

ment; before that, however, Cox is unable to clearly show how, why, and when Yarborough overcame his East Texas racism. Cox is more effective in illustrating Yarborough's change of heart over Vietnam and in tying Yarborough's early career as a state lawyer to his successes in establishing national parks and promoting environmental legislation.

Despite the shortcomings, this book should be consulted by those interested in how liberalism operated in Texas. Combined with the numerous studies of Lyndon Johnson, this biography not only reveals why liberalism never dominated in Texas, but also suggests that Texas liberals contributed to national efforts to use the government to bring about social justice.

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Nixon's Civil Rights: Politics, Principle, and Policy. By Dean J. Kotlowski. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001. Pp. x, 404. Notes, select bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

Nothing has been so momentous in modern American social history as the civil rights movement, and in that movement, no single person has been so significant or so enigmatic as Richard Milhouse Nixon. Spokesman for a cynical and divisive "Southern Strategy," Nixon consciously employed appeals to the basest racism in southerners in his 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns; and of course this campaign rhetoric found its appeal in border states like Indiana as well as in the Deep South. Yet, the Nixon record is remarkable: millions, not thousands, of black children entering integrated public schools; a steady rise in income and educational levels in both absolute and relative terms for all African Americans; a forceful and unprecedented integration of the previously segregated labor ranks of construction and building trades; "set aside" programs for minority-owned small businesses in lucrative federal building projects; affirmative action, especially as applied to the previously untouched professional class in the academy, government, and corporate management; and a dramatic expansion of the very concept of civil rights to include women and Native Americans and other "outside" groups in an insightful and epochal multicultural (rather than simply black-and-white) perspective.

In an impressively researched work, Dean J. Kotlowski tries to set Nixon and his people into meaningful context by defining the principles of "Nixonians," noting where his predecessors had gotten us, what he was attempting to accomplish politically, then marking the resulting policy.

The main policy change that Kotlowski finds is the shift from integration in a black-white context to a focus on economics in the context of many different identity groups. The author is at pains to show genuine advances in educational and employment opportunities for that subclass of African Americans who can be identified as "Nixonians" (middling-level, small-business figures who generally describe themselves as "self-made" and who emphasize education and a level playing field), and he is correct to link these achievements to Nixon's principles. As for politics, he is most astute in pointing out how political considerations virtually hamstrung more obviously liberal predecessors.

Kotlowski has used written documents (voluminous despite Nixon's famed secrecy), interviews with principals, contemporaneous—and deeply contentious—press coverage, and the unremitting lava flow of Nixon scholarship set off by his volcanic career. The result is highly readable, useful in the undergraduate classroom, and eye-opening even for those who think themselves already well-informed. The only caveat this correspondent offers is that the conclusion has a rather grudging tone, perhaps reflective of Nixon himself, in which both the many flaws and the many achievements of the man and his men are muddled and smudged after the painstaking and sharply limned preceding chapters. No matter, this study is a must-buy and a must-read.

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