

including St. Louis, Missouri, also backed the river up nearly sixty-five miles and resulted in a number of unanticipated consequences. These consequences led to public controversies over the failure of the dam to provide power at cheaper rates, the interpretation of the meaning of conservation, and the growing concern of scientists over the impact of the dam on the river's aquatic habitat. Scarpino also describes the formation of the button industry, which led to studies by the Bureau of Fisheries that identified the impact of modernization on the river.

The degradation of the environment of the upper Mississippi River led to the founding of the Izaak Walton League, which was the leading force in establishing the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge and the major proponent of legislation to protect the river environment. The rapid expansion of this organization and its widespread influence was due to the dynamic leadership of Will Dilg whose public relations campaigns resulted in improving water quality and an expanding membership. The Izaak Walton League and the Bureau of Fisheries became the major proponents of preserving the water quality and aquatic habitat of the river in the face of extensive drainage of land and increasing pollution of the river.

By 1930 twenty-six locks had been constructed on the river to improve navigation. An unanticipated consequence of these locks was the formation of pools which became collectors of sewage and erosion from upriver. The response of the cities that produced the pollution depended on their proximity to the stench of the pools.

Scarpino's thoroughly researched volume is a welcome addition to the slim list of books on the upper Mississippi River region in the period after the Civil War. It is especially valuable because its insights from the past will help readers both to understand current environmental issues more clearly and to identify issues that are of significant importance to the quality of life on the upper Mississippi.

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*American Choices: Social Dilemmas and Public Policy since 1960.*

Edited by Robert H. Bremner, Gary W. Reichard, and Richard J. Hopkins. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1986. Pp. xiv, 272. Notes, tables, illustration, index. \$30.00.)

Collections of essays typically face four potential problems: lack of originality, lack of focus, unevenness, and confusion over audience. Too many of these compendia include essays that have been "published elsewhere"; given modern copying techniques, such works are essentially redundant no matter how creatively edited. *Festschriften* in particular share the second problem; they are held

together only tenuously by some connection to "the great mentor." All scholars are aware of the reviewer's favorite "collection cliché": "The essays are uneven in their quality." Finally, many editors are woefully unsure of their audience: expert or undergraduate? doctoral candidate or generalist? (Few scholarly collections ever dare aim at the layperson.)

Fortunately, *American Choices* largely overcomes these problems. For this work the editors specifically commissioned nine original essays from leading scholars concerning the recent American past. Moreover, the essays are tied to a coherent theme—social and economic impacts on policy decisions since 1960—and each serves as an interpretative overview of basic problems, tensions, and trends rather than a foray into arcane original research. The essays are also basically uniform in quality, style, and coverage in spite of the multitude of facets included: poverty, civil rights, the women's movement, education, nuclear issues, the national economy, energy transitions, America and the world economy, and the Vietnam generation.

There is some minor confusion over audience, more the result of modern educational disparities than the fault of the editors. Specialists will find little in these essays that is new or surprising, while some generalists may have rough sledding with the sections on economics. First-rate graduate students and weak undergraduates may react similarly. The work is probably best suited for use with upper-level undergraduates and master's candidates. One only hopes that the publishers will bring out a paperback edition of this fine collection for such courses.

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Anthony O. Edmonds

*Peace Heroes in Twentieth-Century America*. Edited and with an introduction by Charles DeBenedetti. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986. Pp. 276. Notes, illustrations, index. \$22.50.)

At a time when the superpowers appear unable to limit the nuclear arms race, Charles DeBenedetti has put together a useful book, *Peace Heroes in Twentieth-Century America*, that recalls earlier opponents of war and its grim devastation. Religion, a commitment to social justice, and abhorrence of war unites these peace heroes, who deserve respect although many failed to halt the wars they feared.

The peace advocates are a diverse lot. Jane Addams moved from concern about the poor community surrounding Hull House in Chicago to efforts to end World War I. Indiana native Eugene V. Debs broadened his horizon from railroad workers to workers throughout the world and urged working Americans to avoid kill-