

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

NICHOLAS EVAN SARANTAKES is assistant professor of history at Texas A&M University-Commerce, where he teaches a course on the Korean War. He is the author of *Keystone: The American Occupation of Okinawa and U.S. & Japanese Relations* (2001).

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-

ranging Nixon bibliography. He has also made strong use of the materials at the Nixon Presidential Materials Project at the National Archives, which have been well-mined for studies on Watergate but are only beginning to be used for domestic policy analyses. Flippen has also widely interviewed the alumni of the Nixon administration and has an eye for the good quote.

Although the book uses a chronological approach, it would have been more fulfilling to read a chapter on EPA, a chapter on the Clean Air Act, and so on. But let this not deter the reader. This is an important book that sheds light for the first time on an area of policies for which the author argues convincingly that Nixon has received too little credit. It is also a good read.

JOHN ROBERT GREENE is Paul J. Schupf professor of history and humanities at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, New York.