

productivity rebounded, real wages increased, inflation was contained, and income inequality stopped widening. But economic insecurity continued to afflict growing numbers of American workers, and Clinton's efforts to enact progressive measures that might have provided some relief mainly failed in Congress.

Heale's last chapter breezes through the first decade of the twenty-first century in a mere twenty-two pages. If the 1990s were "the era of globalization," he writes, the next ten years were "the decade of crisis" (p. 241). Islamic fundamentalists used electronic communications systems to plot the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing citizens from some ninety countries on September 11, 2001. Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 not only depopulated New Orleans; it also inspired intense debate on the effects of global warming. The causes of the financial meltdown during the fall of 2008 originated in the United States, but its effects resonated worldwide. Meanwhile, President George W. Bush responded to 9/11 by declaring the War on Terror, exploiting it to pursue a neoconservative agenda that intended to remake the world according to American values. One consequence was the misadventure in Iraq, which helped elect Barack Obama president in 2008, though the principal cause of the Republican defeat was the financial debacle. In this chapter, as throughout the book, Heale transcends the limitations of the survey text to deliver an arresting and authoritative account of our own time.

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Unlocking V. O. Key Jr.: Southern Politics for the Twenty-First Century. Edited by Angie Maxwell and Todd G. Shields. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2011. Pp. xxxii, 231. Paper, \$29.95, ISBN 978-1-55728-961-2.)

In revisiting V. O. Key Jr.'s *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (New York, 1949), editors Angie Maxwell and Todd G. Shields have assembled a collection of historians and political scientists tasked with interpreting, critiquing, and updating this classic work. Three primary objectives divide the book: an accounting of what Key overlooked in his analysis; an assessment of Key's enduring impact on scholarship and pedagogy; and an analysis of how the contemporary South comports with Key's mid-twentieth-century version.

The foreword by Byron E. Shafer expends too much ink discussing Key's other major scholarly accomplishments, leaving scant room for Shafer's impressions of how Key's "acolytes" have interpreted and advanced southern scholarship (p. vii). Shields and Maxwell follow with an introduction that is devoted more to promoting their project's benefactors, once again leaving little space for an overview of the collection. The conclusion, however, by Wayne Parent, provides an excellent synopsis of the substantive chapters.

In Part I Charles Reagan Wilson provides a thorough assessment of religion and its role in shaping the politics of the Democratic solid South. As Wilson notes, religion generally reinforced the political status quo, but it did at times emerge as a salient cleavage, as in the case of Prohibition

and the 1928 presidential election, in which Protestants outside the black belt counties favored Republican Herbert Hoover over the "wet" northern Democrat, Alfred E. "Al" Smith. Given Wilson's deep knowledge of religion in southern culture, it is unfortunate that the scope of this chapter does not move beyond Key's time.

Just as Wilson addresses how Key understated the role of religion in southern politics, Pearl Ford Dowe highlights the narrow focus Key trained on southern African Americans. As Dowe contends, Key's emphasis on blacks as objects takes away from their active political behavior outside a restricted franchise, especially politically motivated actions fostered by churches and women's organizations. Although Key overlooked this activity, southern whites were keenly aware of black political organization during Jim Crow, and Kari Frederickson brings to light several instances when the white power structure resorted to violence to maintain supremacy. Key acknowledged political activity beyond standard democratic practices, and yet he did not elaborate on these black protest movements or the harsh white responses they induced. Dowe's and Frederickson's chapters are complementary, and both make clear that after World War II black southerners asserted themselves only to be met with brutal resistance, foretelling the civil rights movement that Key did not anticipate.

Part 2 begins with a chapter by Margaret Reid that seems to straddle the aims of Parts 1 and 2, because she details the lack of coverage Key afforded to southern women while explaining how Key's narrow focus on electoral politics limited the range of subsequent scholarship. In Reid's words, Key's account of southern politics constituted a "thin" democracy (p. 59). A discussion of women would have broadened the scope of southern political research. Nonetheless, Reid argues that women's voices were stifled by such a strong one-party system, but it seems the marginalization of women stemmed more from the prevailing social mores that were reinforced by a patriarchal Democratic ruling elite.

