

seventy percent opposed slavery but were unwilling to become active in the movement or challenge the legality of slavery.

As a whole, *Antislavery Political Writings* would fit nicely with American History survey courses as well as any upper-level course concentrating on American race/politics, social reform, or nineteenth century issues. Despite a typo on page x and the almost hidden guiding questions in the preface, Thompson has edited and presented a valuable set of sources that treats the abolitionist movement as it should, a complex debate involving morality, politics, ideals, reality, and compromise.

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Mary Ellen Pethel

David W. Southern. *The Progressive Era and Race: Reaction and Reform, 1900-1917.* Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, 2005. Pp. 239. Paper, \$15.95; ISBN 0-88295-234-X.

In *The Progressive Era and Race: Reaction and Reform*, David W. Southern makes an impressive and solid contribution to the study of U.S. race relations from Reconstruction through the First World War. His book, part of the American History Series, presents a broad, multi-layered textual analysis that follows thematic and chronological lines of organization.

From Reconstruction through World War I, Southern argues, the history of African-Americans has always involved two sides: what whites have thought about, or done to, blacks and the aspirations and strivings of blacks to make their lives better in a "hostile white world." In short, Southern suggests that while they might not always have been successful, African-Americans have made mostly valiant efforts in a society that culturally and legally constrained them because of their race.

This theme of unmet expectations begins with the failed promises of Reconstruction. Despite the rhetoric of Lincoln and the Radical Republicans, Southern notes, "Radical Reconstruction was too radical for the American people and yet not radical enough to ensure the lasting rights and security of African Americans. This was the real tragedy of Reconstruction."

Similarly, Southern notes the conservative tendency of most progressives on the race issue, in the midst of what promised to be an enlightened period of economic and political reforms. Except for a "handful" of progressives, most did not have sufficient "progressive conscience" to challenge the "color line." Indeed, Southern argues that because progressivism never truly included ideas of racial equality, African-Americans experienced their lowest point of "post-emancipation life" in the early twentieth century. The problem was even more acute in the South, where regional progressive leaders, deeply imbued with the "Lost Cause" mentality, stubbornly clung to a doctrine of white supremacy.

Southern does point to those few moderate progressives who supported mild racial reforms, contrasting them with the more overt racist politicians such as Ben Tillman and James Vardaman. But it is clear that the "radical" racists controlled the law and the polity in the progressive era.

African-Americans are not held harmless. The social class split within the black community, between the more upscale black mulatto elite and the rest of the black community (also echoed in the split between DuBois and Washington, which Southern also notes), mitigated against a united black challenge to economic, political, and cultural inequality.

Throughout the book, Southern stresses how racial inequality was not simply a regional problem, but a northern and/or national issue in the progressive period. He duly notes the national ideological climate (literature and movies), national political leaders, and the Supreme Court, all of which embraced racial segregation and Jim Crow laws.

Southern ends on an optimistic note at the close of the First World War, discussing the Harlem Renaissance, the growth of jazz, and advancements in education. This becomes the base from which the "final and victorious assault on Jim Crow was launched in the wake of the next World War," he argues.

Perhaps, but the end of World War II also saw a rise in racist group membership, such as in the Klan and in the formation of new ones, such as the White Front or the Columbians. The southern economy remained split along racial lines. And it is worth noting the general unpopularity of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. Only in the 1960s and the "Second Reconstruction," with strong support at the executive and legislative levels of the federal government, was there finally a link made between "progressive" ideas and racial equality.

Instructors of advanced undergraduate classes would find this book very useful in illuminating the ambiguities of race relations in U.S. history. The chapters could also be assigned as separate supplemental readings in graduate post-Civil War, race-relations, or twentieth-century U.S. classes. The book is also full of lecture material. The bibliographical essays at the end of the book are timely and flesh out an interesting chronology of the changing historiography of race relations in U.S. history.

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Ralph Peters

Thomas Fleming. *The Illusion of Victory: America in World War I.* New York: Basic Books, 2003. Pp. 543. Cloth, \$17.50; ISBN 0-465-02469-6.

Although the Great War of 1914-1918 has long been a popular topic for European historians, it has generally been ignored by American scholars. Consequently, few students know much about it, other than vague ideas that the "War to End All Wars" was caused by German submarines sinking the *Lusitania*, America "saving" France, and