

ical in enlarging the locational definition of the Midwest, arguing that this twelve-state area mediated between the old industrial East and the youthful West. The Midwest, he maintained, was pastoral, mature, and the quintessence of things American because its people were more native-born and egalitarian than in eastern cities.

The apogee of the positive image of the Midwest occurred by 1920, but thereafter it quickly declined and reached its nadir by 1950. According to Shortridge, two events caused the decline of the image of the Midwest: the publication of *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis and the agricultural depression of the 1920s. Lewis depicted the Midwest as conformist and materialistic, while the depression revealed the economic weakness of farmers. These attitudes were not overcome until the 1960s, when negative views of American cities (associated more with the East and West despite the large Midwest cities of the Great Lakes) made the Midwest (rural in image if not in fact) more attractive. Interestingly, the nostalgia for the Midwest shifted its geographical center back to Kansas and Nebraska because they were mostly rural. In addition, many added Oklahoma to the Midwest and excluded Ohio, at least as based on Shortridge's study of the mental maps of American college students. Indiana remained part of the Midwest, although its southern half was considered to be on the fringe because of its Upland South culture. College students imagined the Midwest to be rooted in place and genuine rather than superficial in personality, both part of the pastoral tradition.

Shortridge has created an intriguing overview of the history of the idea of the Midwest in American culture. Perhaps he will stimulate more regional (rather than only state) study of the American heartland. There is still need for a general history or historical geography of the Midwest that is as broadly conceived as Shortridge's definition.

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The Genesis of Missouri: From Wilderness Outpost to Statehood.

By William E. Foley. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989. Pp. x, 367. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$32.00; paperbound, \$17.95.)

William E. Foley's work on the early history of Missouri is an expanded version of the volume he wrote in 1971 for the multi-volume *Missouri Sesquicentennial History*. As the subtitle indicates, the book covers the period from the earliest French explora-

tions of the Missouri area in the late seventeenth century to Missouri's admission to the union in 1820.

When someone writes a second book on a topic, the obvious question is whether the new book is substantially the same book as the first one, or whether significant new research and thinking have made the latter book a different one. In this case, the answer depends on the part of the book being considered. Most of the new work in this volume deals with the economy and society of early Missouri, especially during the French and Spanish periods. The author has done an excellent job of incorporating recent research by social historians and anthropologists to present a richly detailed picture of the lives of the French, Indians, blacks, and American settlers in the state. His treatment of the commercial relations between the French traders and the Osage and other western Indians is especially good, illuminating the Indian perspective as well as the French.

The only weakness in the handling of the French period is the absence of any discussion of the broader French community in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Because the French in Missouri maintained extensive commercial and social ties with the settlements in Illinois and Vincennes, some discussion of this larger community would seem to have been in order even if it meant going beyond the political boundaries of Missouri.

In contrast to the sections on Missouri social history, the sections on territorial politics, occupying most of the latter half of the book, cover much the same ground as the 1971 book. In fact, a substantial amount was taken straight from the earlier book with only minor additions and word changes.

Nonetheless, this volume is clearly much more than just an updated edition of Foley's earlier work, and it must be regarded as the starting point for anyone interested in the early history of Missouri. Its scholarship is sound, its writing style is engaging, and its illustrations and maps are abundant, a combination of traits not always present in state histories.

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Ohio and Its People. By George W. Knepper. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1989. Pp. xi, 508. Maps, illustrations, appendixes, tables, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$32.00; paperbound, \$17.50.)

Producing a single-volume narrative history of any American state, particularly one as old and economically and demographically diverse as Ohio, is a formidable undertaking fraught with questions of inclusivity, balance, cohesion, and readability. *Ohio*