doctrinaire position to become an archreactionary extremist because of his fear of "a French inspired insurrection of the slaves" in the aftermath of the XYZ affair is not wholly convincing; this biography of the influential South Carolina Federalist congressman from 1795 to 1801 sheds new light upon the still neglected topic of Southern Federalism.

JB


In the preface to this slender volume the author states twice that his purpose is to analyze the culture of the period "as a whole." In fact, however, he uses the term "culture" to refer almost exclusively to the work of intellectuals and he constructs his arguments around brief analyses of intellectuals whom he considers to be representative of dominant schools of thought. His unifying theme is the relationship between the individual and society and his conclusion is that three identifiable schools emerge in this period. These schools, corresponding to the Progressive Era, the 1920's and the 1930's, depict the transition from "the self in society, to the self apart from society, to the self submerged in society." (x)

RWS


An updating of the author's American Heritage History of the Presidency (1968) in a format (and at a price) that should make it attractive to a wider readership. Useful reference notes have been added and the bibliography enlarged by annotations.

University of Kansas Francis H. Heller


This excellent book is of interest primarily to political scientists and organization theorists, but it contains insights valuable to others. Destler provides a background for recent reforms that were to improve foreign policy function. He is perceptive and careful in his definitions, and he writes with a good historical sense: his treatment of the role of language in politics and bureaucracy is splendid. The Nixon effort to concentrate foreign policy coordination in a personal assistant, he concludes, is unsound; he suggests reforms to make the State Department more responsive and to permit the Secretary again to assume the leading role.

MJS


I recall, as a student, making the sad discovery that romantic authors I loved carried racist ideas about Jews. Here now is an anthology of unusual quality and sensitivity to document racism directed at blacks.

SGL


After delineating its four main components (Progress, optimism, the perfectibility of man and the social importance of democracy and Christianity), the author describes the role of the American Idea in the thought of Orestes Brownson from 1838 to 1860. In doing so he relies primarily upon Brownson's writings in his Boston Quarterly Review and Brownson's Quarterly Review. The thesis of the book is that Brownson's commitment to the American Idea, although altered significantly over the span of the years studied, was never abandoned. The conservative bent of his later thought is not to be interpreted exclusively in terms of his conversion to Catholicism. This is a nicely focused, carefully wrought book which contributes to a fuller understanding of the mind of Orestes Brownson. It will be of value to students of American intellectual and religious history.

Bradley University Dennis Q. McNeary


Popularized, illustrated, slick.