

## BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by Walter Darrell Haden

James M. McPherson, *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.

Four years after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox, Harvard historian George Ticknor called the effect of the late national trauma that the Civil War had created "a great gulf between what happened before in our century and what has happened since, or what is likely to happen hereafter. It does not seem to me as if I were living in the country in which I was born." Many other contemporaries felt the same way, especially people living in Kentucky, Tennessee and other Southern states. Indeed, as James M. McPherson, in *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution*, has pointed out, the changes wrought by the four years of Civil War were very revolutionary for Kentucky, Tennessee, the other Southern states, and the North as well.

Abraham Lincoln was not Maximilien de Robespierre or Nicolai Lenin. No Confederate leaders went to the guillotine. Nevertheless, what happened during this war and its aftermath, as McPherson claims, did constitute a revolution. Out of this conflict the loose union of states became a new nation, purged of slavery, while the central authority was increased tremendously. Four million slaves received their freedom by executive order, later confirmed by the Thirteenth Amendment, and without compensation. This emancipation represented the confiscation of about three billion dollars of property or the equivalent of about three trillion dollars as of 1990. This appropriation of property was without parallel in American history. The freedmen received equal rights under the laws of the former Confederate states during the period of Congressional reconstruction, rights that were confirmed somewhat by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. These former slaves, for a time, were elevated to civil and political equality with whites, again a very revolutionary action and especially so when one considers how few blacks could vote in the Northern states at this same time. Also, after 1865, one could say that the future of America belonged to "a system of democratic free-labor capitalism...."

At the time of the war, European radicals considered the events in America as being revolutionary. This was true for Karl Marx. He described "the war for the Union against the 'slave oligarchy' as a potentially world transforming...revolutionary movement" if the North would only move against slavery. When Lincoln did so, Marx was ecstatic. "Never," Marx stated, "has such a gigantic transformation taken place so rapidly as the liberation of four million slaves." Georges Clemenceau, a French journalist and World War I premier of France, admired the radical revolutions known to history.

The war itself was revolutionary in the sense that it was by far the most violent war in our history. About 620,000 "boys in blue and gray" were killed, a figure that almost equals the number of men killed in all of the country's other wars combined. It was also revolutionary in that it largely destroyed the economy of the South. There was widespread destruction: "While the total value of northern wealth increased by 50 percent during the 1860s," McPherson states, "southern wealth decreased by at least 60 percent." The South did not recover for generations to come. The North thus became even stronger economically. Politically, this was also true because the North, through the Republican party, would dominate national politics for the rest of the nineteenth century and beyond, except for the eight years that Grover Cleveland was president. These sweeping transformations "in the balance of economic and political power between North and South undoubtedly merit the label of revolution."

Without doubt the Civil War did partially overthrow the existing social and political order in the South as much as the English Revolution of the 1640s and the French Revolution of the 1790s did. Neither of these revolutions, McPherson states, "totally destroyed the *ancien regime*, and both were followed by counter-revolutions that restored part of the old order...But scarcely anyone denies the label revolution to those events in English and French history. The events of the 1860s in the United States equally deserve the label revolution." However, there was a counter-revolution which overthrew the embryonic experiment in racial equality. It did not, however, restore the old order. For instance, slavery was not reestablished, and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments were not repealed. Black Americans continued to own land and go to school. The second American Revolution, McPherson declared, "left a legacy of black educational and social institutions, a tradition of civil rights activism, and constitutional amendments that provided the legal framework for the second reconstruction of the 1960s" which affected all parts of the nation.

Without doubt, the election of the Kentucky-born Lincoln as President in 1860 and the chain of events this election started did bring about economic and political changes that transformed Kentucky, Tennessee, and the nation at large in many ways. These changes are admirably detailed in the seven essays of McPherson's book, a work that should be in every college and university library.

Lonnie E. Maness, Ph.D.

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Jack Hurst. *Nathan Bedford Forrest: A Biography*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993.

Nathan Bedford Forrest was born in the Duck River area of Middle Tennessee, resided there for the first thirteen years of his life and moved to the northwest part of Mississippi where the Forrests took up residence in Tippah County, an area not far removed from the frontier. He received about six months of formal education, but went on to become a successful businessman during the 1840s and 1850s, amassing a fortune. And his military career was brilliant. He was an untutored military genius which friend and foe came to recognize. All of this is fully documented, as well as his post-war career, by Jack Hurst, a Maryville, Tennessee-born syndicated columnist for the Chicago *Tribune*, in *Nathan Bedford Forrest: A Biography*.

