other forces transforming eighteenth century America, but the subject deserves more detailed attention.

Although two chapters examine the Great Awakening, an emphasis on frictions within the clergy leads to the relative neglect of the Awakening's impact upon the laity. Bonomi asserts that the revival transformed patterns of "popular participation in organized opposition to authority" (p. 161). Yet her discussion of Pennsylvania focuses upon ethno-religious conflicts without establishing a connection to the Awakening. The analyses of the Awakening's consequences in Connecticut and Virginia are brief but much better.

Bonomi convincingly shows that the religious as well as political background of Americans shaped their approach to the Revolution. They inherited from England not only the commonwealth's traditional fear of conspiracies against its liberty but also the tradition of opposition to an intolerant religious establishment. It was the fusing of these religious and political concerns that united rationalists and evangelicals in opposition to England.

Despite its problems, this is a valuable reassessment of colonial religious developments. That it fails to integrate them completely into a comprehensive whole ultimately illuminates their complexity.

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Albert H. Tillson, Jr. Division of Social Sciences University of Tampa Tampa, Florida

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Dennis C. Dickerson has written an important and well-researched book, documenting the experience of blacks in the steel industry in its most important regional setting, Western Pennsylvania. Dickerson, the son and grandson of black steelworkers from Western Pennsylvania, is now a History Professor at Rhodes College. He breaks from community-based studies of blacks and associates himself with Meier, Rudwick and Trotter, by utilizing an occupation-based approach.

Beginning with a chapter on the pre-World War I period, Dickerson takes us through the heavy black migration of the 1916-50 period and
on into the post-World War II years. He draws upon interviews, census data, periodicals, including the community, labor and black press, and archival material to present a convincing portrait of the discrimination which blacks faced in the western Pennsylvania steel industry from 1875-1980.

Although Dickerson's book spans 105 years, the heart of the book, and seven of its nine chapters, deals with forty-four years from 1916 to 1960. Here the book is at its best. The pre-1916 and post-1960 material is less convincing.

Dickerson provides a rich picture of the life of black steelworkers and their institutions in the region from 1916 to 1960. He discusses the role of the black neighborhood, the black church and its changing character in the 1920s, and sports and recreational activities. He provides valuable discussion of the activity of such black rights organizations as the NAACP, Urban League and the United Negro Improvement Association.

Dickerson does an excellent job of describing the role of the black steelworkers in the 1919 strike; the era of the Employee Representation Plans, which were management's name for company unions that most steel corporations created from 1933 to 1937; the period of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee between 1936 and formal chartering in 1942; and during World War II and the 1946 strike. He is faced with a difficult problem: how to explain that while blacks played a central role as strikebreakers in the 1919 strike (only one of 1,700 struck in Homestead, zero of 344 at Duquesne, etc.), by the time the Amalgamated/SWOC organizing drives of the 1933-37 period were launched blacks were active union members in proportion to their numbers. Furthermore, by 1946, blacks were highly visible in support of the union on the picket lines. Dickerson advances some important explanations for the shift, at least as it occurred in Western Pennsylvania.

From 1910 to 1922, he argues, employers preferred blacks to immigrants because the newcomers didn't speak English and were susceptible to left-wing beliefs. He says they reversed this attitude in the mid-1920s. As the fear of radicalism receded and as the second generation immigrants (now English-speaking) emerged, blacks were shoved down the job ladder. This coincided with a heightening of segregation and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in Western Pennsylvania (125,000 members by 1924). The links of the SWOC and CIO to the newly popular Democratic Party (source of the popular social welfare measures of the 1933-35 period) spurred the transition. The swing of
community institutions such as the church, Courier, NAACP, and Urban League toward the SWOC also helped, but it was probably as much a reflection of the changed attitude of black workers as a cause.

Dickerson's final chapter recounts the substantial gains made by blacks in the 1960s and 1970s. These gains were to be rendered moot for most Afro-American steelworkers by the collapse of employment in the industry in the post-1979 period.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of Dickerson's book is a tendency to amalgamate the discriminatory behavior of corporations and unions, coupled with a highly favorable view of the role of the government in combating the subordination of blacks. For Dickerson, "federal intervention in black labor affairs always yielded greater gains than either union or company action." This viewpoint is not convincingly documented by the author, with the possible exception of the 1970s. Dickerson condemns the pre-World War I Amalgamated, primarily by mixing its behavior with the offshoot Sons of Vulcan, who broke away in part to protest the more decent racial policies of the Amalgamated. Of course, the federal government did practically nothing to aid black steelworkers for the first sixty-five years of the period Dickerson addresses. Even in World War II, Dickerson provides very few examples of any actual gains won by the FEPC for black steelworkers in Western Pennsylvania, while documenting many examples of USWA activity against overt discrimination.

There are some minor problems with statistics. For example, Dickerson posits a fall in the black percentage of the work force from 14% in 1944 to 6.5% in 1950, which does not correspond to the modest decline in actual numbers.

None of these should detract from the fact that Dickerson has taken a major step forward in our understanding of the black and labor histories of the region. Anyone interested in either topic would do well to read this important work.

Mark McColloch   University of Pittsburgh