evolution of Gratz and Dropsie colleges. Like education, philanthropy was meaningful to the development of the Philadelphia Jewish community and is well treated in three chapters. The essay of Edwin Wolf on this subject is especially persuasive; he demonstrates that a group of prominent German-Jewish families funded numerous Jewish charitable organizations in the city during the nineteenth century, that the need to consolidate these agencies eventually led to the formation of the Federation of Jewish Charities of Philadelphia, and that this German-Jewish elite attempted to help rather than to ignore Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and from Russia. There also are two splendid chapters by Maxwell Whiteman about the cultural and economic activities of Jewish immigrants and an imaginative essay by Dennis Clark about Irish-Jewish relations in the city.

This book is a valuable addition to historical literature about Jewry in the American urban setting. It presents convincing theses and contains a fascinating concluding chapter that compares Jewish institutions and leadership patterns in Boston and Philadelphia. This work, which might have included essays about Philadelphia Jewish retailers and physicians, serves as a sequel to the study of Wolf and Whiteman and supports major interpretations found in histories about Jewish life in New York and Charleston. The book is based on extensive primary sources, is well written, and is intended for college and public libraries. This reviewer certainly hopes that a similar study will be written about the Pittsburgh Jewish community.

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This study documents through numerous statistics and charts the control of Appalachia by large absentee ownership. The book differs from other such studies in advocating a redistribution of the land and claims that this type of Third World solution may not be out of place in contemporary America. Charles Geisler in the introduction notes
that this was an arduous research project that provides a new sense of land as a resource for whole communities.

The study outlines in an impressive fashion the extent to which large outside corporations (oil companies and timber companies) own Appalachia. The author notes that 40 percent of the land and 70 percent of the mineral rights are corporately held. Forty-six of the top fifty owners are corporations. Furthermore, there is a heavy control of the land and its mineral rights by relatively few corporations or individuals. The top 1 percent of the owners control 44 percent of the land. This is over 1,400 times what is owned by the bottom 1 percent. And the top 5 percent own 62 percent of the land while the bottom 5 percent own .25 percent. The top half of the owners control 94 percent of the land.

The situation is even more in the hands of big owners when one examines the mineral ownership. The top 5 percent of the mineral owners own 62 percent and the top 50 percent own 97 percent.

State laws greatly undertax the unmined coal so that the big owners pay very little taxes while the regressive tax structure is borne by the average taxpayer. For example, a 1978 Kentucky law established a rate of one-tenth of one cent per $100 valued on unmined coal. In North Carolina a tax of .12 per acre was placed on minerals. Among the coal mining states of central Appalachia, only West Virginia makes any serious effort to tax the extractive industries. But, even here, the rate of taxation is extremely low.

Complicating the economic problems of the central Appalachian region is that the single largest landowner is the federal government whose lands cannot be taxed. In addition, there is much state ownership of land for park purposes and ownership by nonprofit groups.

The author points out that a mature, stable economy has not emerged in the twentieth century in Appalachia. He points out that those who believe that tourism will provide a sound economy overlook the seasonal and one-industry nature of tourism. The flaw in the economic life of Appalachia flows from its lack of integration into the nation's economy. One of the great drawbacks of the area is the inability to provide seed capital for new industry.

This volume is enlightening for all those who seek to find solid evidence of the extent to which Appalachia is largely controlled by outside companies who pay little or no taxes. This phenomenon accounts for the long-standing picture of Appalachia as an area of poverty. The thesis of the book is supported by an appendix listing the fifty top owners.
Students of Appalachia will welcome this book for its able documentation of the colonial economy of Appalachia. But many will question the call to action that proposes land reform and redistribution, a solution that, while necessary, may be unconstitutional.

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