Hurst has written a good biography of Forrest which places him in the context of his times. "By the light of his time and place," Hurst writes, "Nathan Bedford Forrest was a great man; for the modern era, he offers an example even greater," (p. 11) especially in the area of racial enlightenment. Not only did he order the dissolution of the KKK "but went on to disavow race hatred, to protest and decry racial discrimination and, during his last two years of life, to publicly call for social as well as political advancement for blacks." (p. 11) His social attitudes toward blacks were more advanced than that of most Southern whites and Northerners as well. When Forrest died in 1877, Hurst states, many blacks were "among the thousands of mourners who viewed his corpse and followed it to the cemetery." (p. 9)

However, this book is flawed in several respects. A few examples will suffice to make the point. Hurst cites plenty of evidence which supports the fact that Forrest was good to his slaves. But like Brian Steel Wills, in *A Battle From The Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest* (1992), he concludes that this "can be attributed as easily to good business considerations as to humanitarian concern since slaves treated kindly

were less apt to run away." (p. 9) Why not just simply say that economic self-interest and humanitarianism were both factors that shaped Forrest's attitude? Why imply that there was no humanitarianism in Forrest's character when this clearly was not the case? Second, Hurst says that forty-five of Forrest's slaves agreed to serve him as teamsters during the war "out of fear." (p. 9) This explanation does not contain the full truth. These slaves could have run away with impunity on numerous occasions as they were often behind enemy lines. They served Forrest well; one deserted and Forrest gave the others their freedom before the war ended.

Again, as was the case with Wills's book, Hurst argues that "many black Union soldiers and a lesser number of white ones plainly were killed after attempting to surrender" (p. 6) at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864. In other words, there was a massacre. Wills states that Forrest did not order a massacre: he simply lost control of the battle as well as control of his men. Hurst, on the other hand, implies that Forrest did order a massacre. But, in reality, Hurst maintains, Forrest did not have to order one. By not issuing an order against one, the "rancor between his men and the armed former slaves, as well as the Tennessee Unionists" (p. 177) was enough to produce a massacre. The evidence simply does not support this conclusion. To begin with, the fort never surrendered. Many Union soldiers did throw down their weapons, but many others picked up those weapons and resumed firing. Many were killed while retreating to the riverbank; many were killed trying to escape in the river, and they were all legitimate targets so long as they were relatively close together in significant numbers offering resistance. If one closely examines precisely how the battle progressed and how quickly it ended once the Union flag was lowered, one can easily understand why there were heavy casualties. My book, *An Untutored Genius: The Military Career of General Nathan Bedford Forrest*, (1990) gives a clear and concise picture of these events. Considering everything, it is a wonder the casualties were not even greater.

The Hurst biography does add to the Forrest literature, particularly during his pre- and post-Civil War years. Forrest was a great man who requires no apologists. He must be judged in the context of his times. The Forrest story, Hurst writes, "recounts the implacable struggles of an intelligent man of action against the longest kind of odds. It traces an exceptional American's remarkable philosophical journey." (p. 11) Flawed though it is in some respects, this work is well-written and is recommended reading for students of the Civil War and the Reconstruction era.

Lonnie E. Maness, Ph.D.

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Maria Braden. *She Said What? Interviews with Women Newspaper Columnists*. Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky Press, 1993.

Maria Braden's book focuses on thirteen women who are successful syndicated columnists and on their work. Interesting insights into changes in the status of women in print journalism in the last thirty years are provided along with specific columns by Mary McCrory, Erma Bombeck, Jane Bryant Quinn, Georgie Ann Geyer, Ellen Goodman, Jane Brody, Dorothy Gilliam, Judith Martin, Mona Charen, Joyce Maynard, Merlene Davis, Anna Quindlen, and Molly Ivins. Each columnist was interviewed separately about her history in the profession, her personal philosophy about her role in informing the public, and how she manages her responsibilities as wife and mother—a question that would not have been asked of male counterparts. In fact, the

interviewer's questions, though not expressed as such, become obvious early in the reading when each responds to a question that must have been "What difficulties did you experience because you were a woman in a male-dominated profession?"

The author provides an overview of the history of women in print journalism in her introduction, beginning with Fanny Fern, a columnist from the mid- to late nineteenth century to the present. The author selected her subjects from women who write in the essay format, rather than from those who use a question-and-answer format, which explains why Ann Landers and "Dear Abby" are not included. All are nationally syndicated with the exception of Dorothy Gilliam and Merlene Davis, black women who are also asked about difficulties associated with race that confronted them. A reader misses Rheta Grimsley Johnson and wonders why she is not included. Also a discussion with the whole group participating would be interesting, but probably beyond logistical possibilities.

