

In his efforts to survey the entire field of Cooperative Extension in the United States, Rasmussen faces a formidable, perhaps even impossible, task. Although all state Extension Services shared a common structure and relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture, regional variations affected the thinking and procedures of local Extension officials. Even the acceptance of Extension by area farmers varied from state to state; in fact, it often varied from township to township within the same county. Although Rasmussen does briefly note many of these differences, many regional and state variations are unavoidably obscured because of his wide perspective.

Even with this limitation the book manifests the vast knowledge of Extension that Rasmussen has gained over a professional lifetime of working for the USDA. It provides an excellent general overview of the Extension Service throughout the country and a thorough understanding of the way the cooperative relationship worked between the USDA, the state land grant colleges, and the county Extension organizations. The reader only wishes that the book were twice its present length so that Rasmussen might have included more information on the Extension Service after 1945 and more on specific state services, information that he obviously possesses. The volume is well written and provides an informative and a readable account for both the professional and the lay person.

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Regions and Regionalism in the United States. By Michael Bradshaw. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1988. Pp. x, 187. Figures, graphs, maps, tables, bibliography, index. Cloth-bound, \$27.50; paperbound, \$12.95.)

Region and Regionalism in the United States: A Source Book for the Humanities and Social Sciences. By Michael Steiner and Clarence Mondale. (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988. Pp. xvii, 495. Notes, bibliographies, index. \$69.00.)

Michael Bradshaw in his overview of American regionalism contends that a regional perspective would enhance public policy decisions with regard to many issues; however, he believes that there is a problem with identifying the most appropriate set of regions. A British geographer, he argues that the confusion over contemporary regions of America results from "the fact that most regional geographies assume a 'snapshot' static view of regional divisions." Instead, he states, "A historical input is required" (p. 27). Bradshaw, however, does not seem to have considered the

work of two of the leading American regional geographers, D. W. Meinig and Peirce Lewis; and although the name of a third major regionalist, Wilbur Zelinsky, appears in the bibliography, Zelinsky's interpretation is not evident in the text. For example, the mid-twentieth-century American regions depicted on page 49 are urban hinterlands, a functional, not a historical, definition. Perhaps Bradshaw has given short shrift to the literature in historical geography because of its primarily cultural emphasis whereas Bradshaw believes mainly in economic regionalization: "the most important socio-economic differences between regions are those which are based on inequalities which emerge between groups of people and so between the regions in which they live" (p. 60).

Bradshaw also provides case studies of regions—Frostbelt versus Sunbelt, East versus West, the Tennessee Valley, and Appalachia among others—distinctive with regard to economic base, degree of affluence, and economic problems. Again, cultural distinctions are not considered. One wonders about the usefulness of public policy decisions made by planners with little appreciation of regional culture.

Michael Steiner and Clarence Mondale have written a very different and much richer book on American regionalism. Their work provides an annotated bibliography of the literature on American regionalism from many disciplines, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, literature, political science, and sociology. The section on geography is divided into "Region as Concept," "Perception Studies," "Landscape and Settlement," and "Distributional Studies." The section on history includes units on "Frontier and Landscape" and "Family and Community Studies." This source book is an indispensable resource for anyone seriously interested in the geographical complexity of American society. It is surprising, however, that Robert S. and Helen M. Lynd's *Middletown* and James West's *Plainville, U.S.A.* were not included under sociology. Although these communities might appear to be typically American and not regional, in fact they are quintessentially midwestern.

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Panther in the Sky. By James Alexander Thom. (New York: Ballantine Books, 1989. Pp. 655. Maps, illustration. \$19.95.)

Following his best-selling *From Sea to Shining Sea* (1984), James Alexander Thom turns his attention to the other side of the frontier in a novel based on the life of the Shawnee chief Tecumseh. Thom reconstructs a dramatic story, tries to tell it from the