also provide useful insight into how historical interpretations are formed.

William Woods College, Fulton, Mo.  Walden S. Freeman


For those who still question the wisdom of granting women the right to vote on the eve of a national election involving Warren G. Harding, this book should offer the final answer. J. Stanley Lemons of Rhode Island College seeks to explore the role played by activist members of the fair sex in a decade currently undergoing general historical reexamination. He admits his effort is part of that reexamination and contends the feminist movement by no means ended with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Rather, it spilled over into the 1920s and became one component in a surviving progressivism which linked the era of Woodrow Wilson to the era of Franklin Roosevelt.

Early in this work Lemons draws a distinction between “hard core” feminists and social feminists. The former gave first priority at all times to rectifying the subordinate status of the American woman. The latter sympathized with this goal, yet often became disillusioned with the means utilized by extremists and even more often with their disregard for other social reforms. Social feminists believed that by working for all progressive legislation they would simultaneously advance the status of women. It is this latter group that most concerns the author, and it is the one he thinks was most influential in the 1920s.

A case in point is the Shephard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Protection Act of 1921. In spite of attempts by a reluctant Congress to bury the bill, an aroused group of social feminists representing numerous women’s professional organizations mobilized support and eventually forced the passage of this first federal social security act. They then joined other reform groups in similar though less successful efforts for legislation granting national unemployment compensation, health insurance, and enforced limitations on wages
and hours. But the defeat of the child labor amendment in 1925 signalled a decline in the influence of social feminists. Thereafter, the author contends, constant squabbles with hard core feminists, a rapid increase in the number of groups claiming to represent women's interests, and charges that feminists were part of the Spider Web (a series of leftist organizations whose alleged objective was to promote bolshevist principles) all combined to subdue the social feminist movement.

All this Lemons weaves into a coherent, well written study, in which he admirably covers the large number of professional women's organizations existing in the 1920s. His research is extensive, impressing the reader that The Woman Citizen was not quickly composed to take advantage of contemporary reading interests. It is a solid effort which ably supports revisionist scholarship on the 1920s. It also shows that a large number of women voters cast their ballots in the 1920 presidential election for reasons much more valid than the physical attractiveness of one of the candidates.

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale Wayne A. Wiegand


Henry Wallace is an important figure, not only because he might have become President of the United States had not Franklin D. Roosevelt dropped him from the ticket in 1944 but also because of the ideas of social liberalism that he supported. The major thesis of this work by Norman D. Markowitz is that Wallace offered an alternative to the American liberal, both in the domestic and foreign areas, that was not only viable but could have prevented the excesses and solved the dilemmas that were to lead to the anti-Communist liberalism of the years after 1945. Wallace as an old Progressive and New Dealer wanted to continue and expand those traditions into an American social service state that would culminate in the Century of the Common Man. But Roosevelt turned his back on his own domestic program, and