of filmmakers; which films theater owners chose to screen in particular locations; and which photographs news editors chose to publish. Yet the relationship between reality and representation is not always clear. Did viewers ever doubt the authenticity of photographs as they became technologically savvy and more accustomed to cinematic productions? Continued research on the reception of such spectacles would be welcome.

*Lynching and Spectacle* is an excellent example of how visual culture and theory can enhance historical research without obscuring the argument. This work is recommended for historians interested in how race and violence worked together to shape popular culture, and vice versa.

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**Civic Passions**

*Seven Who Launched Progressive America (and What They Teach Us)*

By Cecelia Tichi


Cecelia Tichi’s new book on the Progressive Era exhorts the reader to reconsider Progressive passions and accomplishments through narrative accounts of seven noted Progressive leaders: Alice Hamilton, John R. Commons, Julia Lathrop, Florence Kelley, Louis D. Brandeis, Walter Rauschenbusch, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Tichi’s purpose is to rouse current civic passions by drawing parallels between the concerns of the often quaint-seeming Progressive reformers of the turn of the century and the glaring flaws and corruption of our own polities. Central to this exercise is the vibrant concept of the public good that each of these reformers held up as a beacon in their often exhausting and risky work as public intellectuals and activists.

Tichi’s book is beautifully written and each chapter succeeds in gripping readers by plunging them into the middle of the subject's stream of life, generally at a pivotal moment in his or her career. Tichi begins her account of Alice Hamilton’s career as a pathbreaking industrial toxicologist with her confrontation of Edward Cornish, vice president of the National Lead Company, over the poisoning of workers in his plants. She catches the labor economist John R. Commons on a train platform with some of his students as they embark for Pittsburgh to study the health and welfare of laborers and their families.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett brings up the rear in this parade of research-oriented superstars, and the jaded reader might initially see her as the
“token” African American in this group. But Tichi makes her purpose clear when near the end of the chapter she points out the blind spot toward racial discrimination and harassment shared by virtually all her white reformers except, perhaps, Florence Kelley.

Indiana is well represented in this collection by Alice Hamilton (child of Fort Wayne), and the Midwest more generally by the Chicago connections of so many of these figures. Commons, it might be noted, was a Wisconsin professor.

Tichi concludes the work with a bristling and effective rundown of the civic offenses of private corporations, communication empires, and financial institutions in the period after 2000. She points out that the past resonates in the present, as “private” succeeds “public” as a term of praise in recommending any scheme of reform or philanthropy.

This is a good book. This reviewer will consider it for use in her undergraduate course on the period from 1900 to 1940. For someone who agrees with the basic analysis and political ideology Tichi lays out, it is tempting to let her do that work with today’s undergraduates. There are pitfalls, of course, for historians in using works that pull no ideological punches and work on the individual hero-ism model of social change – though here there is certainly an underlying social structural analysis.

This reviewer also must note, alas, that it was not hard for her to discover the bibliography’s less than encyclopedic reach, since two of her own works were omitted from the core listings: an analytic history of the settlement movement (represented here by Allen Davis’s wonderful but even older Spearheads for Reform) and a detailed biographical article on Agnes Hamilton, cousin of Alice Hamilton, and their shared passion for social change through settlement house activism. That one was published in this very magazine, in fact. A spot check of other obvious titles found them all. If this reviewer were prone to paranoia, she would have good grounds here – but instead she chooses to take these lacunae as a humbling reminder of the fleeting nature of even academic notoriety.