, a nagging suspicion that forces beyond their control were shaping and controlling their lives. Their suspicions were, it now appears, quite justified.

Hirsch focuses on the interplay of white social, political, ethnic, and economic forces that converged to create vast concentrations of poverty-stricken blacks living within carefully defined geographic boundaries. To be sure, Chicago's second black ghettos as created and shaped during the post-World War II years owe their existence not to a single dominant Moses-type personality. In Chicago there existed clusters of private and public sector influences such as the University of Chicago, white "ethnics," corrupt political machine bosses, and business elites who, for different reasons and motivations, employed diverse tactics to achieve the same objectives of keeping black Chicagoans powerless and of preserving residential segregation. Hirsch asserts that "the implication of government in the second ghetto was so pervasive, so deep, that it virtually constituted a new form of de jure segregation" (p. 255). Hirsch's concentration on the whites who made the ghetto, rather than the blacks who endured it, expands understanding of the relationship between segregated housing, political power, and racial antipathies.

Most recent studies in black urban history end with the coming of World War II. Hirsch, by examining the post-World War II city, has boldly moved ahead into new, unexplored territory. In so doing he has unearthed numerous race riots of the 1940s

and 1950s overshadowed by the disturbances of the 1960s. His complex analysis of the inner city "ethnics" who used violence to prevent racial succession, of the intellectual origins of urban renewal and redevelopment, and of the manipulation of politics and government will undoubtedly generate new and exciting discussions among urban historians. Indeed, his discussion of the strategic uses of white violence is especially provocative. The numerous photographs scattered throughout the volume add to its overall tone. *Making the Second Ghetto* is an important book full of original insight and is well worth reading.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. Darlene Clark Hine

*The Log Cabin Myth: The Social Backgrounds of the Presidents.*

By Edward Pessen. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1984. Pp. xii, 196. Bibliographical note, index. \$16.95.)

Edward Pessen, a prominent historian of nineteenth-century American urban elites, in *The Log Cabin Myth* investigates the family backgrounds, marriages, and prepresidential career patterns of this country's thirty-nine chief executives. Employing class categories introduced by W. Lloyd Warner and his associates over forty years ago, he concludes that American presidents came from economic and social backgrounds considerably more privileged than those of upwards of 90 percent of their fellow citizens. The following is Pessen's scorecard: upper upper class (Washington, Jefferson, Madison, John Quincy Adams, William Henry Harrison, Tyler, Taylor, Benjamin Harrison, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Franklin D. Roosevelt); between the upper and lower upper classes (Polk and Kennedy); lower upper class (John Adams, Monroe, Wilson); between the lower upper and upper middle classes (Pierce, Hayes, Cleveland, Harding, Coolidge, Truman); upper middle class (Jackson, Van Buren, Buchanan, Grant, Arthur, McKinley, Hoover, Lyndon Johnson, Ford, Carter); middle class (Lincoln, Eisenhower, Reagan); lower middle class (Fillmore, Garfield, Nixon); and upper lower class (Andrew Johnson).

Pessen notes that this frequency distribution suggests "the slightly more plebian starting points of latter-day presidents" (p. 72). He attributes this development "to the slightly greater chances more available to persons born into the lower levels of the *upper* social clusters" (p. 72). The author underestimates the egalitarian trend of his findings. Of the seven presidents since Franklin D. Roosevelt, two originated in the middle class and one came from the lower middle class. These seven chief executives constitute 18 percent of the thirty-nine who held that office; yet, the post-World War II leaders account for two thirds of the presidents from