

Tracing the events to the U.S. Supreme Court case, Gordon explores the dynamics of the border culture by race, class, ethnicity, religion, occupation, and gender. She studies the changing group dynamics following the expulsion of Chinese miners and the strike of 1903 and argues that skilled better-paid Mexicans, who had achieved some acceptance, were redefined as “other” and excluded from whiteness. Whether the strike, the kidnaping, or economic transformation was the key factor is unclear, since other mining towns underwent similar changes.

Gordon demonstrates that women, whether Foundling Hospital nuns, Anglos, or Mexicans, were not as passive in the public sphere as is sometimes assumed. Mexican women had a role in adopting the orphans, as did Anglo women in the kidnaping and mob activity. Labor, benefit societies, and child welfare policies also constitute elements of Gordon’s narrative and analysis.

Her discussion of whiteness, while not original, as Gordon’s extensive footnotes acknowledge, is a fine example of current literature that wrestles with the multifaceted nature of how people define themselves and others. Considering the paucity of documentation, Gordon does a fine job piecing together the Mexicans’ role.

There are problems, many of which could have been eliminated by good editing. Lists of characters, chapters without numbers, and maps that reverse the normal way of showing geographical areas annoy the reader. There are also many typos. Gordon has, at times, an awkward style and an odd vocabulary. But her end notes are helpful and easy to use.

The book is well worth reading, as she uses the narrative of the orphans’ kidnaping to examine the complex issues of definition of self in two mining camps that were changing from the fluidity of the frontier into settled communities.

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*The Korean War: No Victors, No Vanquished.* By Stanley Sandler. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1999. Pp. xiv, 330. Maps, illustrations, notes, select bibliography, index. Cloth-bound, \$42.00; paperbound, \$19.00.)

The military encounter in Korea was one of the most important events in the Cold War. The events on this peninsula helped to define the nature of international conflict during the long period of the U.S.—Soviet confrontation. Yet, despite this significance, the level of attention historians have accorded Korea is sparse compared to the “good” war that preceded it and the divisive but strategically insignif-

icant "bad" one that followed. A good measure of this historical amnesia is that readers can easily count the number of surveys of the fighting in Korea designed for classroom use with their fingers.

Stanley Sandler has produced a text that is a contender for the distinction of being the best work in this narrow field. Sandler has the credentials to write this book. He served as a historian for the U.S. Army and has written on a number of military topics, including a large reference work on this conflict. It is no surprise then that Sandler chooses to focus primarily on combat operations. "The course of the Korean War was, hardly surprisingly, more affected by events on the battlefield than by any other factor" (p. i). He contends that both the Americans and the Chinese learned from this experience. "It is a tribute to both armies that they came out of the Korean War as considerably better forces than when they went in" (p. 264). The biggest impact of the fighting, however, was political. "In the long-range view, the Korean War, for all of its destruction, waste and human costs, was not fought in vain. Whatever the failings of the Rhee regime and its immediate successors, South Korea was spared the worst of the Stalinist regimes and eventually emerged with something far better" (p. 270).

The text starts with a short chapter on Korea up to 1950 that provides one of the most concise yet informative descriptions of the political divisions on the peninsula and the origins of the conflict available in English. The next six chapters account for slightly over a third of the text and take the reader through the first year of the war as communist and United Nations armies march up and down the entire length of Korea.

Most surveys on this conflict move to a thematic format after covering the ebb and flow period, and this work is no different. Chapters on the air war, naval engagements, and the truce talks follow those chronicling the first year. Although this approach is standard for the genre, two of these chapters, one on allied involvement in the fighting and another on rear echelon units, draw attention to topics that might easily be overlooked in a chronological format. Sandler clearly shows that other UN members made an appreciable addition to U.S. combat strength. In most cases these contributions were small, but taken together they were significant. Given the focus of this study, the chapter on the home fronts seems out of place, and there is less discussion of logistical issues in the chapter entitled "Behind the Lines" than one might reasonably expect.

Nice bonus features include a concise chronology of the war, which oddly starts with the formation of the Chosun kingdom circa 2000 B.C., and a topically organized bibliography that gives the reader an introduction to the major works on the field as well as some of the most important scholarship from the post-Cold War era. The lack of detailed maps is a shortcoming, particularly for the chapters on the first year of the war. One final, if minor, note worth mentioning:

British spelling and punctuation appear throughout the text. This style, coming as it does from American author and publisher, is just plain annoying.

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*Nixon and the Environment.* By J. Brooks Flippen. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2000. Pp. ix, 308. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95.)

Until very recently, very few historians have chosen, in the words of Robert Frost, to "take the road less traveled" when studying Richard Nixon by scrutinizing the domestic policies of his administration. Instead, scholars have accepted the interpretation that Nixon's administration revolutionized foreign affairs, was brought down by Watergate, and did little of substance in domestic affairs largely because Nixon himself was uninterested in such trivialities. My own *The Limits of Power, The Nixon and Ford Administrations* (1992) challenged this assertion; Joan Hoff's *Nixon Reconsidered* (1994) shattered it. Now, particularly in journal articles, Nixon's domestic policies are receiving the detailed analysis they deserve. In this vein, J. Brooks Flippen's worthy study, *Nixon and the Environment*, offers the first solid study of a long-neglected aspect of Nixon's tenure.

To Nixon watchers, Nixon has received grudging (if that) credit for forming the Environmental Protection Agency and little else in the field of environmental policy. Flippen fleshes out the picture in all its interesting detail. He does not stoop to hyperbolic revisionism by painting Nixon as a plaid-shirt wearing forest ranger. Rather, he skillfully weaves Nixon's desire to capture the environmental movement with what was always for Nixon the major goal, political gain. Flippen paints Nixon's environmental policy as largely a reactive one created to parry the thrusts of Edmund Muskie and Henry "Scoop" Jackson, two card-carrying environmentalists who were readying their own challenge for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination. But Flippen also succeeds in showing how the environmental policy clashed with other goals of the administration and surprisingly often emerged as the victor. The intra-administration battles led by John Whitaker and Russell Train are told by the author with some grace; the story of Walter Hickel, the peripatetic Secretary of the Interior who found himself shut out of the inner circle, is finally told in detail, providing perhaps the greatest contribution of the book for Nixon scholars.

Flippen's facts and conclusions are well supported. He is conversant not just with the specialty literature, but also with the wide-