

semi-secret subject, partly for the light it throws on some current political attitudes, and partly for its illustration of the process of institutional and doctrinal adaptation in a Church which has been reluctant to interpret its ninth Article of Faith, "we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things . . .," as meaning that doctrines and policies of importance are subject to change.

How important was the political kingdom? Dr. Hansen observes at the beginning: "If few Mormons, in 1844, knew what kind of kingdom their prophet had organized that year, fewer know it today" (p. 5). That few knew about it in the nineteenth century may simply mean that it was not quite so important as Dr. Hansen believes—that it was an attractive idea, like the United Order, which was talked about more than acted upon, experimented with when circumstances permitted, but always peripheral to the main business of the Church. The observable political, economic, and social solidarity of the early Church does not *require* a kingdom doctrine to explain it. Still, the information so far discovered prompts a hope for new evidence by which to test Dr. Hansen's detailed interpretations and general conclusions.

That few know or care much about the kingdom idea today is probably only partly the result of limited information about the historic reality. Many Latter-day Saints, leaders and followers, understandably find the Church's thriving and comfortable present more congenial than its strange and sometimes disturbing past. Which, says Dr. Hansen, is paradoxical:

Without the existence and activities of the Council of Fifty, which contributed significantly to the building of the Rocky Mountain Kingdom, Mormonism might well have failed to enjoy its present stature and prestige within the framework of accepted American religious values and persuasions (p. 190).

STRANGE PEOPLE IN A STRANGE LAND

Ted J. Warner

The Far Southwest, 1846-1912: A Territorial History. By Howard Roberts Lamar. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966. xiii, 560 pp. \$10.00. Ted Warner, a specialist in the history of the southwestern United States, teaches at Brigham Young University and is President of his Latter-day Saint Elders Quorum.

Howard R. Lamar, professor of history at Yale University and author of *Dakota Territory, 1861-1899: A Study of Frontier Politics* (1956), has extended his investigations to the Far Southwest and produced a scholarly, highly readable, and interesting account of that frontier region. Four territories are considered: New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. He describes how American government and institutions, such as the two-party system, trial by jury, and free schools, came to be established in a region where different races and cultures in varying degrees of development existed from 1846 to 1912. Despite the differences in the four territories, Lamar notes that many physical and economic problems were of common concern. Indeed the author suggests that because of

the close relationship between local and national development, the history of the American frontier was not as free, individualistic, or haphazard as has been asserted.

The four chapters dealing with Utah make exceedingly interesting reading. In general there is little to quibble about, for Lamar is fair and objective, giving both praise and criticism. As he describes it, for twenty years after the Utah War, a determined struggle occurred between federal officers and the Church. A long dispute over the court system in Utah was followed by a bitter fight between Brigham Young and General Patrick Edward Conner, commander of the federal troops stationed in the territory during the Civil War. A third struggle over the powers of the governor flared periodically into a major crisis. In this period, Congress passed a few laws to strengthen the federal officers in Utah and abolish polygamy, and then in the 1880's began a massive attack on Church leaders, on the civil rights of the rank and file, and on the institution of polygamy. By then, only the defeated Southerners could point to as long a history of federal interference in the local life of a community and as deliberate a political and social reconstruction of an entire territory.

According to Lamar, the Utah experience was the most turbulent and unusual to occur in the history of the American territorial system, for nowhere else had the federal government ever faced the problem of turning a desert frontier theocracy into a standard democratic American state. To the outside world the practice of polygamy came to be the symbol of the so-called Mormon rebellion, and it was naively thought that if this institution could be abolished, all other things would right themselves. But this simplistic view ignored the fact that during their decades of isolation in the Great Basin, the Saints had created a distinct religious society and economy. The frictions that made headlines were caused by a conflict of social orders and of cultures, not by a conflict over polygamy alone. The growing crisis between 1850 and 1890, as Lamar sees it, involved not just *who* should rule at home, but *what form* home rule and local institutions should have. By rejecting parts of the common law, public schools, a secular two-party system, federal land policy, and the primacy of civil courts, Utah had violated even the permissive territorial system so fundamentally that Congress felt compelled to act.

Lamar considers Brigham Young a great frontiersman, not only because he successfully led a people to a new and forbidding land, but because he was also a pioneer in the same sense as Sir Thomas Dale and John Rolfe, who came to grips with the realities of colonial Jamestown and the problems of establishing an unfamiliar economy in a new environment. Young also sustained a community of Saints and a total society, much as John Bradford of Plymouth and John Winthrop of Massachusetts Bay did. He made the desert bloom and guaranteed that Utah would be predominantly Mormon. But such praise does not prevent Lamar from holding Brigham Young responsible for many of the Saints' difficulties in their relations with Washington and the Gentiles. He charges that Young's resistance to the fundamental American beliefs in secular courts, the two-party system, public schools, a weak militia, separation of Church and State, and monogamous marriage, and his defense of the community concept of property, brought the wrath of the nation upon Utah.