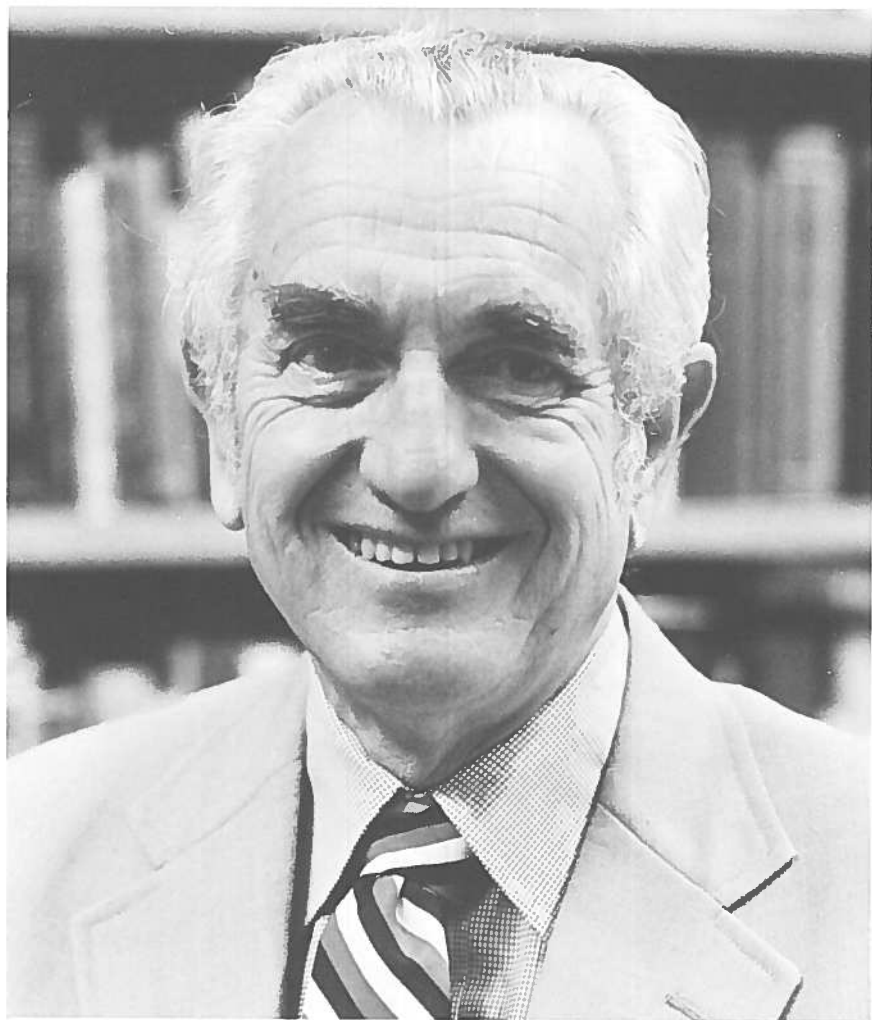


CARL N. DEGLER
PRESIDENT

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1986



Carl N. Degler, president of the American Historical Association, has enjoyed a career with few parallels in the recent history of the profession because of its remarkable range. Having written a doctoral dissertation at Columbia University on the labor history of the Jacksonian period, he has gone on to publish articles and books on southern history, race relations, the history of women and the family, the election of 1896, the career of Herbert Hoover, the work of Charlotte Perkins Gilman--and a synthetic overview of all American history.

Born in New Jersey in 1921, Degler did his undergraduate work at Upsala College. Having entered with the intention of pursuing a legal career, he encountered a gifted teacher of American history, Henry F. Arnold, and joined the History Club. By the time that he graduated from Upsala, Degler had changed his mind about his career goals and had decided to become a historian. After service in World War II, he went on to obtain the MA and PhD at Columbia.

With a happy experience at one small, liberal arts college in his background, Degler went from Columbia to Vassar College, where he was to spend sixteen years. There his interest in women's history manifested itself, and he wrote a pioneering article about Charlotte Perkins Gilman that antedated the rebirth of feminism by several years. And there he gave the lectures that formed the basis for Out of Our Past, his first book. In this work he demonstrated his considerable abilities as a synthesizer, providing interpretations, such as the New Deal as the Third American Revolution, that have done much to shape the literature in the years since its original publication.

