



9780226283500 cloth, \$45.00; ISBN 9780226283647 ebook, contact publisher for price

The history of agricultural radicalism in the US (or even the political history of farmers, for that matter) usually ends with the demise of the Populists in the 1890s. Lansing (Augsburg College), however, provides a much-needed corrective in this book charting the history of the eponymous North Dakota-born farmers' organization, formed in 1915, that spread across agricultural states from Wisconsin to Washington, and even into Canada. Reaching its zenith in 1919, the League forged connections with labor organizations, inspired farmers to democratic action, enabled women to engage in politics, and helped elect important national legislators. Most importantly, however, League members took control of the legislative process in North Dakota and forged state-run enterprises—a grain elevator, mill, and a state bank—that helped farmers for generations after and continues to attract attention today. If Lansing perhaps overstates the significance of an organization that didn't garner many direct legislative accomplishments outside the Flickertail State, one can understand his enthusiasm in filling this important niche in the historiography. This book should be in every academic library collection. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. All academic levels/libraries.—*J. Shelton, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*

53-4093 E99 2015-22331 CIP
McDonnell, Michael A. **Masters of empire: Great Lakes Indians and the making of America.** Hill and Wang, 2015. 402p index ISBN 9780809029532 cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 9780374714185 ebook, contact publisher for price

"Location, location, location." McDonnell (Univ. of Sydney) explores how the Anishinaabeg utilized their expansive kinship networks and their strategic locale between Lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan to become the "masters" in that region of three empires: the French, the British, and finally the infant US. The author delves deeply into how that tribe, particularly the Odawa at Michilimackinac, built trade networks and kinship connections with French fur traders that allowed them to manipulate colonial authorities and keep out rival western tribes while avoiding war with the Iroquois. McDonnell highlights how the Odawa spearheaded the Native alliance with the French against the British in the mid-1750s, which he calls the First Anglo-Indian War, and then how they used the second war (Pontiac's Rebellion) to force the British into seeking alliances rather than domination west of the Ohio, increasing the tribe's influence in the region. Less persuasive is his argument that those actions triggered the American Revolution by shaping British imperial reforms and colonial resistance. Regardless, this book is a strong addition to the growing body of early American scholarship that centers on Native peoples in the interior of the continent, revealing new aspects of community and imperial relationships. **Summing Up:** ★★★ Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*D. R. Mandell, Truman State University*

CC 53-4094 HV5089 2015-28038 MARC
McGirr, Lisa. **The war on alcohol: Prohibition and the rise of the American state.** W.W. Norton, 2015. 330p index ISBN 9780393066951 pbk, \$27.95

McGirr (Harvard) travels down unfamiliar avenues in her examination of the US struggle to enforce the "noble experiment." She makes the compelling case that Prohibition enforcement was notable for its selectivity and that working-class, urban immigrant, and poor communities were hardest hit, whereas the flouting of the Volstead Act by

elite, well-connected, white Americans went comparatively unchecked. Furthermore, McGirr contends that the war on alcohol cemented a broader sense of shared identity among immigrant ethnic workers and forged the basis for new political loyalties. Opposition to Prohibition, among other issues, motivated large numbers of working-class, urban, ethnic voters to come out to vote for Democratic candidates by the late 1920s and early 1930s, switching much of the urban North permanently from Republican to Democratic. McGirr also finds a direct link between Prohibition and the war on drugs. She asserts that Prohibition forged the bureaucratic structure, assumptions, and logic that underpin the current drug war, and further contends that the selective enforcement that marked the dry years has been replicated more dramatically in the current war. Of interest to those who want to learn more about Prohibition and/or the rise of the modern surveillance state. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. All levels/libraries.—*J. M. Richards, Gordon State College*

CC 53-4095 HQ75 Can. CIP
Millward, Liz. **Making a scene: lesbians and community across Canada, 1964-84.** UBC Press, 2015. 316p bibl index afp ISBN 9780774830669 cloth, \$95.00; ISBN 9780774830690 ebook, contact publisher for price

Millward (women's and gender studies, Univ. of Manitoba, Canada) covers the varying environments in which Canadian lesbians created community spaces for social, educational, and political activities in the years immediately preceding the gay rights movement and the 1969 Omnibus Bill, which decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults, up to the mid-1980s. In "Part I: Creating Places," she contrasts urban and rural lesbians' experiences and the class and ethnic/racial differences that existed in the bars, private members-only clubs, conferences, communal living spaces, and women's centers that arose with the lesbian feminist movement in the 1970s. The importance of Canada's vast geography and landscape features, which made travel across the nation difficult or expensive, is highlighted in "Part 2: Overcoming Geography." A solid overview and a good buy for libraries with comprehensive LGBT, women's history, and/or Canadian social history focus. An optional purchase for general US libraries. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. All levels for libraries collecting in these areas.—*A. B. Johnson, independent scholar*

CC 53-4096 F866 2015-13928 CIP
Olmsted, Kathryn S. **Right out of California: the 1930s and the big business roots of modern conservatism.** New Press, 2015. 323p bibl index afp ISBN 9781620970966 cloth, \$27.95; ISBN 9781620971390 ebook, contact publisher for price

Olmsted's masterful narrative locates the origins of contemporary hard-line conservatism in the opposition of 1930s California agribusiness and its allies to organized labor and to the government, which supported unions. The author describes the fight of agricultural workers against third world working and living conditions and the reaction of growers and other powerful interests against them, their union, and the New Deal. She finds in that sustained reaction the model for a new conservatism that blends economic and cultural conservative strains, and remains intact today. Olmsted (Univ. of California, Davis) notes the failures of California's leftists and liberals to create lasting change and cites the Right's exploitation of the faltering workers' surge in gaining community allies as well as an ideological base upon which to build a potent political force. Readers encounter in Olmsted's depiction of Depression era California the anti-communist thundering of businessmen, churchmen,