

William F. Deverell & Anne F. Hyde, eds. *The West in the History of the Nation: A Reader*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000. Vol. I: To 1877. Pp. xvi, 332. Paper, \$37.65; ISBN 0-312-19171-5. Vol. II: Since 1865. Pp. xvii, 301. Paper, \$37.65; ISBN 0-312-19211-8.

The West in the History of the Nation is an excellent new primary source document collection that uses "western" examples to illuminate national themes—"western" with quotation marks, because much of the action in volume one takes place east of the one-hundredth meridian, where most western regionalists insist the "real West" begins. The two-volume set, which makes the standard break at Reconstruction, is intended primarily for accompaniment with the United States history survey course, but would also work quite well for courses on the American West.

Historians of the American West have tended to be either regionalists or scholars of the frontier. Regionalists have seen the West as a specific geographical region with distinctive characteristics, while frontier historians have seen the West as an ever-changing frontier zone of cultural interaction, beginning with Jamestown and proceeding westerly as the nation expanded. The editors have done an excellent job of balancing regional and frontier approaches, although, in general, volume one focuses on that ever-westward-moving frontier, whether it be in Pennsylvania or Illinois, while volume two understandably focuses on the regional West.

Although anchored in a frontier or regional context, the documents do a remarkable job of illuminating the broader currents of American history. Indeed, it is incredible to note how much of our national history is bound up with the "West." Most of the documents in these volumes could be included in a general reader of American history with little argument: The Land Ordinance of 1785; Alexander Hamilton's letter to the governor of Pennsylvania during the Whiskey Rebellion; Jefferson's "Secret Message to Congress" and his "Letter of Instruction to Lewis and Clark;" Andrew Jackson's "Annual Message to Congress" for 1830 and 1835; the Missouri Compromise; the Kansas-Nebraska Act; the Lincoln-Douglas Debates; William Jennings Bryan's "Cross of Gold" speech; the Zimmerman Telegram; FDR's Executive Order 9066; Mario Savio's "Address to the Free Speech Movement;" Martin Luther King's "Telegram to Cesar Chavez;" Richard Nixon's "Speech at the Air Force Academy" in support of Vietnam; California's Proposition 187, not to mention numerous first-hand accounts of European colonization, the American Revolution, Indian relocation, slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, industrialization, Progressivism, WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, and the Cold War. Perhaps Frederick Jackson Turner was right—the western frontier has been the defining feature of American life. While the editors would not want to be called Turnerians, this collection of documents makes a strong case for the "significance of the frontier in American history."

While the sources I have mentioned are mostly political, the collection is evenly balanced between political and social documents. The West, like the rest of the nation,

has been a meeting ground for diverse cultures, and these volumes convey the great diversity of American life. Native Americans, women, Latinos, African Americans, and immigrants speak as eloquently as political elites in these documents. Add to these virtues clearly written chapter introductions, good questions for students to ponder, interesting maps and pictures, and these volumes have much to recommend them. But, as is always the case in such a collection, not everyone will be satisfied with every chapter or every document. For instance, the chapter on the 1920s focuses entirely upon Prohibition in the West. While the documents are insightful, the narrow focus slights more momentous transformations that played a larger role in western American and American history in general during the 1920s: the rise of religious fundamentalism and evangelicalism; the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in the West; and, perhaps most importantly, the rise of the automobile, which transformed the western landscape more than any other region. However, the strengths of these volumes far outweigh their drawbacks. This is an outstanding document collection that should find some loyal users, especially among instructors like myself who reside in the West and are constantly seeking ways to make American history more relevant to my western students.

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Anne Enslow & Ridley Enslow. *Music of the American Colonies*. Music CD, 61-page Booklet & Teacher's Guide. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 2000. 61 minutes. Ages: 10-up. \$24.95; ISBN 0-7660-1614-5. Order from Enslow Publishers, Inc., Box 398, 40 Industrial Rd., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922.

Middle and secondary school teachers who are looking for authentic music from the American colonial and revolutionary era will welcome *Music of the American Colonies*. Anne Enslow and Ridley Enslow have provided a diverse selection of musical numbers performed on instruments of the period and/or sung. Although some of the songs originated in England or on the continent, all were actually sung in the colonies. The Enslows plumbed eighteenth-century newspapers, books, and manuscripts in their search for authentic tunes to include among the 22 selections on this CD. The source for each selection is carefully noted in the accompanying teacher's guide.

In recognition of the diversity of the colonial experience, the Enslows have included selections from Spanish, French, and Dutch colonists as well as the English and Scottish. Native American and African American readings and songs are also included. The inclusion of dances, a psalm, a courting song, tavern songs, an anti-smoking song, songs of the revolution, and a variety of other pieces illustrates the importance of music in the everyday life of the colonies.

Students will enjoy the sprightly nature of many of the tunes and will be delighted to find a few familiar tunes. In general, the performance is well done. Accompanied by