

The Emergence of the New South, 1913-1945. By George Brown Tindall. *A History of the South*, Volume X. Edited by Wendell Holmes Stephenson and E. Merton Coulter. ([Baton Rouge]: Louisiana State University Press and The Littlefield Fund for Southern History of the University of Texas, 1967. Pp. xv, 807. Notes, illustrations, critical essay on authorities, index. \$12.50.)

The appearance of this work, the ninth volume to be published in a distinguished series, represents a signal accomplishment in regional and national historiography. *The Emergence of the New South* is a brilliant synthesis which invites comparison with C. Vann Woodward's perspicacious *Origins of the New South, 1877-1913* (1951), the preceding volume in *A History of the South*. Tindall's book does not suffer in such a comparison, and the University of North Carolina scholar has now emerged as the historian of the recent South nonpareil. He has written a model regional history, an extraordinarily impressive interpretation of the South's experience during the years 1913-1945, a volume that is imaginatively conceived, gracefully written, and based upon exhaustive research.

The book is skillfully organized on the basis of twenty comprehensive and informative chapters. It begins, appropriately, with politics—a discussion of the South's influential role in the Wilson administration, a characterization of the progressive movement below the Potomac, and an analysis of political affairs in the individual southern states. Successive chapters then deal with the impact of World War I, industrial development in the 1920's, the recurrent agricultural crisis, Negroes and race relations, social currents and the image of the benighted South, politics in the twenties, the emergence of public services, the literary revival, and the ordeal of southern labor. A chapter on the Great Depression provides a transition to the second major part of the book and marks the accelerating pace of regional change. In the chapters that follow the author examines the New Deal and southern agriculture, the regional economy in the 1930's, relief, welfare, and education, the growth of labor unions, the Negro's status, regionalism and sectionalism as views of southern life, politics and the New Deal, literature in the thirties and forties, and the South during World War II. A splendid bibliographical essay rounds out the work.

Tindall has produced a balanced account of political, economic, intellectual, and cultural developments. He has not neglected the region's internal affairs or the existential character of southern history during this period, but he has tried throughout to show the effect of outside forces on the South as well as the section's essential role in the nation. He has, in fact, surmounted the problem of writing a broadly conceived regional history in the absence of a clearly defined spatial entity or institutional focus. At the same time, he does not exaggerate the uniformity of the regional culture; he has a sharp eye for subregional, state, and local variations.

Nor is this static history. It is alive and moving over time. If the analysis of certain aspects of the southern experience could be extended, this weakness is attributable in large part to the ambitious scope of the design and to the absence of scholarly work in some areas, particularly by historians. Tindall views this eventful period in recent southern history as one possessing a good deal of unity. But he advances no insistent interpretation in his portrait of the period, aside from numerous themes of regional emergence and the Southerner's growing consciousness of change. The South did change in many ways between 1913 and 1945, but the change was intermixed with reaction, and at the end of the era the region remained more than ever an American paradox. The way in which that paradox evolved during this momentous period is the burden of this illuminating history.

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