

much leeway to his key aid, Stephen Elko, and that it was he who accepted bribes and peddled influence. Flood resigned in 1980. He was then tried, though the jury couldn't reach a unanimous decision; it ended in a mistrial. A few jurors reported that they could not bring themselves to convict the aging congressman who had dedicated a good part of his career in service to others. The extent of Flood's involvement remains unknown.

Spear reveals other questionable matters in Flood's background. For example, Flood claimed to have earned a masters degree from Syracuse University, but Spear's investigation reveals that no records exist to verify the claim. Moreover, he often accepted free vacation flights from Colonial Airlines. Dan Flood was revered, nevertheless, and his constituents considered him nearly omnipotent. Indeed by the late 1970s, the Republican Party would seldom run opposition candidates, and, if they did, they knew that loss was inevitable. In fact, following indictment in 1978, Flood was reelected by a landslide.

Sheldon Spear makes a significant contribution to American and Pennsylvania political history by focusing on the power of an important congressman in an era of tremendous growth in the federal government and its spending. Spear's greatest contribution, besides his thorough historical research, is balance in interpretation. Though he cared a great deal for the underprivileged, Flood was not godlike. Perhaps the only criticism that is appropriate is that the book is too brief.

Students, scholars, public officials, and the general public can benefit from the work of Dr. Spears, a scholar who has contributed a great deal to our knowledge of the history of Pennsylvania's anthracite region.

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The Realignment of Pennsylvania Politics since 1960: Two-Party Competition in a Battleground State. By RENÉE M. LAMIS. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2009. 432 pp. Figures, tables, appendix, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$65.)

In her book, *The Realignment of Pennsylvania Politics since 1960*, Renée M. Lamis charts the partisan shift that has occurred in a state that was one of the most solidly Republican in the nation. To illustrate, prior to the Great Depression, Pennsylvania's entire thirty-six-member congressional delegation was composed of Republicans. Even after the economic catastrophe, the Keystone State was the only one in the nation outside of New England that Herbert Hoover managed to carry against Franklin D. Roosevelt. However, much has changed in the years since, and now the Democrats are able to claim

majority-party status. Its healthy registration advantage has allowed the Democrat Party to carry Pennsylvania in the last five successive presidential elections.

Lamis cites two critical events that have driven this transformation. One, of course, was the New Deal itself, the aftermath of which finally brought a semblance of two-party competition to Pennsylvania's political system. The other, and the primary emphasis of this book, is what Lamis defines as the culture-war realignment.

This culture-war realignment was sparked by the turbulent events which engulfed the nation around the time of the 1968 election. Interestingly, the Republican Party was the primary beneficiary initially, winning five of the next six presidential contests that followed. The capstone election to this phase, Lamis writes, was George H. W. Bush's 1988 victory over Michael Dukakis. In 1992, however, a different type of Democratic candidate emerged with Bill Clinton. Declaring himself a New Democrat, the Arkansas governor "went to great lengths to distance himself from what he viewed as the losing Democratic stances of the culture-war realignment" (15). Subsequently, this culture-war realignment has been responsible for driving cultural liberals to the Democratic Party and cultural conservatives to the Republican Party. The net result is a more stable political system at the national level based upon each state's cultural characteristics (the so-called "red" v. "blue" states).

Lamis posits that these recent gains by the Democrats in Pennsylvania are aftershocks from the culture-war battles ignited back in 1968. Similar aftershocks were felt following the New Deal realignment as well. For instance, the Democratic Party didn't truly reach parity with the GOP statewide until it finally managed to capture Philadelphia's city hall with Joe Clark's mayoral victory in 1951. Lamis's data illustrates that while Democratic support has slipped somewhat in what once was its political base, the more culturally conservative western portion of the state, the party has been more than compensated by the political turnaround that has occurred in the southeast—in particular, the culturally more liberal Philadelphia suburbs.

Dr. Lamis's statistical approach is to use county-by-county coefficients in evaluating the twenty-seven major statewide elections held since 1960. These illustrate how the Pennsylvania GOP has been able to remain competitive politically in the state by effectively distancing itself from its national presidential candidates. Though there is some redundancy in the presentation of statistical information, Lamis does provide revealing measures, such as county-by-county scattergrams detailing the vote for various elections. Overall, while political junkies may find themselves wishing the author had gone into greater narrative detail at times, there is still much to enjoy in Lamis's book.

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