The book is structured with interview first, followed by three representative columns from each columnist, with more space given to the interviews than the columns. Perhaps this is a flaw, or a strength of the book, for the difference between the power of the writers' voices while they are interviewed, perhaps by the situation, from what it is in their own columns, is sometimes noticeable. In the interviews, they sound like pleasant, relaxed women, perhaps presidents of P.T.O.'s or garden clubs, but in their columns, real and powerful intellects resound.

Noticeable among the columns is one by Georgie Ann Geyer that describes an ecologist's nightmare. She describes a visit to Uzbekistan, a central Asian republic newly freed from the Soviet Union, and the environmental calamity it faces. Planning to grow vast amounts of cotton there, the Soviet government drained the "vast, shallow, 25,659-square-mile oval" Aral sea, for irrigation purposes and left it as only "a raw wound in the earth." The resulting air pollution to areas as far as 3,000 miles away, caused by the transport of salts and pesticides left in the crater are believed to be the cause of an increase of mental retardation already noted in children born in the region. Geyer describes "the real problem" in Uzbekistan and other newly independent Asian nations as the fact that the mind-set of the Communist government in Moscow that created these catastrophes has not changed significantly in the new nations as they have emerged.

Anna Quindlen is an interesting interviewee, especially since she has since elected to resign her position at the *New York Times* to write a novel and give more time to her three children. But columns that deal with "women's issues" are included: one concerning American society's attitude about women in public life; another about the treatment in the court-room and in the media of alleged rape victims. The third is more personal but at the same time universal in dealing with a parent's wishes for her children: Ms. Quindlen's reflections when her first child learned to read.

The selections from Ellen Goodman's work are also more powerfully written than the interview with her. One column deals with her feelings when sending her child off to college and another with the determination some American parents feel to raise their children counter to the culture in which they live. The most powerful column included is one written in response to the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas confrontation. Here the reader listens to, not a woman's voice, but an inclusive, human one that speaks of the dissatisfaction of many at the debacle as it unfolded and was, somewhat, resolved. Here Ms. Goodman is at her best, speaking with intelligence and authority about an issue that affects American men and women equally, without any sense of sexism or bias.

The first writer included in the text is Mary McCrory, reporter and then columnist for the *Washington Post* since the mid-1950s. The person who emerges from the

interview is an appealing one, and perhaps more gentle and feminine than one might expect from a woman who won the Pulitzer Prize for political commentary in 1975. One of the columns deals with Clarence Thomas' performance on the Supreme Court; another, at the opposite end of the public and private subject spectrum, deals with Ms. McCrory's gardening. But the column that describes the funeral of John F. Kennedy is the best and most powerful, perhaps, in the book. Her controlled and restrained tone mirrors the dignity of the event she describes:

Of John Fitzgerald Kennedy's funeral it can be said he would have liked it. It had that decorum and dash that were in his special style. It was both splendid and spontaneous. It was full of children and princes, of gardeners and governors.

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It was a day of such endless fitness, with so much pathos and panoply, so much of grief nobly borne that it may extinguish that unseemly hour in Dallas, where all that was alien to him--savagery, violence, irrationality--struck down the 35th President of the United States.

It is when these writers speak in an inclusive, human voice that they speak most eloquently and powerfully. Ms. McCrory's work is worth the price of the book.

Mary Ellen Cowser

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Thomas D. Clark, editor. *The Voice of the Frontier: John Bradford's Notes on Kentucky*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1993.

Thomas D. Clark, retired historian at the University of Kentucky and an authority on early Southern frontier history, edited this extensive commentary on the Commonwealth's formative period. He devotes his attention to *Kentucky Gazette* editor John Bradford's "Notes on Kentucky". Clark goes into considerable detail in the volume's preface and introduction to set the stage. Some may find these segments a bit tedious, but those parts most definitely prepare a reader for the next 350 pages. One should know both that Clark added the individual titles based on Bradford's specific topic and that little continuity exists between issues. Part of the value of Clark's work is that he assembled the only collected volume of Bradford's sixty-six "Notes."

Basically Bradford was a noteworthy pioneer of Kentucky when it comprised a county of Virginia. During those years he was a land surveyor and speculator, a politician, and a newspaper editor. In fact, he entered the latter activity to publicize Kentuckians' defending themselves against Indians, providing their own immediate governmental services, and striving to become an independent state. He became a largely self-taught publisher when in 1787 and 1802 and between 1826 and 1830.

