

6-1-1979

***The Transformation of Southern Politics* by Jack Bass and Walter DeVries**

Darryl Paulson
University of South Florida

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Recommended Citation

Paulson, Darryl (1979) "*The Transformation of Southern Politics* by Jack Bass and Walter DeVries," *Tampa Bay History*: Vol. 1 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol1/iss1/15>

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and rousing nativism. It would not have been enough to win except that the State Democratic Executive Committee sought to defuse the violent anti-Catholicism and succeeded only in making it appear it was intended to exclude Catts and his followers. When it appeared that he had won the nomination and was then reduced to second place in a recount, he charged that the party's old guard had counted him out. He ran independently as a candidate of the Prohibition Party and won conclusively which might be accepted as vindication for him.

The Democratic leadership would not forgive him for refusing to accept the results of the primary and for his campaign tactics. Both houses of the legislature and the elected cabinet with which he had to work opposed him. His administration was by no means a failure but he came out of it frustrated and cynical. He ran for the U. S. Senate in 1920 and for the governorship in 1924 and 1928, still a major factor in state politics. True to his principles in 1928 he opposed the nomination of Alfred E. Smith by the Democrats because he was wet and Catholic.

The book is the story of a man and a time coming together, a story told with judgment and insight.

Charlton W. Tebeau

The Transformation of Southern Politics. By Jack Bass and Walter DeVries. (New York: Basic Books, 1976. 527 pp. Illustrations, \$15.95 hardcover, \$5.95 paperback.)

Although almost every book on Southern politics faces the burden of comparison to V. O. Key's 1949 classic, *Southern Politics*, Jack Bass and Walter DeVries admit their conscious attempt to replicate Key. In their introduction the authors state: "Our book was written in the belief that the changes in the South since Key completed his classic work were such that only a similar approach, using his basic methodology of extensive interviewing in all eleven states, could present a comprehensive political portrait of the region as it enters the last quarter of the twentieth century." For the most part, the authors succeeded in achieving their goal.

The book begins with three introductory chapters. The chapters are useful in summarizing the major developments in Southern politics in recent years, but Bass and DeVries barely mention the school desegregation movement and the protest movement led by CORE, SNCC, SCLC and the NAACP which was so instrumental in shaping Southern politics. Chapter two discusses the emergence of two party politics in the South, but ignores a large body of scholarly literature on partisan change in the region. Instead, the authors rest their arguments on the commentaries of party activists and journalists. Finally, the chapter on black politics is overly saturated with the comments of Andrew Young, one of the 360 persons interviewed for the book, while other Southern black politicians are overlooked. Too much emphasis is also placed on the number of blacks holding office in the South, and not enough on the consequences of this development.

The three introductory chapters are followed by eleven chapters, one on each of the states of the Confederacy. Bass and DeVries discuss Florida politics in chapter six. The authors dwell on the distinctiveness of Florida in comparison with other Southern states, because of its rapid population growth and high percentage of non-natives. Much of the chapter is devoted to the governmental reform that has helped Florida stand out from its Southern counterparts. Bass and DeVries give high praise to Florida for pioneering the sunshine laws, financial disclosure by

public officials, and laws regulating campaign expenditures. These governmental reforms were facilitated by a strong capitol press corps which "no state in the South and perhaps none in the nation can match." Special praise is given to the *St. Petersburg Times* for its fine coverage of legislative action in Tallahassee and its investigative reporting which "may be unmatched in the country."

Of particular interest to residents of the Tampa Bay area is Bass and DeVries' description of the role played by William C. Cramer and Pinellas County in the growth of the state Republican party. Cramer took over control of the county Republican party in 1950, and in 1954 became the first Republican Congressman elected from the state since 1875. Also of interest to Tampa Bay residents is the coverage of Tampa's Latin community, although Bass and DeVries' treatment is somewhat superficial.

The last three chapters of the book examine the "fading revolt" by Southerners in the U. S. Congress, the "unrealized potential" of organized labor, and a concluding chapter on the future of Southern politics. The chapter on labor is only four pages long, and the authors would have been better off had they developed the chapter more or left it completely out. The concluding chapter is merely a repetition of the other chapters in the book, and there is little attempt to forecast future trends. Only the chapter on Congress provides useful information in describing the loss of regional distinctiveness among Southern Congressmen.

Although the book provides an incomplete treatment of some issues and, while in some places it is too anecdotal and in other places it ignores important scholarly works, Bass and DeVries have written a book that will have a lasting place in the literature of the South. The authors succeed in detailing the major transformation in Southern politics and, for the most part, they succeed in providing a vivid economic, historical, and sociological portrait of the region. There has been no better book on Southern politics in decades than *The Transformation of Southern Politics*, and it will undoubtedly be a long time before anyone else can match the effort of Bass and DeVries.

Darryl Paulson

Yesterday's Sarasota. By Del Marth. (Miami: Seemann Publishing, Inc., 1977. 160 pp. Illustrations and photographs. \$7.95.)

Let it be freely admitted from the start that this review of the recently released paperback edition of Del Marth's *Yesterday's Sarasota* narrowly misses being a conflict of interest.

That needs explaining.

When the hard-cover edition of the book was in its planning stage about six years ago, Marth came to the Sarasota County Historical Commission, of which the reviewer was then chairman, and asked for help. He wanted to make use of old photos and historical data from the commission's files, and he hoped we might lead him to sources of information he might have otherwise missed in his extensive research.