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## Book Review: Contemporary Southern Political Attitudes and Behavior by Moreland, Baker and Steed

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*Laurence W. Moreland, Tod A. Baker, and Robert P. Steed, eds., Contemporary Southern Political Attitudes and Behavior. New York: Praeger, 1982. 296 pp.*

*Contemporary Southern Political Attitudes and Behavior* is a collection of 14 essays, each of which was originally presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics, held in Charleston, South Carolina, March 27-29, 1980. Teachers and scholars who have been awaiting the appearance of a volume of balanced and well-organized studies of recent trends in Southern political life will find this book to be a welcome complement to the collection issuing from the 1978 conference which emphasized transition in Southern party alignments.

The book begins with an overview by the prominent historian of the South, Numan V. Bartley. The volume itself is organized in three sections, each of which is preceded by an introductory essay by the editors. More than providing a thin ribbon of continuity from one section to the next, these editorial essays do a masterful job of identifying for the reader the thematic unity of the studies which, otherwise, might appear to be rather disparate.

Part One examines the ideological mindset of the contemporary South. The first and second essays, by Jerry Perkins and Robert Bosch, respectively, examine the issue basis of conservatism among selected subgroups of Southerners. Studies by Earl Hawkey and Ted Jelen find that while Southern ideological distinctiveness has lessened in recent years, there remain elements of divergence between Southern and non-Southern attitudes.

Readers of Part Two, "Perspectives on Southern Party Politics," may be relieved to discover much more than yet another standard revisitation of V.O. Key, a motif which so permeated the symposium's 1978 collection. Articles by Earl Black and Merle Black provide in-depth analyses of Democratic and Republican factionalism, past and present. C. David Sutton's study of Appalachia, the South's "forgotten region," is an interesting investigation of partisan change in a traditionally Republican enclave. Examining Presidential election results from 1952 through 1976, Paul Allen Beck and Paul Lopatto demonstrate that Southern convergence toward national voting patterns and partisan alignments has occurred with great speed over the past two decades. This theme is pursued by Alan Abramowitz, John McGlennon and Ronald Rapoport who find in their study of party activists in Virginia that an era of lasting realignment continues apace. In a study of party elites in South Carolina, the editors show that while Deep South distinctiveness is fading, the disintegration of traditional party cleavages is far from complete.

Part Three, "Linkages between Mass Public and Public Officials," pursues a theme which, heretofore, has been examined mainly outside the South. Contributions by Gary Brooks, Kenneth Wald and Carole Southerland, and Mark Stern assess the impact of enormous racial change in the South on the behavior of appointed and elected representatives. In a final essay, Marcus Ethridge examines regulatory policy administration and notes a relative absence in the South of "informal linkages" between regulatory bureaucracies and affected constituent groups.

It should be noted that all of the essays in this volume are, to some extent, quantitatively oriented. While some readers may be a bit put off by an excess of data massaging, important hypotheses are advanced and provocative conclusions are reached. There should be no serious reservations about this collection's insights and contributions to the understanding of contemporary Southern politics.

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On May 24-25, 1983, the Centre on Foreign Policy and Federalism at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University is holding a conference on Culture, Federalism and Foreign Policy in Canada. The conference will focus on the input of Canada's federal system on its cultural diplomacy. Speakers include the Hon. Gerard Pelletier, Louis Applebaum, Jeffrey Holmes, Naim Kattan, and J. L. Granatstein. For information, write Centre on Foreign Policy and Federalism, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1 or call, 885-1211, Ext. 2765.

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