

Making a New Deal would suggest. Cohen, for example, overlooks the ways in which the concept of moral capitalism was gendered and the extent to which the CIO's endorsement of conventional gender ideology undermined the ability of all workers—male and female—to challenge employers. By paying the subject insufficient attention, Cohen misses an opportunity to strengthen the book's larger argument. This weakness, however, does not seriously detract from the book's great merit. Extensively researched, provocatively and compellingly argued, *Making a New Deal* is an impressive achievement.

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Capital on the Kentucky: A Two Hundred Year History of Frankfort & Franklin County. By Carl E. Kramer. (Frankfort, Ky.: Historic Frankfort, Inc., 1986. Pp. [viii], 414. Illustrations, maps, index. \$29.95, plus \$2.00 shipping.)

Carl E. Kramer's *Capital on the Kentucky: A Two Hundred Year History of Frankfort & Franklin County* is an excellent book. It joins a growing list of community and county histories written by professional historians and intended for a general audience. Kramer's up-to-date knowledge of the history and the historiography of Kentucky and the United States shows on every page. In fact his book could easily serve as a primer on Kentucky and United States history for he artfully weaves the history of Franklin County into great events of the Bluegrass state such as the Tollgate Wars of the 1890s and the mileposts of United States history such as the Civil War, the industrial revolution, and the Great Depression. *Capital on the Kentucky* is well written and beautifully produced with numerous black-and-white and color photographs and illustrations. Kramer offers no over-arching thesis, and he breaks no new ground; but there are several reasons why historians and lay persons will want to read this book. First, while Kramer does not equate community development with "progress," he points out that community success in the United States is now and always has been economic success. Second, Kramer argues convincingly that the key to economic success has never been a mystery. It was and is a function of available natural resources, transportation, capital, and imaginative leadership. Franklin County possessed all of these, and it flourished. Also, it did not hurt that Frankfort was the state capital.

Some town and county histories are little more than tributes to great families and records of entrepreneurial activity. Leading families and entrepreneurs can be found in *Capital on the Kentucky*, but, when defining "leadership," Kramer emphasizes neither

particular families nor particular individuals. Rather, he argues perceptively that community building in Franklin County and in the United States was usually a cooperative affair involving local leaders and federal, state, and local government.

Capital on the Kentucky is a thoughtful and thought-provoking book. Kramer reminds readers that, if Franklin County's experience was typical, community building always meant having something to sell, someone to sell it to, and some way to get it there. It is a point to ponder as Americans drive made-somewhere-else automobiles over deteriorating roads while wondering whatever happened to the railroads.

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The New American History. Edited by Eric Foner, for the American Historical Association. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1990. Pp. xi, 292. Bibliographies, notes. Clothbound, \$39.95; paperbound, \$16.95.)

This useful collection draws together thirteen essays by noted professional historians who were originally commissioned by the American Historical Association to acquaint high school teachers "with the most up-to-date historical scholarship" (p. vii). The essays—seven on conventional chronological periods and six on such "themes" as labor, women, and diplomacy—vary in quality, but they present a sensible accounting of major interpretive issues and a helpful guide to significant recent books and articles. Accordingly, *The New American History* will be of interest to teachers, graduate students, and anyone curious about where the study of American history has been and where it may—or may not—be going.

Understandably, the volume exudes a strong sense of satisfaction. As the editor, Eric Foner, and the other contributors make plain, American historians have achieved a great deal over the last generation. They have shattered an older progressive view of national history centered on politics and powerful white men; they have broadened the definition of history by insisting on the centrality of such less-powerful people as workers, immigrants, women, Native Americans, and African Americans; and they have enriched the practice of history by using demography, statistics, and social scientific theory. In recounting these achievements the book also reveals the tricky balancing act crucial to contemporary historiography: the simultaneous contentions that America has seen inequality and oppression but that ordinary Americans have nonetheless made their own lives with creativity and dignity.

There are one or two clouds on the horizon of *The New American History*. Despite the emphasis on the breadth of modern his-