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Review of *Long Range Public Investment: The Forgotten Legacy of the New Deal*. Robert D. Leighninger. Reviewed by James Midgley.

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methods, policy evaluation, program evaluation, or case study research, however not for a general introduction to quantitative or qualitative research methods. For case study enthusiasts, Gerring's work would be a worthwhile adjunct to other texts on the subject.

Edward Cohen
University of California, Berkeley

Robert D. Leighninger. *Long Range Public Investment: The Forgotten Legacy of the New Deal*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2007. \$ 24.95 papercover.

The belief that governments have a major role to play in steering the economy and promoting the well-being of their citizens enjoyed widespread support during the middle decades of the last century. For many social historians, the New Deal of the 1930s exemplified the welfare statist ideal. Earlier campaigns by progressives to extend the role of government in economic and social affairs were resisted, but the mass unemployment, deflation and widespread bankruptcies caused by the Great Depression provided the impetus for radical change and the massive expansion of government intervention.

Now sixty years later, the core principles of the New Deal have been widely challenged and the proponents of state intervention have been put on the defensive. However, there are signs of a growing disillusionment with the market liberal gospel of laissez-faire. The retrenchments that have characterized social policy since the 1980s have not brought about the social improvements that were promised. Indeed, many believe that the changes that have taken place have exacerbated social problems. Another concern is the way the power and resources of the state have been appropriated to serve corporate interests. Despite the rhetoric of limited state involvement, a small but already privileged section of the population has benefited enormously from state intervention. There is also growing support for the idea that instead of adopting a hands-off approach, governments should actively promote economic

and social investments. Faced with a crumbling national infrastructure, it is more widely recognized today that these investments are essential for economic and social progress.

Leighninger's important book focuses on this issue and makes a major contribution to the contention that governments can play a vital role in promoting investment. Although he does not specifically invoke current social investment debates, his masterful historical account of the role of government during the New Deal lends support to the proponents of this approach. He demonstrates that the Roosevelt government's spending on the construction of bridges, roads, airports, dams, buildings, environmental projects and many other infrastructural improvements brought significant benefits to many communities. In addition, the job creation and other programs introduced at the time reshaped the nation's economic, social and political terrain.

The book consists of thirteen chapters divided into two parts. Part one discusses the major programs established under the New Deal while part two discusses the number of issues arising out of its interventionist approach.

Many students are confused by the acronyms that were used at the time (such as the CCC, FERA, the WPA and the CWA) to connote the major programs established by the Roosevelt administration. Leighninger devotes a chapter to each of the many programs established by the Roosevelt administration, such as the CCC, FERA, the WPA and the CWA and describes, and clarifies, their history and major functions. Although their functions often overlapped, they all contributed to the massive public investments that are still meeting the transportation, civic, housing and infrastructural needs of many communities around the country today. These chapters are richly illustrated with photographs, many of which were taken by the author himself. He shows that many familiar landmarks which had a major and lasting impact on the physical, economic and social landscape of many communities, were established during the New Deal.

Part two of the book discusses four issues arising out of the New Deal experience. These are first, the question of whether the New Deal served as a counter inflationary economic stimulus that helped economic recovery; second, the

role of public employment in economic development; third, the consolidation of federalism and finally the problem of pork barrel politics. These chapters make for interesting reading and the author presents a fair and thoughtful analysis of the different points of view that continue to be expressed around these issues today. Leighninger's overall assessment of the impact of the New Deal is largely positive and he concludes that its various programs effectively addressed the most pressing challenges of the Depression era. They also made a significant contribution to the country's economic and social well-being and left a legacy which demonstrates how the resources of government can be used to promote the public good. The book makes a major contribution to current debates about the role of the state in social investment and deserves to be widely read. Hopefully, it will also rekindle interest in the New Deal's forgotten legacy.

James Midgley
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Melvin Delgado. *Social Work with Latinos: A Cultural Assets Paradigm*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. \$35.00 hardcover.

Professor Delgado has provided an essential scholarly achievement that will continue to provide direction and guidance to scholars, advocates, practitioners and policy makers engaged in serving and understanding the Latino community in the United States. The book is a timely and thoughtful volume that provides a different assessment and a calming voice to an increasingly heated and difficult national debate on immigration reform. Given the particular focus of the debate on the rapidly growing and visible Latino population in the U.S., our media has created a singular perspective on immigration that is almost overwhelmingly seen as a Latino issue. Thus, Delgado contributes not only to understanding social policy and social work practice with Latinos but to understanding family cultural assets and community formation and