

tive, idealistic, and concerned about others, she did not question the cultural norms of the time but instead used a militant organization to foster these standards as they related to family life, poverty, and international understanding. She enjoyed her involvements and grew from her experiences, but she never foresaw the challenges future social critics would hurl at her most cherished beliefs.

Bordin's work is a fine study of an outstanding American woman. It extends but does not contradict the interpretation Willard presented earlier in her work *Woman and Temperance*. It is based on a wealth of resource material. The most important feature of the work is that it casts Willard's life into a perspective that acknowledges and highlights her gifts while noting their limitation to and rootedness in a distinct historical time period.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College,
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Suzanne Dailey, S.P.

Frederick Jackson Turner: Wisconsin's Historian of the Frontier.

Edited by Martin Ridge. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. Pp. vii, 71. Illustrations, bibliographic note, notes. Paperbound, \$6.95.)

No historian has made more of an impact on the American historical scene during the past century than Frederick Jackson Turner. Thus, despite the books and articles written about Turner and his famous frontier thesis, Martin Ridge is on firm ground when stating in his excellent introduction that there is little need to justify the publication of this volume of essays by and about this noted historian.

Ray Allen Billington's contribution, entitled "Young Fred Turner," ably illustrates how his subject was influenced by the frontier aura that rural and small-town Wisconsin still possessed during his boyhood. It is clear that Turner himself fully recognized the effect this environment exerted on his later work.

Whether read for the first or fifth time, Turner's essay on the "Significance of the Frontier in American History" can readily be appreciated. At the heart of his argument, first presented at a meeting of the American Historical Society in 1893, was the thesis that the process of moving westward in a succession of frontiers from the Atlantic had been of paramount importance in forming the American character and nation. After years of discussion and controversy, most present historians accept the general validity of this premise, while often also giving emphasis to other elements they believe were decisive in determining the uniqueness of American development.

The last essay is Turner's "The Significance of History," published in 1891, in which he challenged the then prevailing schools

of historical thought. History, he says, "is to be taken in no narrow sense. It is more than past literature, more than past politics, more than past economics. It is the self-consciousness of humanity—humanity's effort to understand itself through the study of its past" (p. 61).

It perhaps would have been more logical to have placed Turner's two articles in chronological order, but that is a minor point. This book will be of value to anyone interested in the study of American history.

George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, Robert J. Holden
Vincennes, Ind.

Redeeming the Time: A People's History of the 1920s and the New Deal. By Page Smith. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1987. Pp. xiii, 1205. Illustrations, index. \$34.95.)

This is the eighth and final volume of Page Smith's *A People's History of the United States*, published over the past ten years. This volume tells the story of the tumultuous period 1922 to 1941, beginning with the flamboyant Roaring Twenties, which sets the stage for the devastating depression that shook the very foundation of the Republic. The author could not resist, however, the urge "at least to sketch in the interval between the entry of the United States into World War II and the present day," which comprises the volume's final fifty pages. This work is so exhaustive that an adequate review within normal space limitations is impossible.

The presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt is covered in depth. He is portrayed as the dominant figure of the 1930s, whose New Deal gave hope and purpose to the nation, preparing it to assist the Allies in their 1939–1940 fight against the fascism of the Axis powers. The author goes so far as to call FDR "our ablest and most visionary president," a judgment which is, of course, clearly subject to challenge.

A major theme of the work is that "The history of the United States can be seen as a prolonged contest between the value of community and the code of individualism." The author obviously is a proponent of the values of community. And he has a definite left-of-center viewpoint. Much of his discussion of communism, for example, both Russian and American style, is not unfavorable in tone. Smith states that "considering the requirements of the times and the contingent character of all human enterprises, the various denominations of communists served their country well." The penultimate chapter is significantly entitled "Postwar America: Suppressing the Left"—clear proof of the author's sympathies.

Smith's history-writing is unusual in that he provides neither footnote references nor bibliography; yet, he is able to recite numerous minute factual details and direct quotations in a well-or-