Bradford composed his "Notes" about Kentucky's initial years during his second editorship. Then he wrote from the perspective of one looking back from a more mature era to his frontier days. He drew from his memory and older newspaper articles. He focused primarily on Indian threats and the district's limited military authority and capabilities, the drive to overcome Virginia's alleged inattention to Kentucky, and free western use of the Mississippi River. There is little wonder that Bradford became emotional about those issues because they represented the future and the well-being of his adopted home. Understandably he was primarily concerned about the happenings locally rather than the monumental founding of the United States

under the Constitution of 1787. That government seemed important only when its actions or inactions influenced Kentuckians, as the diplomacy of John Jay influenced navigation of the Mississippi River in the 1780s and 1790s.

Consequently Bradford produced "Notes" which spanned the years from the 1770s to 1795. After the mid-1780s settlers like the Bradfords identified with central blue-grass Kentucky, not Virginia. Along the way he respected frontiersmen Daniel Boone, but he admired George Rogers Clark and Anthony Wayne even more. A reader may be amazed that those stalwarts occasionally encountered canoes which sometimes carried twenty-five to thirty Indians. Even though Bradford learned second hand of most of the events that he reports, the journalist covers these skillfully and concisely. However, whenever he is writing about the city of Lexington and Transylvania University, he can write from firsthand experience since he served as an official of each.

Martin Downing, Ph.D.

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Glenn Wilcox. *Early American Christmas Music*. Pacific, Missouri: Mel Bay Publications, 1995.

A widely known and respected authority on early American music, Dr. Glenn Wilcox has given us here fifty-eight sacred songs of Christmas published in this country between 1761 and 1894. Taken chiefly from pioneer American tunebooks, oblong in shape and thus called "endopeners," these are rare songs to have suddenly become accessible on the threshold of a new century and millenium. We are familiar already with the most famous of these sources, many of which appeared first in the gapped scale shape notes of THE SACRED HARP, THE SOUTHERN HARMONY, THE SOCIAL HARP and THE TEMPLE STAR. Although no music or text in this collection was gathered originally from oral sources, anthologist Wilcox points to "common" tunes and floating lines of text that very probably derive, at least in part, from folk sources.

Dr. Wilcox has modernized spelling and harmonic structure, adding an optional metronome marking on each song, based upon the metrical structures he found in his sixty writers, composers and compilers. These range from Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley and William Billings to Phillips Brooks and Charles H. Gabriel, the latter of whom lived until 1932. However, this volume belongs to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

EARLY AMERICAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC is richly illustrated with eighteen woodcuts from GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE, HARPER'S WEEKLY, LITTLE FOLKS, THE LONDON ILLUSTRATED NEWS and other periodicals of last century. These are also eighteen page decorations from other sources of graphics contemporaneous with the music they help to highlight.

This handsome volume, printed on excellent paper, is furnished with the author's brief but careful notes on each song, indexes of song titles and first lines, an index of the names, the birth and death years of each writer, composer and compiler and a bibliography of twenty-eight sources. EARLY AMERICAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC belongs in homes as well as in school libraries.

This extraordinary collection of words and music in their historical settings is the first of book manuscripts Dr. Wilcox left with the press before his death in November of 1995. He has gifted us with a grand largesse of Christmas Past for Christmases yet to come.

Walter Darrell Haden

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Otis K. Rice. *Frontier Kentucky*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1993.

During the century before the American Revolution ended in 1783, four sets of principal players dominated the stage in the large-scaled frontier drama that changed transmontane (that is, trans-Appalachian) Virginia from fabled wilderness into settled land--land that, rather shortly after the Revolution, became the separate state of Kentucky. Indigenous American Indian tribes, of course, first occupied the place as their homelands. Then came the French, who claimed the whole mid-continent from Canada to New Orleans, skillfully using Indian alliances to reinforce their hold on it. By the mid-eighteenth century, the British saw the value of the territories that lay westward from their seaboard colonies, and contended with the French (and their Indian allies) over control of it--though at the last the British played antagonists to the westward-expanding colonials themselves. Finally came the frontier men and women--of Scotch-Irish and other European stock--who, drawn by romantic reports of the new land, and eager to own their shares of it, ventured boldly westward into the much-disputed territory.

