

Despite the uneven literary style and repetition of some information inherent in such collections, the work is remarkable for its scholarly approach and its cultural sensitivity. Extensive tables help to trace the chronology of ragtime relative to contemporary political and artistic events. Other tables list, for example, the most popular piano rags and ragtime songs, ragtime records, arrangers, and unpublished piano rags, along with pertinent dates, places of publication, and the manufacturers' or brand names. And, besides ample end notes for each chapter, the book provides a lengthy bibliography and discography (over 50 pages) for further research.

Gratefully, the reader is spared the chatty or sensationalistic style that mars other studies of popular music. Instead, the approach is serious, yet engaging, and the rigorous musical analysis of ragtime rhythm and structure by Frank Gillis and Guy Waterman are welcome additions, even if they are over the head of some laymen.

Admittedly, the book is not comprehensive. However, it does provide new insights about ragtime's roots in the Midwest. Beyond the period photos of famous music spots and composer portraits, the study's tables help to locate geographically influential artists and publishing houses. Indianapolis receives special attention in a chapter devoted to May Aufderheide, a city native who gained a national reputation around the years 1908-1911 for her piano rags, which were published by her father, James H. Aufderheide, the founder of Indianapolis's leading ragtime publishing house.

Ragtime should provide a rich introduction to the ragtime beginner and a valuable stepping-stone for more advanced researchers.

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The Brookings Institution, 1916-1952: Expertise and the Public Interest in a Democratic Society. By Donald T. Critchlow. (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1985. Pp. xiv, 247. Illustrations, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$23.00.)

Until recently most histories of modern America's political development have emphasized the durability of business-government conflict. During the last two decades, however, historians have discovered a strong tradition of business-government cooperation running from the early years of the century to the present. The operations of the National Civic Federation, the

war mobilization of 1917-1918, Herbert Hoover's "associative state" of the 1920s, the early New Deal, and the wide public influence of private foundations, are now increasingly seen as parts of a continuous history of organizational activity between business institutions and the state. The view of modern America now emerging does not deny the existence of business-government conflict but emphasizes instead a long-neglected history of linked public and private bureaucracies and a distinctly American tendency to use private institutions for public purposes.

Nowhere is this tendency more apparent than in the rise and influence of the private policy-research organization, or "think tank." A peculiarly American invention, the think tank has functioned as one of the means through which Americans reconcile their traditional suspicion of the state and planning with their modern need for policy research and national management. And Donald T. Critchlow's study of the origins and early history of the Brookings Institution is an excellent analysis of the difficult place in American politics occupied by the nation's oldest such policy-research organization.

Critchlow, a professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, is writing within the mainstream of recent scholarship but is opposed to the tendency of some scholars to regard think tanks simply as tools of corporate or statist elites. Instead, Critchlow argues, organizations such as Brookings exist in a much more complex relationship with their founders, patrons, staff, government, and the larger political culture in which they operate. The Brookings, he suggests, is at once, and by degrees, both independent of and deeply influenced by its society and cannot properly be understood except on such terms. To demonstrate this point Critchlow begins his story against both the backdrop of the early twentieth-century American search for antidotes to social instability and the compelling life of Robert S. Brookings.

A socially-conscious businessman and millionaire, Brookings shared a faith in the superiority of scientific expertise over politics that was increasingly characteristic among reformers in the two decades before World War I. Political corruption, economic inefficiency, and class antagonism, so the argument ran, had produced a crisis of social authority, one that could be met only by the creation of social and economic research institutions perceived to be scientific and impartial and thus able to generate social truths around which a new social consensus could be built.

This enthusiasm for a socially redemptive social science, one properly protected within allegedly disinterested institutions, lay behind the creation and activities of such bodies as the Russell Sage Foundation and the National Bureau of Economic Re-

search, among others, but it was most emphatically expressed in the organization building of Robert S. Brookings and his allies. They, in 1916, founded the Institute for Government Research. This was followed, in 1922, by the Institute of Economics. And in 1927, in Washington, D.C., the two bodies merged to inaugurate the Brookings Institution.

By the 1930s, Brookings social scientists had conducted studies that, among other things, had led to the establishment of a new federal budget mechanism and to the reorganization of the international debt system. Under its director, Harold G. Moulton, however, the Institution's antistatism meant opposition to much of the New Deal and the expanding macroeconomic role of the federal government. By the 1940s Brookings had become seriously alienated from the political mainstream. With its influence in decline and its continued financing in doubt, its survival was questionable. Critchlow ends his book in 1952, the year of Moulton's retirement, and the point where the institution began to make peace with and become an important part of the postwar macroeconomic and social welfare consensus.

Critchlow's study is much more than a fine monograph. It is also an important contribution to the continuing debate over the place and politics of social science expertise in the formulation of twentieth-century American public policy.

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The American West Transformed: The Impact of the Second World War. By Gerald D. Nash. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985. Pp. x, 304. Illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

Gerald Nash, one of the principal authorities on the twentieth-century American West, is absolutely right in viewing World War II as a watershed of immense proportions in the region. The four years of wartime initiated a profound transformation of the West's economy, culture, and society. This book deals with the change in culture and society, while a projected second volume will deal with economic change.

Defining the West as the Pacific Coast and the Mountain states, Nash also deals incidentally with parts of the Midwest and Texas. As with his previous general study, his principal focus in this book is on the Pacific Coast, particularly California. Chapters deal with urban growth and problems, ethnic groups, and the impact of the European emigré on the scientific and cultural communities.