

show the development of residential segregation via such devices as an index of dissimilarity. Perhaps the author, moreover, could have treated the subjects raised in chapters ten and twelve (the NAACP and interracial organizations of the 1920s) in one chapter, thus more coherently analyzing black responses to white racism. It should be added that some illustrations would have helped, and that the four maps provided in the book are not very useful.

Nevertheless, this is a well-researched and ably written piece, and it is an important addition to the history of black Americans.

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*The History of Wisconsin. Volume III, Urbanization and Industrialization, 1873-1893.* By Robert C. Nesbit. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1985. Pp. [xiv], 693. Notes, maps, illustrations, tables, appendix, essay on sources, index. \$30.00.)

Because, in part, of the influence of progressives such as Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in not only shaping but interpreting the development of Wisconsin's history, the late nineteenth century in that state has often been viewed as a prelude, a time of darkness before the coming of the light, a time of corruption and self-indulgence before the dawn of an era of political honesty and public-spirited service. In his extensive history of Wisconsin from 1873 to 1893, Robert C. Nesbit establishes the importance of this period in its own right and offers a more balanced analysis of its dynamic features. It was, he argues, a critical period during which the state moved from an "extractive frontier economy" to a "mainly urban-centered economy operating on the leading edge of contemporary industrial technology" (p. v), and during which settlement patterns changed dramatically as communities sprung up in relatively unpopulated areas of the state and people gravitated toward burgeoning towns and cities. It was also a period in which politics and governmental structures began to respond, sometimes quite effectively, to a variety of new challenges.

By organizing the book into three sections entitled "The Economy," "Communities," and "Politics and Government," Nesbit has created a framework which makes the history of this complex period more accessible. Although the book's final section provides a very interesting vantage point from which to assess the Progressive Era which was to follow, it is the shortest of the

three sections. Nesbit gives far more attention to the major economic changes which occurred during the period and to their social impact. He includes, for example, a discussion of life styles on farms, in villages, towns, and cities, and a rather extensive analysis of attitudes toward women and the changing roles which women played. He also ably describes the critical importance of ethnic and religious considerations in many aspects of life in that period of Wisconsin's history.

Nesbit, who previously published a one volume history of Wisconsin, has mastered an extraordinary variety of sources and has written a clear, sometimes compelling, historical study. A series of ably executed maps throughout the volume complements his presentation. The third volume in a proposed six volume history of Wisconsin, *Urbanization and Industrialization, 1873-1893*, is an outstanding contribution to our understanding of the history of Wisconsin and to our comprehension of the dynamic forces in the late nineteenth century which changed the face of the country.

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*Paths of Resistance: Tradition and Dignity in Industrializing Missouri.* By David Thelen. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986. Pp. 321. Tables, note on sources, notes, index. \$29.95.)

David Thelen has written a broadly interpretive book about the period between 1877 and 1917, but it is a book designed to influence the present and the future as well, for he discusses the New Right's usurpation of tradition in the present in an introduction and provides a statement about prospects for the future in an epilogue. For Thelen there has been an ongoing struggle between an old order and a new order. In his words: "This struggle occurred within an all-embracing transformation of Missourians' lives that began in the early nineteenth century. In the old order, family, work, leisure, friends, community, natural surroundings, and worship had interwoven to form an integrated fabric. The new order's economic imperatives of competition and growth drove an ever-widening wedge between economic activities and social and cultural traditions. The new order replaced the authority of persons with an invisible hand that created new kinds of dependence, shame, guilt, success, and failure. Soon the relentless competitive demands pushed outward from the economic centers of change in markets, jobs, and business to encompass the ways people relaxed, prayed, and learned. When