

Who should read *The Brother* and how can it be used in teaching history? Weighing in at more than five hundred pages on a very specific topic, the book is clearly not made for high school or undergraduate U.S. survey classes. On the other hand, graduate seminars on the Cold War and the McCarthy era might well benefit by including this book on their updated readings lists.

But *The Brother* is best used by teachers and professors who strive to remain current on recently released historical sources so they can share new views and information with their students. We might agree with Sam Roberts's candid appraisal that David Greenglass was little more than a rat, but even rats can provide new evidence in important debates among historians and, hence, among U.S. history students at all levels. We just must not forget that, with rare exceptions, rats must never be given the last word in our classrooms and, by extension, in life.

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**Vincent J. Cannato. *The Ungovernable City: John Lindsay and His Struggle to Save New York*. New York: Basic Books, 2001. Pp. 720. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN: 0-465-00843-7.**

Despite its unchallenged position as America's preeminent city, the scholarly literature devoted to New York City's history is relatively sparse. The one book that prominently stands out with general readers and historians is Robert Caro's biography of Robert Moses, *The Power Broker*. Vincent Cannato's recently published *The Ungovernable City: John Lindsay and His Struggle to Save New York* deserves to be placed alongside *The Power Broker* as one of the few great books written about New York City. It is also a work that provides brilliant insight into American society during the 1960s. In this sense, *The Ungovernable City* is not only a book about New York, but also a fine history of urban and social life in 1960s America.

*The Ungovernable City* centers around the troubled mayoralty of John V. Lindsay, although it is not really a biography of Lindsay. Rather, the book covers in intricate detail the eight years that Lindsay occupied City Hall and catalogues with brilliant clarity and dramatic prose the many fiscal, racial, and social crises that buffeted New York during that time. The Lindsay that emerges here is not a likeable character; he is a patrician, Yale-educated blueblood, longing to do right by the city's underprivileged, but totally uneducated about how to conduct New York City politics and oblivious to the concerns of the city's middle and working classes. The book moves in a rough chronology, but is more thematic in its organization, with each chapter addressing a particular crisis or troubling episode (such as the Columbia student riots of 1968) and detailing how Mayor Lindsay responded to it. Taken together, the chapters lead the reader to the conclusion that Lindsay presided over the deterioration of New

York from a vibrant, working class city to one riven by racial division and beset with seemingly incurable problems such as slums, poverty, crime, and a spiraling deficit.

The author provides the reader with a decidedly conservative point of view, and readers who remember the 1960s with fondness and longing will most likely resent the conclusions made by Cannato. It is hard to escape the feeling that the author has little use for that era and the ideology that dominated it. Nonetheless, agree or disagree with the author, one cannot dispute the quality and depth of his research, the brilliance of his writing, and the dramatic way in which his narrative unfolds. It is a fine book that challenges the reader to think about its conclusions.

*The Ungovernable City* (like *The Power Broker*) is a hefty tome and as a whole could probably not be used in many history classes. However, each chapter is able to stand on its own and could be used by history teachers to illustrate various themes associated with the history of the 1960s, such as racial riots and urban decay. Further, the book is easy to read and could be used to provide students with a contrasting view of the 1960s not normally present in the largely laudatory histories of the era. Thus, the book would be extremely helpful in demonstrating to students that history is full of contrasting viewpoints and different interpretations. On the whole, *The Ungovernable City* makes a significant contribution to American history, and it would be of use in any class studying the 1960s.

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