includes only four books on agriculture, the most recent one published in 1968. The scholar most cited in his agriculture chapter is Walter Wilcox, whose *The Farmer in the Second World War* was published in 1947! Klein relies mainly on contemporary journalism from *Time, Newsweek, the Saturday Evening Post,* and other popular periodicals. These journalists pandered to their urban readers by portraying farming anecdotally and rural people as folksy rustics, ignoring the sometimes grim realities of wartime farming. Klein’s tone and focus mimics that of his sources. And that makes this book frustrating to serious students of agriculture.

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The creatively titled book *The Blue, the Gray, and the Green* is one of the most exciting collections of scholarship I have read in quite some time. Promising to improve our understanding of the Civil War with insights from environmental history, the authors break new ground and offer tantalizing suggestions for future scholarship. The twelve scholars have succeeded in crafting a work that should be required reading for graduate students and all those interested in expanding the boundaries of Civil War historiography.

Rather than unifying around a single theme, each author presents new ideas for how to explore the interaction between humans and environment during the war. Kenneth Noe calls for the importance of considering weather in the outcome of Civil War battles, providing a list of campaigns influenced by bad weather. In a highly illustrative essay, Megan Kate Nelson explores the role of the harsh desert environment in early Union defeats in New Mexico. Nelson explains, “What looked to [Union] military personnel in the East . . . like surrender to ‘an inferior force of insurgents’ was actually a moment in which environmental conditions favored” the Confederacy (48). Timothy Silver notes that many southern landscapes changed in the wake of young farmers leaving the army. The farmers themselves, growing up in rural isolation, suffered grievously from disease in the army.

Kathryn Shively Meier follows up on her already impressive scholarship—the prize-winning book *Nature’s Civil War*—with an essay on “struggling.”
Briefly leaving the army, Meier asserts, “became not only a form of self-care used to avoid environmental exposure, but it also enabled other self-care techniques” (68). John Inscoe provides some fertile ideas for new scholarship in an essay entitled “The Strength of the Hills.” Inscoe suggests that Northerners associated the Appalachian environment with Unionism, a feeling that carried well beyond the war. Lisa M. Brady shows what military historians can learn from their environmental counterparts in a short piece on “friction”—Carl Von Clausewitz’s idea that chance can lay havoc to the best laid strategies. Brady argues that the environment can cause such “friction,” playing its own role in the outcome of events. Drew Swanson shows that in some cases the war did not change agricultural patterns but only accelerated existing trends, as in the case of bright tobacco production in Danville, Virginia.

There needs to be an environmental history of Reconstruction. Timothy Johnson suggests one such model is his essay on fertilizers in the postwar South. Johnson maintains that imported fertilizer was a “major new source of debt that emerged during Reconstruction” for sharecroppers (192). Mart A. Stewart ends the essay collection with a plea to consider how soldiers experienced the natural environment through walking, running, and marching. Overall, The Blue, the Gray, and the Green is a thoroughly engaging read with clear prose and path-breaking examples of new scholarship at the intersection of Civil War and environmental history.

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For the past twenty years, sociologist Jess Gilbert has been preparing a grand revision of the agricultural New Deal. He has kept his many readers on a slow drip, publishing his research in occasional articles and conference papers over the years. Now, happily and finally, we have the full story.

And what a story it is. Typically, when we talk about New Deal agricultural policy, we speak of large-scale government interventions undertaken early on and not always effectively: the Agricultural Adjustment Act or the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Many of the best-known names, such as Rexford Tugwell or David Lilienthal, were top-down reformers—“high mod-