

before involving the executive branch. Eventually the president did provide direction from the White House and the Kennedy Justice Department went far beyond the Eisenhower administration in enforcing existing legislation and court orders. Kennedy-appointed federal judges sometimes played key roles in breaking down segregation and discrimination, and an extensive civil rights bill was introduced that passed after his death. Kennedy did not lead the civil rights movement but was pushed along by it.

In foreign affairs, Kennedy faced one crisis after another, but Parmet generally gives him a negative rating in diplomacy. In spite of its high popularity, the Bay of Pigs incident is portrayed as a complete failure. The Alliance for Progress produced few changes in Latin America, and Parmet speculates that had Kennedy lived, he would probably have remained committed in Vietnam. JFK is given high praise, however, for the nuclear test ban treaty as an important first step in reducing both the nuclear arms race and cold war tensions.

In a brief epilogue, Parmet portrays Kennedy as a president whose willingness to demonstrate toughness in foreign relations helped to create potential disasters around the globe. His verdict on domestic matters is also harsh. To this assessment, however, Parmet adds some perspective:

“If Kennedy was a ‘cold warrior’, who was not in his day? ...His American University speech and the test ban treaty were bold moves for those cold-war years. ...The face that he put on the national purpose through such programs as the Peace Corps and the Alliance for Progress, whatever their limitations, was at least consistent with the idealism much of the world preferred to associate with America” (p.354).

Parmet's fine book provides us with a new place to start in examining the controversial legacy of President John F. Kennedy.

Mitchell K. Hall
University of Kentucky

The Kingdom of Leon-Castilla Under Queen Urraca, 1109-1126. By BERNARD F. REILLY. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982. Pp. xx + 401. Bibliography, illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$32.50.

In this work Bernard Reilly investigates the seventeen year reign of Queen Urraca of Leon-Castile, and presents us with the first major biography of the first woman to rule a Spanish kingdom. Traditionally,

historians have viewed Urraca's reign as an interlude between the more "brilliant" reigns of her father Alfonso VI, and her son Alfonso VII. Her political career has been portrayed as one of incompetence, civil war, and economic dislocation. Professor Reilly's book clears up these misconceptions, but he does more than merely dismiss the negative image of Urraca. By examining 118 charters and documents of the queen, almost a thousand private documents, and contemporary chronicles; he demonstrates that Urraca was not the weak ruler historians have made her out to be. She was shrewd, strong, and quite capable of decisive action.

In the first six chapters, Reilly gives a narrative of the queen's reign. He presents, in a very coherent fashion, the often confusing and complex political and diplomatic relations Urraca maintained with the papacy, Aragon, Portugal, the French, and the various noble and ecclesiastical factions within Leon and Castile during the period of the Reconquest of Spain. Urraca not only had to fight the Almoravids; she faced rebellions from the towns and nobility, as well as war with her half-sister Teresa of Portugal and her husband Alfonso I of Aragon. She certainly came to the throne in a period of turbulence and disorder. The author argues that while she initially followed her father's policy, she encountered situations where she had to purposely break from previous policy and/or establish a novel approach. We therefore find the queen breaking off her Aragonese marriage, and eventually obtaining a truce with Portugal and Aragon. Unable to obtain Urraca's kingdoms, Teresa and Alfonso reluctantly focus their energies on their own respective kingdoms.

In the second half of the book Professor Reilly gives a panoramic view of the institutions Urraca had to deal with during her reign. He examines the officials in her government and at the court (including the important notaries); the role played by the bishops; the functions of the counts and castellans; and the sometimes rebellious town governments with whom the queen had to deal. Reilly's treatment of these various groups is a bit superficial and disappointing. His primary purpose, however, is to place them all in the larger picture of Queen Urraca's reign and this he does very well indeed.

Bernard Reilly's book is both well written and a piece of sound scholarship. He presents us with the first well researched itinerary of Urraca's reign, and periodically he provides an examination of some of the pertinent paleographic analysis. Reilly's thesis, that Urraca was a formidable ruler and an astute politician, is well supported by his evidence. Given the circumstances it is difficult to imagine if either her father or her son could have accomplished as much; in fact, the latter really did not expand on her gains during his own reign. Queen Urraca is unique because she ruled not as a regent or as a queen-mother, but as the actual monarch of two kingdoms. Reilly's book is a welcome contribution

to a period of medieval Spanish history for which there is still so much to do. It is also one of the latest examples of the many excellent monographs and studies produced by a school of American historians of medieval Spain which has emerged in the last twenty years.

Paul Padilla

University of California, Los Angeles

The Structure of American Medical Practice, 1875-1941. By GEORGE ROSEN. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983. Pp. vii + 152. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$9.95.

George Rosen's death in 1977 brought to a close a distinguished career as a teacher and medical historian. Rosen commands remembrance for his enviable inventory of publications and his contributions to the social history of medicine. The present book, a continuation of the Richard Harrison Shryock Lectures delivered by the author in 1976 at the University of Pennsylvania, was intended to span the century from 1875 to 1975. However, only that portion of the manuscript covering the period 1875 to 1941 was completed by Dr. Rosen; Charles E. Rosenberg polished this manuscript for publication and provided a brief forward as well.

Rosen begins with the "utter confusion and anarchy" of the medical market-place in 1875, as "regular" physicians battled both colleagues and "irregulars" for patients while trying to convince an often skeptical public of the efficacy of their services. Early attempts to enforce "fair" competition through "fee bills" and codes of ethics had failed miserably. Likewise, the licensing laws enacted later in the nineteenth century failed to regulate the marketplace, serving instead to boost the numbers of "diploma mills" churning out poorly trained physicians. Rosen depicts educational reform in this century, spurred by the American Medical Association and buttressed by the largesse of private foundations, as the long sought solution to "overcrowding" in the profession. Educational reform also provided the means to exclude "undesirables," notably women, blacks, and Jews, from the profession.

The scientific and technological advances, which gave a critical boost to the physicians' prestige and supported their claims to expanding authority in this period of reorganization and regulation, proved to be treacherous allies, encouraging the fragmentation of the profession and endangering the ideal of the free-for-service relationship between patient and physician. The tendency toward specialization strained the solidarity