Conventionally viewed, the last set of players were the drama's heroes, and all the others were antagonists, blocking the manifest destiny of a happy ending. At any rate, the upbeat outcome of the story is now well known. Otis K. Rice, in *Frontier Kentucky*, stakes out as his own claim the subject of Kentucky during its formative years--from the late-1600s until 1783--and recounts the stages and processes by which the Kentucky wilderness was domesticated.

Leading men such as Daniel Boone and James Harrod, each of whom had founded a permanent settlement in Kentucky by the mid-1770s, are predictable figures in Rice's story. But other players, less well known than these principals, also take significant roles--particularly colonial officials, land speculators, and such ambitious visionaries as Judge Richard Henderson of North Carolina. (Henderson, who tried to set up a Kentucky fiefdom called Westsylvania, contrived with Indians to establish a far-reaching land claim that persistently nettled early Kentucky settlers.) Indeed, if Rice's book has any thesis, it is that speculators and public officials including those who kept manipulating the various "no-settlement" demarcation lines to their own advantages--that these actors have been overlooked, or at least that the effects of their scheming have been underrated, in previous tellings of how Kentucky came to be.

The truth is that *Frontier Kentucky* makes no claims to newness but tries, rather, to synthesize the frontier period of Kentucky's history into a readable summary. As such a book, it is informative, clear, factual and even rather detailed, objective in tone, and knowledgeable. Though adequately "academic," it slants toward the general reader, eschewing footnotes or other systems of internal credit. (This means, unfortunately, that one can almost never identify the source of any given bit of information.) In the discursive "Bibliographical Note" where Rice acknowledges and describes his many sources, he admits that his book embodies no new re-examination of primary materials.

The book's method is that of narrative, with few dramatic scenes vividly rendered. Thus Rice's account is fetching purely because history and life hold our interest if accurately recorded. Still, the lack of rendered drama in his book seems a major drawback, especially because the story itself has all the stuff of high excitement, with conflicts--physical, military, cultural, economic, legal, ethical--inherent in every move and countermove. Admittedly the brevity of the book imposes severe limits. And occasionally--as when Rice is telling about a skirmish with Indians or a daring rescue--

the prose does come alive. Mostly, however, it is just functionally competent. The rare place where Rice quotes verbatim from primary materials, as in a contemporary description of one Benjamin Logan, "a dull, narrow body from whom nothing clever need be expected"-such a place only makes a reader wish that other pages also sparkled and vibrated with piquant details from that wonderful wordhoard, the American historical record. Even the incident in which the Cherokee spokesman, Dragging Canoe, warns that Kentucky may become a "dark and bloody ground" gets treated in Rice's usual summary method, with no attempt to render the scene or quote the actors directly. At worst, though infrequently, Rice's style moves toward clichés: "dark days" that lie ahead, "staunch allies," fights that last "from dawn till dusk," "storm clouds of revolution," "lurking Indians," "brandished swords" and "olive branches," "dawns of new eras"-every one of these endures recycling here. Such phrases are concrete indicators of the author's preference for generalizing, and not individualizing, the events he summarizes. Thus one learns *about* events but seldom witnesses them, and Rice's story loses power.

A reader may wish not only for a livelier style but, much more particularly, for some indication of how the eventual eastern border of Kentucky corresponds to the inside-cover map of Appalachian Virginia that Rice wisely provides to help a reader follow key events. The problem, of course, is that "Kentucky" did not yet really exist when early trappers and scouts were first exploring its future domain, and when forts were being built (and destroyed) by the contending agencies trying to hold it.

These objections granted, one remains grateful for Rice's informed sense of history and his careful, objective approach. The book's sensible chapter topics, maps, black-and-white illustrations, index, and full bibliography all make it comfortably navigable; a general reader puts it down having learned a good bit, and respecting the author's ability to trace out a topic that has all the convolutions of an Appalachian stream. All in all, I believe, one can follow Otis K. Rice confidently down the sinuous twists of early Kentucky history, trusting the fairness and accuracy of his truth.

Roy Neil Graves, Ph.D.

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Tracy Campbell. *The Politics of Despair: Power and Resistance in the Tobacco Wars*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1993.

"O, Fool, Raise No Tobacco"

NOTICE--Oh Fool: Dare to raise a stalk of tobacco on your land or assist any one else in the raising and ye shall pay the penalty with your home and life. So be ye warned.

"Night Riders"

This notice which ran in Central Kentucky newspapers during the 1908 burley growers' strike was not an empty threat but a timely warning. It illustrates the extreme measures that were used to organize the tobacco growers of Western and Central Kentucky and Tennessee and to persuade them to withhold their product from the market.

