

lationship between the wartime state and the publishing industry. Deeper research into government sources could complement Kingsbury's close textual analysis. Likewise, the author's framing device of propaganda can obscure as much as it reveals: *For Home and Country* relies on an older social science literature that makes it difficult to find the resistant readers who surely pushed back at much of the popular culture Kingsbury grapples with here.

Scholars owe Celia Malone Kingsbury a debt for the research that went

into *For Home and Country*, and further studies will surely emerge from the riches in its bibliography. We very much need a history of popular literature during World War I, and to understand propaganda in its multiple forms, public and private. *For Home and Country* begins to show us the way.

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The Rise of Chicago's Black Metropolis, 1920-1929

By Christopher Robert Reed

(Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2011. Pp. viii, 274. Notes, bibliography, index. \$55.00.)

Christopher Reed examines the growth and maturation of Chicago's African American community between the end of World War I and the onset of the Great Depression. In their classic 1945 study, sociologists St. Clair Drake and Horace Cayton dubbed the racially segregated neighborhood on Chicago's South Side "Black Metropolis"—a culturally and economically dynamic "city within a city." Building on the optimistic tone of Drake and Cayton's study, Reed's account acknowledges the personal and collective agency of residents who built this community in the midst of difficult circumstances, describing the book as "a personal salute to courageous and productive Chicagoans of the 1920s" (p. xiii). He argues that

the term "ghetto," which historians began to use in the 1960s to connote dysfunction, does not accurately describe this all-black district in the first half of the twentieth century.

Reed opens with a discussion of the quantitative and qualitative changes to Chicago's African American community during World War I and the immediate postwar years. The mass influx of southern migrants—responding to an acute labor demand in wartime industries—resulted in an immense expansion of the city's black population. A sense of confidence characterized this recently urbanized, industrialized, and modernized African American—the so-called "New Negro" of the 1920s. Reed pays particular attention to the community's elite

members, relying on archival records, memoirs, biographies, and interviews to construct a narrative that credits these civic leaders with building and shaping the black metropolis.

Reed's remaining chapters explore leaders in business, labor, politics, religion, and culture. Reed particularly shines in the fields of business and politics, describing a "triumvirate" of businessmen—Jesse Binga (banking and real estate); Robert Abbott (publishing); and Anthony Overton (banking, manufacturing, and publishing)—who led not only Chicago's black business community but that of the nation as well. Reed celebrates the successes of these resourceful entrepreneurs who built impressive companies and became rich while meeting the needs of a rapidly expanding, racially segregated, and geographically concentrated consumer market. While they reaped the rewards of American capitalism in the Roaring Twenties, their financial empires proved more fragile than those of their white counterparts as the economy collapsed at the decade's end. In politics, boss Edward H. Wright—the "Iron Master"—ran the Republican Party's black submachine. Though Chicago's African American electorate for the most part voted with the party of Lincoln through the mid-1930s, Reed demonstrates that racial allegiance occasionally won out over party loyalty. Republican Oscar De

Priest—the first African American elected to the U.S. Congress in the twentieth century—embodied the political aspirations of his race when he entered the House of Representatives in 1929. The chapter on politics also includes a discussion of the comparative strengths and influences of Chicago's branches of such prominent national civic and political organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League, Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association, and the Communist Party U.S.A.

Shorter chapters on labor, religion, and culture complete the book. Reed also discusses the leadership of "New Negro Women" throughout this well-written and thoroughly researched narrative. Missing is a dialogue with Davarian Baldwin's *Chicago's New Negroes: The Great Migration and Black Urban Life* (2007). And the production quality of the otherwise appropriate photographic choices is disappointing. But these are minor complaints about a readable and important work in African American and U.S. urban history.

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