1-1-1979

Book Review: The Regional Imagination, The South and Recent American History, by Dewey W. Grantham

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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This is not a new major work by a historian considered to be of first-rate stature, specializing in twentieth century, primarily Southern, United States history. Instead, this is a compilation of 14 essays, some never before in print produced by Grantham over the past twenty-odd years. They cover Southern history from the Progressive Era to the present and portray both the uniqueness of the South in American history and the loss of some of this uniqueness after World War II. Unfortunately, most are dated, as Grantham ruefully admits, and I feel these should have been rewritten to reflect changes in Southern historiography. Advanced students may benefit most by noting the changes in Grantham's viewpoints over the years. Recommended only for libraries without any of Grantham's works and lacking major holdings in twentieth century American history that may wish to have a little of both areas in one book.