managers shaped the production of only-too-visible new corporations around the new market, and when those corporations assumed the power and authority that strong neighbors had wielded in the old order, Missourians discovered that the soulless new corporations felt none of the traditional communal responsibilities that had motivated powerful neighbors in the past” (p. 3).

 Railroad building played a crucial role in establishing the author’s new order, and in his treatment of the period, Jesse James becomes America’s “Classic Social Bandit.” Bald Knobbers, or vigilantes, of southwest Missouri represent the popular belief “that conflicts between the old and new orders could not be contained within formal legal institutions” (p. 92). Public education becomes a tool of the developers of the new order, but, “The developers . . . lost the cultural war over values” (p. 116). The militia and city police forces are depicted as “new military forces [trying] to compel outward obedience to [the] codes of the new order as they supplanted older forms of social discipline” (p. 108).

 In the paragraphs above one will find much to question, including the sufficiency of evidence supporting Thelen’s assertions, but one may well be stimulated to think anew about Missouri after the Civil War. Thelen’s treatment of the Progressive movement in Missouri, on the other hand, is superb. The author’s handling of Folk, Hadley, and the evolution from attacking corporate power to regulating it is well-documented and persuasively argued. The author’s discussion of Scott Joplin is also excellent. Some nine misspelled words should have been caught by the editor.

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 The New American Nation Series, arguably the most complete collection available in American history, has long had a missing link. The first volume in the series, which began in 1954, covered the period from 1912 to 1917. In it the editors told of their plans for a succeeding volume “on the First World War and the collapse of Wilsonian idealism and internationalism.” This gap has been aptly filled by Robert H. Ferrell’s book.
The volume is not a mere synthesis of secondary sources, but one that draws on the archives of four countries, manuscript collections, oral histories, and the unpublished reminiscences of some of the military participants in the war. The author makes particularly effective use of the diaries and letters of soldiers (including that of Captain Harry S Truman) to personalize the large movements in which they participated. The result is a lively and readable account of events that are still shaping our lives.

Ferrell movingly describes the battles of the summer of 1918, noting the valor of the new American army as well as the needlessness of many of its sacrifices. But in securing victory for the Allies this same American army prevented the war from ending in a negotiated settlement; a result which Wilson believed was the best long-term solution to the conflict.

The book begins with Wilson's request for a declaration of war and ends with the election of 1920. These were momentous and crowded years. But because Ferrell's book is brief (only 235 pages of text), there is necessarily some unevenness in the coverage, which focuses on military, diplomatic, and political developments.

The author is generally critical of Wilson's handling of the war, but he does not hold the president responsible for flaws in the Treaty of Versailles. Although conceding that Wilson made some tactical errors, he ascribes the failure of the peacemakers to world forces that were simply too large to be analyzed and handled.

Ferrell is most critical of Wilson's efforts to obtain Senate ratification of the treaty. He believes that the Senate would have approved the treaty if Wilson had made even a minimal effort to understand his opponents. The author attributes the president's reluctance to court congressional support to his innate shyness and his tendency to view political issues in terms of black and white. The resulting struggle brought Wilson's "brilliant political career to a pitiful end" (p. 156).

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From the stage of the Grand Ole Opry on April 19, 1986, came the announcement by Bobby Osborne of the internationally famous Osborne Brothers bluegrass group that, "Tonight,