

extension to all forms of popular culture. Her interviews and profiles of several country performers, especially Richard Bennett, Mike Lawler, Kathy Chiavola, and Rodney Crowell, provide valuable insights into the contemporary country music business. The University of North Carolina Press should be congratulated for agreeing to include as part of the package a compact disc that provides examples of the music discussed in the book.

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Ohio Politics. Edited by Alexander P. Lamis with the assistance of Mary Anne Sharkey. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1994. Pp. xxii, 417. Illustrations, figures, tables, notes, bibliographical essay, index. Clothbound, \$35.00; paperbound, \$17.00.)

Despite the seminal work of the late V. O. Key, Jr., on southern politics and state political systems, there have been relatively few recent, comprehensive examinations of the government and political processes of individual states. Although there are many articles on comparative state politics, some excellent books on intergovernmental relations, and occasional texts on the government of particular states, most state politics have not received the same degree of attention and careful study as has the national government.

Ohio may be better off than most states, for in the past twenty years at least three anthologies have been published on its politics, as has a two-volume work on the structure of state government. The latest effort, edited by Alexander Lamis and Mary Anne Sharkey, is perhaps the best recent collection on government and politics in the Buckeye State.

Ohio Politics consists of fifteen chapters and a bibliographical essay. The first chapter, by the eminent Ohio historian George Knepper, provides an overview of the state's political history. Seven chapters that follow the Knepper piece consider Ohio politics in the postwar era, examining major developments during the administrations of Governors Lausche, O'Neill, DiSalle, Rhodes, Gilligan, Celeste, and Voinovich. There are chapters dealing with the news media and their coverage of Ohio politics, as well as those that explore Ohio's congressional delegation. The last five chapters discuss major political institutions and processes—the legislature, the executive branch, the judiciary, interest groups, and elections and political parties.

Even though no single framework or model of politics links together all of the chapters, they are, without exception, informative and well written. The interdisciplinary nature of this book—

the authors are drawn from such diverse fields as journalism, political science, history, and public relations—provides a number of interesting perspectives on politics, which adds to the value of the contributions. Serious students of political history and state government should find this work to be a useful reference. It would make a good addition to the collection of any university library concerned with midwestern politics.

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The Other Brahmins: Boston's Black Upper Class, 1750–1950. By Adelaide M. Cromwell. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1994. Pp. xii, 284. Illustrations, appendixes, tables, figures, notes, bibliography, index. \$26.00.)

The framework for *The Other Brahmins* resembles that of numerous sociological studies of black communities published between the 1930s and 1950s. In examining the black upper class in Boston in 1950, Adelaide M. Cromwell seeks to determine whether this group was social, economic, or political. A second question concerns the general American definition of upper class and its usefulness in describing African-American experiences. The overall objective is to establish the relationship between class and caste based on the experiences of Boston's black upper class.

The conclusions of the primary research chapters are similar to conclusions of other studies as well. For example, people identified as members of the black upper class in Boston in 1950 were primarily members of Episcopalian, Congregational, or Catholic churches; born in the Boston area; and generally not college graduates. Although 86 percent of the women surveyed were married, 25 percent had no children, and only 10 percent had more than three. Most owned the houses in which they lived. The families took vacations, enrolled their children in music and dance classes, participated in a variety of social clubs (some of them exclusive), and socialized primarily in public (rather than in their homes as an earlier generation did). Predictably, they did not base upper-class status on income or occupation, and they believed that color (complexion) was a factor in individual opportunities. They did not identify with Africa, but they had strong opinions supporting people of color around the world. And they were sharply divided on the question of whether segregation retarded or enhanced African-American advancement.