CONTESTED BOUNDARIES: A NEW PACIFIC NORTHWEST HISTORY

by David J. Jepsen, and David J. Norberg

Wiley Blackwell, Hoboken, N.J, 2017. Illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. 416 pages. $94.95, cloth. $34.95, paper.

Brave are the souls who write textbooks, perhaps the toughest genre to master (and the easiest to fault). For college classes and often the general public, a textbook is an indispensable framework to know the region's past. *Contested Boundaries*, by David J. Jepsen and David J. Norberg, offers an update for Northwest history. As is common with such projects, the text offers useful insights but cannot live up to expectations.

Jepsen and Norberg conceptualize the Northwest around the notion of *contest*, arguing that the region's history is best understood by examining groups who challenged the "political, economic, and social barriers that blocked their path to equality" (p. xx). It is as good a theme as any, and the authors do well to keep that idea prominent throughout the text. That is no mean feat, for maintaining a theme throughout a textbook stymies many would-be authors. Whether in chapters on the Whitman-Cayuse conflict, the Industrial Workers of the World experience, or El Movimiento's achievements, the authors show individuals and groups fighting for and with dignity.

The authors also wisely decided not to try for comprehensive coverage. Instead, they produced a self-described "hybrid that merges an edited collection of essays with elements of a traditional text" (p. xx). In effect, they created a set of thematically selective chapters. For instance, instead of a chapter that covered industrialization broadly, Jepsen and Norberg wrote one about the railroads that strayed only slightly into other elements of the emerging industrial Northwest. This authorial decision enjoys the benefit of depth and the disadvantage of narrow coverage.

Tacked on to some, but not all, chapters are one, two, or three short features, often on a person (such as, Caroline Gleason) or event (such as, building Grand Coulee Dam) and occasionally an additional theme (such as, homosexuality) that allow Jepsen and Norberg to extend their analysis or broaden their topics. These features are often useful but can also feel extraneous, disconnected, segregated; this is a common shortcoming of appended sidebars, of course. In the end, the authors' approach with focused chapters that eschew any sense of comprehensive coverage means that more and bigger absences appear. For instance, there is no index entry for "populism" and only two short entries on "Progressive Era." Whole decades (such as, 1920s and 1950s) disappear almost altogether amid only occasional mentions. Thematic coverage is tempting but faces drawbacks like these.

The book has positive attributes. The authors use and point readers to Internet resources, including museum collections, which are essential to Northwest history today. The book's text and its many features highlight a more inclusive past than textbooks from previous generations. The images offer much and do not rely on tired standbys. Drawing sometimes from local newspapers and occasionally from interviews brings voices of immediacy from the past to the reader. The prose is easy without being simplistic.

Yet, the authors often rely on classic, but outdated, scholarship and miss exciting, important recent work. This seems especially the case in Indigenous, environmental, and gender history. Frequently, they rely heavily on a narrow range of sources, sometimes including synthetic texts that are too far removed from the best work on a subject. Citation practices in the book are inconsistent and incomplete at times. Idahoans and Oregonians will undoubtedly note Washington's somewhat greater emphasis, especially in the preponderance of photographs. Only partly the fault of the authors, copyediting missed many issues. Misspellings (such as, dying, not dyeing on page 200), erroneous names (such as, Robert Clark, not Norman Clark on page 156) misapplied punctuation (Native's, not Natives' on page

60 or Steven's, not Stevens' on page 100), and more litter the text; Wiley Blackwell did not do its due diligence.

The ultimate question to ask about a textbook is: Would I assign it? And I have not answered that for myself clearly, which I suppose is an answer itself. To be sure, it takes important steps beyond Carlos Schwantes' *The Pacific Northwest: An Interpretive History* (revised, University of Nebraska Press, 1996) but does not reach the scholarly quality of William G. Robbins and Katrine Barber's *Nature's Northwest* (University of Arizona Press, 2011), although that book addresses only the twentieth century. *Contested Boundaries*, thus, is a compromise as, perhaps, all textbooks must be. Of course, a textbook that pleases all audiences has not been written yet. One hopes a second edition might build on the strengths and improve some of the shortcomings.

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THE OTHER SLAVERY: THE UNCOVERED STORY OF INDIAN ENSLAVEMENT IN AMERICA

by Andrés Reséndez

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, Massachusetts, 2016. Illustrations, photographs, maps, notes, index. 431 pages. $30.00, cloth.

In 1843, Oregon's provisional government acted to prohibit slavery in the region and by 1849 justified Black exclusion laws as a means of keeping the fraught politics of antebellum slavery from reaching America's far corner. Such measures did not allow the Pacific Northwest to entirely dodge antebellum slavery debates, but they have served to obscure what Andrés Reséndez has dubbed "the other slavery." Although most narratives rightly focus on antebellum slavery as one of the central themes of American history, a parallel system of servitude in the West has gone nearly unnoticed. *The Other Slavery* thus serves as both an explicit corrective and a grand synthesis of the legacies of Indian servitude in North American history.

By the late seventeenth century, African slavery so effectively replaced the earlier system in the British mainland colonies that Indian slavery lay in a nearly forgotten past. When Americans encountered Indian slavery anew in lands acquired in the war with Mexico, they readily shifted from the more familiar system of southern chattel slavery to take advantage of the labor of Native Americans. As Reséndez demonstrates, this world of Indian slavery was the direct descendant of practices originating in New Spain. Although the African slave trade contributed to early Mexico's forced labor, it did not replace practices of Indigenous servitude that were flexible and adaptable enough to continue hundreds of years after the arrival of Spain in the Americas.

One of Reséndez's key points is that Indian servitude persisted, in part because it was not composed of a single monolithic system. Unlike the chattel slavery of the American South, it could not be effectively addressed by any specific legislation or focus. Instead, multiple local practices resulted in so-called apprenticeships, peonage, servitude, and outright slavery. The variances across the American Southwest and northern New Spain also hint at the even greater diversity of forced labor that persists with human trafficking today.

Reséndez counts as many as five million Indigenous people enslaved in the Americas. That staggering number should be cause enough to force a re-examination of the role that active subjugation played alongside disease in the devastation of North America's Indigenous cultures. He also highlights gender as a critical difference between American chattel slavery and Indian servitude. In the American Southwest and Mormon Utah, Americans adopted the older pretense of ransoming women and children captives to lend a veneer of cover to the process of making Indians into servants. In California, mission labor provided a model for later figures such