In "The Politics of Despair," Prof. Tracy Campbell documents the many incidents of plant bed destruction, whippings, shootings, and house, barn and warehouse burnings which were perpetrated after more democratic means of persuasion had failed. He presents and discusses the causes of the Tobacco Wars: the monopolistic buying practices of the American Tobacco Company (and their collusion with buyers from the Italian "Regie" Co.) with the resultant prices below the cost of production; also the



tight credit situation which prevented farmers from holding their crop until they could get a better price.

This book is a detailed study of farmers in desperate financial straits banding together and trying to force higher prices. These efforts were never successful in the western, "Black Patch" counties, where the organizing efforts degenerated into burning and lynching. While the burley growers' strike in the Bluegrass region was successful in getting a fair price, the growers, not agreeing among themselves, failed to maintain their organization.

The serious student will find this volume a great help with its extensive notes, tables, etc. This work does not entertain, even with all the violent acts and excitement. The reader is soon overcome with a sense of frustration that the people who lived through these times must have felt. This, I believe is what the author intended, as he must want this piece of history to inspire and perhaps help responsible persons work to prevent such situations from existing again in our culture.

Joe Bone

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George E. Webb. *The Evolution Controversy in America*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1994.

This comprehensive analysis of American evolution from the 1850s to the present was put together by George E. Webb, a professor of history at Tennessee Technological University and lecturer in the history of American science. In his career the author has been impressed that the controversy still exists about the evolutionary theory and that creationists ideas do not really constitute a science. He shows considerable continuity has existed in the ideas the opponents and supporters of evolution here. Throughout the volume he definitely stresses the inadequacies of American science education

While evolution stirred little controversy in Europe, Darwin's thoughts were less well received into the United States. Most American scientists had little difficulty reconciling the theory and their religious beliefs, some holding that "evolution worked best with theism, not with atheism," a taboo in the scientific approach. In the late 1800s those Protestant believers increasingly divided into liberal and conservative stances, usually about scriptural authority and the scientific accuracy of the Bible. These conservatives came to have much in common with twentieth century fundamentalists who increasingly stood against evolutionists and modernists and focused so considerably on public education after World War I. In that atmosphere Southern and Western states sought to ban the teaching of evolution in public schools, efforts which led to the Butler Anti-evolution law and the resulting Scopes Trial in Tennessee and similar legislation in other states.

Although the evolution controversy subsided somewhat in the late 1920s and the early 1930s, its anti-evolution emphases were still evident into the late 1950s. In some places local school board policies could effectively hamper the teaching of evolution through selection of textbooks which covered primarily creation. Besides, most science instructors possessed only a college minor or less in biology during this period of forty years. Meanwhile, fundamentalists were gaining strength in society leading toward the mass-appeal evangelists like Billy Graham in the 1950s and 1960s.

Along the way, biologists were learning more about genetics and DNA which they began to relate to evolution, but they had to spread the information among teachers

and the public more effectively. The dramatic advent of Sputnik in October of 1957 stimulated better preparation among biology teachers. Yet instructors could not accurately present their subject without "evolution...the unifying theme in their discipline." Although scientists and educators updated their teaching content, they could not greatly sway public opinion, so "evolution remained a continuous issue."

Evolution advocates faced a most formidable situation from the 1960s onward because growing conservatism. The religiously minded saw society becoming more secular, in part due to Supreme Court decisions after 1947 which emphasized a "wall of separation" between church and state. In this atmosphere many religious persons in the Sunbelt states considered the teaching of evolution particularly caused general moral and spiritual deterioration. After the early 1960s the courts and legislatures struck down anti-evolutionary laws, the best known being Tennessee's so-called "Monkey Law." All the while anti-evolutionists considered themselves scientific creationists who "sought to establish their belief in the literal truth of the Genesis account of creation as a scientific alternative to the Darwinian account." Scientists were still handicapped by basic scientific illiteracy even while their positions were notably assisted by the courts, a fact evident in Senator Milton Hamilton's (D., Tennessee) shortlived Genesis Law of 1973s being declared unconstitutional.

Webb devoted approximately half the book to developments since 1945 and the more recent clashes between science and religious groups. In recent years creationists battled against secular humanism and First Amendment prohibitions and for equal time coverage in schools. Consequently Webb fully expects the controversy to survive because of the dedication of creationists and continuing scientific illiteracy in the country.

Marvin Downing, Ph.D.

