

the national elite in Congress. Using multidimensional scaling, a statistical technique allowing for the spatial representation of the votes of members of Congress, he describes the shift from disparate factions to this polarized association of the members by 1803. Next, he uses spatial representation of selected roll call votes to define the issue basis for factions and polarized blocs. At this stage an exploratory use of regression analysis is utilized in a unique effort to plot vectors to indicate the direction of support for each issue. Although this procedure is at best an estimation technique that must be cautiously referenced, it helps illustrate the increasing degree of polarization on assorted issues within Congress.

The weakest part of Hoadley's effort is his final chapter. Here he attempts to associate selected independent variables with the dependent variable of the pattern of factions and polarity in congressional voting. Very briefly, with oblique reference to his data, he suggests that variables such as issues, sectionalism, and the personal alliances of the boardinghouse do not explain the development of cohesive voting blocs in Congress. Instead, he implies a structural explanation. According to his brief sketch of this explanation, the polarization of Congress is associated with an independent executive. The development of policy positions by the executive forces a choice of support or nonsupport of the executive on Congress. Members thus polarize into blocs and develop a party identity. Unfortunately, the author does not use any historical evidence to elucidate how the blocs developed a party identity. Also, he fails to explore why a united opposition appeared and why the support of the executive was important for members of Congress.

Despite these caveats there is still much of importance in this book. It helps sort out the dimensions of conflicts over political issues in the early republic. It directs attention to the importance of national elites in the formation of American parties. It suggests a need to examine the effect of political structures and constitutional arrangements on the evaluation of parties. Finally, it indicates that hypothesis testing can improve scholars' understanding of historical change.

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Old Abe the War Eagle: A True Story of the Civil War and Reconstruction. By Richard H. Zeitlin. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. Pp. vi, 113. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography. Paperbound, \$7.95.)

In this unusual book Richard H. Zeitlin presents the history of "Old Abe," the eagle mascot of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteers of the Civil War. Old Abe's career is in itself remarkable and worth recounting in the midst of the current renaissance of interest in

the Civil War, but Zeitlin also uses the bird's story as a vehicle for a number of other stories. The book is, therefore, a veritable pot-pourri of mid- and late nineteenth-century history with the eagle as the unifying force.

A Disney Studio writer could not improve on the true story of Old Abe. Born in rural Wisconsin, the eagle was originally captured by Chippewa Indians in 1861 and traded to a farm family for a bushel of corn. Adopted by the newly raised Company C of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteers, the eagle went to war and participated in the long and hard service of that regiment. Returning to Wisconsin after the war, he became a pet of the state and a genuine national celebrity and traveled widely as a feature of patriotic meetings and conventions until his death in 1881.

The eagle's story is, of course, inextricably connected with the story of the Eighth Wisconsin. The book, therefore, contains a regimental history of that organization. Its marches and battles are included, as are the details of the common soldiers' lives and the incredible hardships of their service. Also recorded are biographical sketches of a number of the officers and enlisted men of the regiment.

Old Abe's postwar career is then recounted, and this story leads to an account of the activities of the veterans in that era, activities with which the eagle was intimately associated. Because the postwar veterans' organizations were in the forefront of Republican "bloody-shirt" politics, these, too, are described. Adopted by the veterans' groups for this purpose, in the author's words, "Old Abe became a perfect symbol of nationalistic Republicanism, a living version of the Bloody Shirt" (p. 80). The eagle's involvement in the centennial celebration of 1876 permits the author to describe that episode of Americana. And because all of the postwar events touched by the eagle took place during the heyday of American Victorianism, the reader grasps the flavor of that sentimental and colorful time.

The book contains a number of fine photographs of the eagle and the events and people with which the book is concerned. These enliven the text significantly. Zeitlin is a professional historian and a careful and deep researcher, as his copious citations attest. He is also a graceful writer, thoroughly at home in Civil War history and the period and events about which he writes. Replete with information and insights, this book is an excellent exposition of its several themes.

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Organized for Prohibition: A New History of the Anti-Saloon League.

By K. Austin Kerr. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1985. Pp. xvii, 293. Notes, illustrations, note on sources, index. \$25.00.)

Early in this work K. Austin Kerr reminds his readers that the prohibition movement in the United States was directed against