the nomination, and at age sixty-five Buchanan faced a difficult election in which his home state played a major role. Buchanan's victory in Pennsylvania was owing to hard campaigning and a strong party treasury as well as support for his pro-Southern views. The Pennsylvania Democrats held high expectations that Buchanan's tenure in office would bring rewards for all, but the distribution of patronage satisfied few and angered many. This problem, growing disenchantment with Buchanan's support of popular sovereignty, and a declining economic situation weakened Democratic party unity and led to the ascendancy of the Republicans in Pennsylvania.

Professor Coleman's study is based upon the traditional records of political history, newspapers, and manuscripts, and relevant secondary sources are also cited. While the research has been diligent the results will have only limited appeal. General readers may find this book hard going, for the events of the period, particularly elections, overshadow the numerous politicians mentioned. Though the book contains portraits of eight of these men, their characters and personalities remain hidden from view. Historians seeking new answers to old questions about the origins of the Civil War will be disappointed with this study as will those looking for the application of quantification methods to Pennsylvania politics of the period. Professor Coleman does show us the elements productive of the decline of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania and explains the issues of interest to the state's voters in the 1850s. His study fills a gap in the Historical and Museum Commission's series and provides a knowledgeable explanation of events for students of the state's political history.

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_The Civil War, A Narrative. Volume III, Red River to Appomattox._


In 1954 a project that was to be twenty years and 2,934 pages in the making began. The first volume emerged in 1958, the second was published in 1963. In 1974, native Mississippian Shelby Foote, now a resident of Memphis, completed his monumental task: a three-volume work which he entitled "A Narrative" of the Civil War.

This third and final volume follows the pattern established in the
first two. The author uses sweeping prose, sometimes brilliant, mostly excellent, other times verbose, incisively clear battle descriptions, total reliance on printed materials, a pro-western theater orientation, an obvious affection for the Confederacy in general and Jefferson Davis in particular, and a reluctant though evident evaluation of the main political and military characters on the American stage between 1861 and 1865. The total effect is impressive — a massive synthesis of Civil War scholarship as presented by a master of words.

The volume under review here discusses the last months of the war and the immediate years beyond. It begins with U. S. Grant checking into Washington's Willard Hotel upon his arrival to take command of the Union armies and it ends with the 1889 deathbed words of Jefferson Davis: “Tell them — Tell the world that I only loved America” (p. 1060). The emphasis is totally military with political scenes serving to provide the book's perspective. Foote shows in great detail the destruction of the Confederate fighting forces by Grant's and Sherman's giant pincer movement.

Foote asserts that in this book he makes no interpretations, that he is simply presenting a factual narrative of the war. But the truth is that no historian can write facts without interpretation — his very choice of facts is his interpretation. Interpretation, after all, is what produces sense out of a mass of data. Thus, it becomes obvious to the reader that Foote has a grudging respect for Grant, does not like Sherman, is acutely upset at Joe Johnston, and admits the weaknesses of Hood and Bragg. He sees the war from Jefferson Davis's perspective and saves his highest admiration for the Confederate president. (He completely ignores the anti-Davis historians beginning with Edward A. Pollard and totally accepts Hudson Strode's pro-Davis position.)

Like any historian, Foote has the right to make any interpretations he feels are cogent, and he does not have to deny or apologize for them. But, it is the reviewer's task to point out weaknesses or omissions in such interpretations: for example, that most Civil War historians do not share Foote's overwhelmingly positive view of Jefferson Davis. Foote may wish to criticize General Miles's postwar prison treatment of Davis, but he might also, for the sake of accuracy, have indicated that such treatment was mild when compared with that meted out to the leaders of a defeated side in any of history's many civil wars. To say that such treatment made Davis a martyr "about as effectively as Booth martyred Lincoln” (p. 1049) is, to put it mildly, questionable.

Davis's refusal to follow the example of Robert E. Lee and other Southern leaders and seek a pardon, and his subsequent encourage-
ment of the "Lost Cause" syndrome among Southern people is also 
subject to varying interpretation. Foote chooses to present Davis's 
Lost Cause activities in a very favorable light, but other historians have 
wondered whether the Lost Cause, though it may have soothed the 
Southern ego, unfortunately also turned its attention to the issues of 
the past rather than to the needs of the future. Jefferson Davis was a 
talented man of stubborn determination and definite strengths, but 
he also had obvious weaknesses. The truth lies in neither his glorifi-
cation nor his vilification, neither in Hudson Strode nor in Edward 
A. Pollard. It lies in an objective interpretation of all the facts.

One could continue in a similar vein and discuss the author's 
other views of Civil War figures. One could also wish he had footnoted 
his volumes to allow scholars to trace his insights back into the sources. 
One could make any number of other criticisms and comments, but 
this would only obscure the fact that Shelby Foote has written a book 
that, despite weaknesses, will be long considered a major interpretation 
of the military history of the Civil War. No student of the war will 
ever be bored reading this book and no one will go away from it with-
out gaining knowledge about that most American of all historical 
events. Twenty years of dedicated labor have resulted in a literary 
masterpiece which places Shelby Foote among those very few his-
torians who are authors of major syntheses. It will be a long time 
before anyone again attempts so ambitious a work; this history will 
long stand with the volumes of Bruce Catton as the final word on the 
military history of the Civil War.

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Send These to Me: Jews and Other Immigrants in Urban America.
footnotes, index. $10.00 cloth, $4.95 paper.)

Of the eleven chapters in Send These to Me, nine are revisions 
of articles published previously in such diverse journals as American 
Quarterly, Catholic Historical Review, Mississippi Valley Historical 
Review, and Center Magazine. Usually such collections are uneven, 
but in this case the publisher has integrated them well. Approximate-
ly half of these chapters are devoted to major themes like immigration, 
nativism, assimilation, or pluralism. The remaining half is a dissection 
of these themes through an examination of the Jewish experience in