

to these same lands, however, took decades for courts to reject, facilitated by the non-intervention of a populist-leaning mayor's office and generally supportive media coverage. Streeter's claims endure in the naming of the (Streeterville) neighborhood and in popular imagination, suggesting that non-Native claims place Chicago's Indians in the past, while Pokagon Potawatomi claims undermine the mythology of disappearance.

Low's retelling of the story of the Chicago Canoe Club from 1964 to 1972 is particularly striking. Based at the American Indian Center of Chicago and led by Leroy Wesaw Sr., club members participated in family outings, racing, and reenactments. Their actions evoked historical meanings both of birch bark canoes as an "iconic symbol of Great Lakes Indian identity" (p. 144) and of canoe clubs as a bastion of Chicago's elite. The popular club also enriched current identities, fostering intertribal com-

munity and serving as the "public face of Indians thriving in Chicago" (p. 140). Like the global resurgence in Indigenous canoe building, the Chicago Canoe Club represents a traditional activity that intentionally connects present and past.

From stories to canoes, Low ably demonstrates how the Pokagon Potawatomi have maintained a unique identity and presence in Chicago. Throughout *Imprints*, Low's experiences and responsibilities as a citizen of the Pokagon Band deepen the scholarly analysis. Readers interested in Indiana will learn about Potawatomi connections to the St. Joseph River valley, the Trail of Death, and monuments to the Potawatomi beyond Chicago.

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## *The American President: From Teddy Roosevelt to Bill Clinton*

By William E. Leuchtenburg

(New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Pp. xiv, 886. Illustrations, selected bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

The dean of presidential historians William E. Leuchtenburg has written a sweeping review of twentieth-century presidents. Best known for his books and writings about Franklin D. Roosevelt, Leuchtenburg's main objective in *The American President* is

to highlight the growth and development of presidential power. He—like many other scholars—identifies Theodore Roosevelt as the pivotal president in expanding presidential power and creating the permanent break with the weaker conception

of the presidency exhibited by nineteenth-century presidents.

Leuchtenburg explains that Theodore Roosevelt Jr. had “a lifelong love affair with power” which he used to expand presidential prerogatives in ways unimaginable to his predecessors (p. 31). He aggressively used the Sherman Antitrust Act to break up monopolies and employed the presidential office to force negotiations between big businesses and unions. Such actions were key in setting strong precedents for his successors to expand presidential power even further.

Organizing his book chronologically, Leuchtenburg moves—at times in remarkable detail—from Theodore Roosevelt to review every White House officeholder through Bill Clinton and the path they took in shaping the presidency. Even lesser known twentieth-century presidents such as Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge are covered, albeit in the same twenty-five-page chapter as Herbert Hoover.

As should be expected, Franklin D. Roosevelt occupies an important place in this book, and Leuchtenburg gives the president top billing, rightly noting that he “crafted the template for how a modern chief executive was expected to perform” (p. 242). Leuchtenburg does well to point out the significance of Roosevelt’s creation of the Executive Office of the President and cites a political scientist who explained that this single act may “have saved the Presidency from paralysis” (p. 188). In keeping

with the expansion of the president’s power, Leuchtenburg artfully reviews the ways in which World War II gave Roosevelt the opportunity and ability to extend his influence in both international and domestic affairs.

Leuchtenburg does not gloss over the failings of presidents. He reviews Harry Truman’s constitutional overreach in ordering the federal takeover of steel mills during the Korean War. He also places blame on four presidents, from Dwight Eisenhower to Richard Nixon, for their decisions to involve the United States in the Vietnam War. Ronald Reagan is not spared, as Leuchtenburg rightfully notes the president’s refusal to adhere to the War Powers Act in the bombings of Libya. However, he ignores Bill Clinton’s war powers overreach during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

Leuchtenburg admits that “the dark underside of presidential power cannot be ignored” (p. 812). But it is difficult to square that statement of caution with his praise of presidents who took action to exercise power even in the face of congressional and judicial opposition. Roosevelt’s presidency might well be the model that all subsequent presidents have tried to follow, but one has to wonder if the office has been fetishized to the point of creating excessively high expectations, in the process helping to disrupt the effective functioning of government.

Moreover, he often fails to highlight important events that funda-

mentally altered the presidency and removed checks that traditionally constrained presidential power. For example, despite detailing Truman's controversial decision to commit the United States to war in Korea, Leuchtenburg does not mention that this was the first time in the country's history a president took such action without the approval of Congress.

Coming in at 886 pages, the book includes no footnotes in order to make the work more "accessible to the widest spectrum of citizens" (p. xiii). The lack of citations, however, seems to limit the accessibility of the work, as they often give read-

ers greater clarity and context to understand the people and events referenced. With those criticisms aside, Leuchtenburg has produced an informative book which should provide the reader with a better understanding of the development of the presidency in the twentieth century.

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### *A New Deal for Bronzeville: Housing, Employment, & Civil Rights in Black Chicago, 1935-1955*

By Lionel Kimble Jr.

(Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2015. Pp. xi, 200. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Paper, \$35.00.)

As an urban historian, I was pleased to see that Leon Kimble, Associate Professor of History at Chicago State University, has started his study of Bronzeville in 1935, and not in the manner that has become almost holy writ of works on black Chicago—with descriptions of the original ghetto created by the Great Migration. Kimble attributes his choice to his grandmother and her stories of Chicago. Born in Chicago in 1926, she told stories that were “neither of the Great Migration nor of the American South” (p. ix). Freed from this earlier history of “disfranchisement and powerless-

ness,” Kimble can focus on black Chicagoans as citizens of the city and the U.S., and not as southern migrants making the transition to citizenship. Having that perspective, I believe, brings into focus what was happening in Chicago to working-class African Americans without the constant reference to another region.

By 1935, in the middle of the Great Depression, the principal concerns of black working-class Chicagoans, male and female, were decent, affordable, clean housing and jobs. In an attempt to secure decent housing, black Chicagoans did as other