conglomerate mixture rather than a synthetic compound. A third difficulty is that of writing a book which shall be at the same time a textbook or class-room manual, and a volume of interest to the lay reader. The author has for obvious reasons concentrated upon the former. The result is that the story lacks the continuity and perspective necessary for the lay reader. Professor Riegel has introduced in his book considerable social, economic, and cultural material. It is not like other well-known works on the same story, mainly factual. On the other hand, the volume shows little of the masterful philosophical and speculative interpretation of Frederick Jackson Turner.

Only a brief comment on the contents of the volume is possible. The author uses the word "West" in the sense of "Trans-Appalacaha" with only slight modification. This is a little unfair to the history of the up-country or Piedmont section of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. And even in his treatment of the trans-Appalachian West, he almost ignores the upper Ohio Valley. Our fraction of history is entitled to more consideration. The reviewer noted a number of defects of organization, particularly of chronological perspective, and some questionable interpretations and conclusions. A book review hardly presents space to mention them. It might be said, however, that failure to consider more fully the colonial period in such matters as the fur trade, Indian policy, land grants, and paper money, has inevitably weakened the perspective of the story of the West. The best parts of Professor Riegel's work are those dealing with internal improvements, especially transportation, and with life on the far western frontier. The chapter bibliographies, while good, are meager. This imprint does not contain references to a number of important recent books. And the bibliography lists neither articles nor source collections. The maps of the volume are few, small, and sometimes incomplete. Typographical errors, if present at all, are extremely few.

Alfred P. James

This volume, intended primarily for use as a college text, is not without appeal to the general reader. On the whole it is an admirable piece of work. The style is vigorous and stimulating, and the selection of materials is excellent. In keeping with the modern tendency the authors have attempted to portray in their true relationship the political, diplomatic, economic, social, and intellectual forces that have influenced and are influencing the daily life of the people. In contrast to the practice followed by many historical writers, Mr. Hacker and Mr. Kendrick have used a combination of the topical and chronological methods of treatment, with, however, only a reasonable degree of success.

Regardless of its easily recognizable merits the book has some more or less important defects. Among other things, too much space (nearly forty per cent of the total) is devoted to the last twenty years of our history, while the period from 1865 to 1897 has been correspondingly slighted. Often events of equal importance are treated unequally—one dismissed with only a slight reference, and the other discussed in considerable detail. Moreover, that part of the book dealing with economic conditions is burdened with too much statistical data. As a result, the interpretation and the correlation of events, so important to the average reader or the college student, are thus weakened or lost entirely in the mass of details and abstract figures. Though the authors have consciously attempted to set forth facts in all fairness, they have been rather free in expressing positive opinions and in making generalizations on questions that are of a strictly controversial nature. This is particularly true in their treatment of the period since the World War.

Although the book is written for college use, those outside of academic circles will find in this single volume a comprehensive and instructive history of the United States since the close of the Civil War. Especially interesting to western Pennsylvanians are the chapters dealing with the "Processes of Industrialization," "Imperial America in the Machine Age," and "The Organized Workers," in which the business activities of such men as Charles Schwab, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and others are portrayed and such industrial disturbances as the Homestead strike are narrated.

Asa E. Martin