The essays by Ronald Keith Gaddie and Justin J. Wert and by Harold W. Stanley are much more expositional, and in this regard they complement each other. Gaddie and Wert emphasize Key's skill in employing a "mixed methods" approach with impressive results at a time when survey methodology was in its infancy (p. 78). Key's reliance on interviews, election returns, and geographical patterns demonstrated his ability to triage multiple sources to bolster his theses of southern political behavior. Particularly impressive were Key's various empirical approaches to assessing the negative participatory effects of the poll tax. Like Gaddie and Wert, Stanley sticks close to Key's text and not only considers Key's enduring influence on scholarship and pedagogy but also examines what exactly Key meant in some of his most frequently quoted passages. Stanley's interpretation makes it apparent that ambivalence was often a marked feature of Key's pronouncements. This uncertainty stemmed from the difficulty in unpacking the role of race and economics in shaping southern politics.

Part 3 moves the dialogue forward to contemporary southern politics with the overriding theme of how the modern South compares with Key's: what has endured, what has changed? Dan T. Carter reiterates the central role of

race in guiding the past and present state of southern politics. Byron E. Shafer and Richard Johnston's essay contends that economics was the driving force of an ascendant southern GOP. While it is true that economics has propelled southern Republicanism in areas with fewer blacks, race exerts its greatest influence where blacks are more prevalent. Southern congressional Democrats retained support so long after Republican Party presidential dominance because they resisted their national party's liberal position on civil rights. Race was, is, and remains the most salient cleavage in southern politics, just as Key claimed over sixty years ago.

Susan A. MacManus concludes Part 3 with a concise but impressive survey of southern demographic changes. Key did not consider that the South would be transformed mainly by in-migration as opposed to changing residential patterns within the region. MacManus's analysis uncovers the remarkable diversity of the contemporary southern electorate and how it has shaped and will shape the region's electoral politics.

Unlocking V. O. Key Jr.: Southern Politics for the Twenty-First Century provides a multifaceted approach to assessing the merits and enduring relevance of the most influential book on southern politics. The volume should be required reading for those who study the history and politics of the American South.

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Beyond Texas Through Time: Breaking Away from Past Interpretations.

Edited by Walter L. Buenger and Arnoldo De León. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2011. Pp. [xxii], 295. Paper, \$24.95, ISBN 978-1-60344-235-0; cloth, \$45.00, ISBN 978-1-60344-234-3.)

Beyond Texas Through Time: Breaking Away from Past Interpretations alludes to Walter L. Buenger and Robert A. Calvert's *Texas Through Time: Evolving Interpretations* (College Station, Tex., 1991). In that earlier work, the editors invoked C. Vann Woodward's estimation of the "shelf life" of history as about twenty years, worried that this periodic refreshing of historical interpretation did not seem to be occurring in Texas history, and called for new interpretations (*Texas Through Time*, p. x). Twenty years later, Buenger and Arnoldo De León return to the bookshelf of Texas history for a reassessment. *Beyond Texas Through Time* is a collection of historiographical essays evaluating the state of scholarship in Texas history over the past two decades. The editors conclude optimistically that the study of Texas history is moving beyond the parochialism of the past and toward a more cosmopolitan future.

Despite this encouraging trend, the editors find vestiges of the "Texas myth" remaining, even in twenty-first-century Texas historical writing (p. xi). Progress has been made, Buenger and De León admit, but not enough. They encourage scholars to step back and contemplate the history of Texas history "with a wider lens" (p. xiii). The editors express concern that Texas history be regarded seriously by historians in other parts of the country and be connected with the outside world in terms of overarching themes. The purpose of *Texas Through Time*, they write, "was to encourage more innovative,

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