

text of the most successful program in American intercollegiate sports is a noteworthy accomplishment.

Any review of *The Sons of Westwood* would be incomplete if it failed to praise Smith's writing style. The book is interesting and readable largely because of the writer's voice. Smith begins his first chapter by adopting Wooden's point of view as he struggled to negotiate the alien Los

Angeles freeway traffic in 1948, the year he left Indiana for UCLA: "John Wooden wanted to turn around, but it was too late. Indiana was long gone in his rearview mirror" (p. 1). Two short sentences that effectively say it all. The rest is historical exegesis and a great read.

DENNIS GILDEA is Professor of Communications at Springfield College.



Detroit's Cold War: The Origins of Postwar Conservatism

By Colleen Doody

(Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2013. Pp. 192. Illustrations, notes, works cited, index. \$50.00.)

More than twenty years after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, few people beyond historians and other scholars remember the intensity of the Cold War. However, its influence is still felt today whenever political conservatives rail against liberals and denounce civil rights initiatives and unions as un-American, anti-freedom, and socialistic. Colleen Doody's *Detroit's Cold War: The Origins of Postwar Conservatism* is a brief but well-researched book that explores the origins of modern conservatism in the United States, and largely debunks the long-held notion that Americans emerged from the New Deal and World War II with a liberal consensus regarding the political economy and society at-large.

Doody uses Detroit, the industrial powerhouse of the nation for most of

the mid-to late twentieth century, as a case study for her inquiry. Union membership peaked during the 1940s and 1950s, and the American Midwest was clearly the world's industrial heartland. Many industrial cities in Indiana and Ohio were immersed in the same political forces as Detroit during this era, but the latter city was the capital of the American labor movement and the fourth largest urban center in the U.S., with a large, growing African American population and an active civil rights movement. During these years, the author argues, the key elements of the modern conservative ethos coalesced: antipathy toward centralized "Big Government"; an embrace of religious conservatism, especially among the city's large Catholic population; a celebration of laissez-faire capitalism; and militant anti-Communism.

In her succinct work, Doody supports her logically developed discussion of each issue with exhaustive research, meaningful evidence, and well-chosen quotes. She makes a strong case that the fundamental ideology of modern conservatism, including that of pundits and political candidates, differs little from that of their counterparts in the 1940s and 1950s. Deeply concerned about the menace of Communism during the Cold War, conservatives saw unions as hotbeds of Communist activity. They believed that their freedom was diminishing in favor of civil rights for African Americans and other minorities; they worried about the secularization of American society and the corresponding erosion of family values (especially troubling to such groups as the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists); and they voiced concern over the influence of unions and increased restrictions upon the free market economy.

Doody brings human interactions into the history she writes, aptly describing the political and social milieu of post-war Detroit to demonstrate the roots of modern conservatism and

to support the conclusions of recent historiography that liberalism did not actually achieve a consensus after the New Deal. Her prose and constructed arguments are cogent and insightful.

I found very little to criticize, but did find the discussion of the United Auto Workers and its efforts to deal with discrimination a bit thin. The UAW did indeed face serious difficulties promoting civil rights at a national level, while lagging behind wider desegregation efforts within the union itself. The UAW leaders' efforts, however, might have been a bit stronger than Doody suggests. But this point would require a much larger discussion beyond the tight central focus of the book.

In short, this is an excellent book and a significant contribution to the literature regarding the development of modern conservatism, as well as the political battles in Detroit during the 1940s and 1950s. It is a good read and is highly recommended.

MICHAEL O. SMITH is Director, retired, of the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University.