At this point in his career, he came to the attention of David Potter, then one of the most eminent historians in the discipline. Potter reviewed Out of Our Past and conceived so strong a respect for the younger man that he invited Degler's participation in a textbook project. After this was completed, Potter was instrumental in Degler's going to Stanford University in 1968, where he has been ever since. Since 1972, he has been the Margaret Byrne Professor of American History.

At Stanford, Degler's career has blossomed. In 1971, he published Neither Black Nor White, a comparative study of Brazilian and American slavery. This book enjoyed the rare distinction of winning the Beveridge Prize, the Bancroft Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize. Two years later he published The Other South: Southern Dissenters in the Nineteenth Century in which he argued the case for continuing southern distinctiveness. In 1977 Place Over Time appeared, based on the Fleming lectures he had earlier delivered at Louisiana State University. In this work, too, he argued the brief for continuity in the southern experience. In 1980 he published At Odds: Women and the Family from the Revolution to the Present, the culmination of his longstanding interest in women's history. As with so much of his previous work, At Odds had a substantial impact on the nature of the subsequent discourse in its field.

In the course of his distinguished career, Professor Degler has earned many honors and much recognition. This year he joined a list that includes C. Vann Woodward, John Hope Franklin, and Arthur Link by achieving the presidency of the Southern Historical Association

and the American Historical Association while also having been president of the Organization of American Historians. He is perhaps unique in having been president of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, too. In 1973-74, he was Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University. His fellowships have come from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and the Stanford Humanities Center, to cite the most prestigious.

Renowned as a scholar, Degler has also been highly esteemed by his students at Vassar and at Stanford. Moreover, the graduate students he has trained at Stanford reflect his own wide range of interests: they have worked on such varied topics as southern history, women's history, intellectual history, and quantitative methods. Those who have studied with him can attest to the fact that he brings to their work nearly the same zest that he brings to his own.

Perhaps the truest gauge of Carl Degler's devotion to the discipline of history is the way in which he has spent his presidential year. He made it a point to spend many weeks on the road, visiting as many and as diverse a set of institutions as time and energy (his seems boundless) would permit. Taking his presidency to be more than a ceremonial position, he set out to discuss the state of history teaching with as many of its practitioners as humanly possible. In this, as in much of his historical scholarship, he demonstrated his faith in democratic possibilities.

**PRESIDENTS OF THE
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

1884-85	Andrew Dickson White	1938	Laurence M. Larson
1885-86	George Bancroft		Frederick L. Paxson
1886-87	Justin Winsor	1939	William Scott Ferguson
1887-88	William Frederick Poole	1940	Max Farrand
1889	Charles Kendall Adams	1941	James Westfall Thompson
1890	John Jay	1942	Arthur M. Schlesinger
1891	William Wirt Henry	1943	Nellie Neilson
1892-93	James Burrill Angell	1944	William L. Westermann
1893-94	Henry Adams	1945	Carlton J. H. Hayes
1895	George Frisbie Hoar	1946	Sidney B. Fay
1896	Richard Salter Storrs	1947	Thomas J. Wertenbaker
1897	James Schouler	1948	Kenneth S. Latourette
1898	George Park Fisher	1949	Conyers Read
1899	James Ford Rhodes	1950	Samuel E. Morison
1900	Edward Eggleston	1951	Robert L. Schuyler
1901	Charles Francis Adams	1952	James G. Randall
1902	Alfred Thayer Mahan	1953	Louis Gottschalk
1903	Henry Charles Lea	1954	Merle Curti
1904	Goldwin Smith	1955	Lynn Thorndike
1905	John Bach McMaster	1956	Dexter Perkins
1906	Simeon E. Baldwin	1957	William Langer
1907	J. Franklin Jameson	1958	Walter Prescott Webb
1908	George Burton Adams	1959	Allan Nevins
1909	Albert Bushnell Hart	1960	Bernadotte E. Schmitt
1910	Frederick Jackson Turner	1961	Samuel Flagg Bemis
1911	William Milligan Sloan	1962	Carl Bridenbaugh
1912	Theodore Roosevelt	1963	Crane Brinton
1913	William Archibald Dunning	1964	Julian P. Boyd
1914	Andrew C. McLaughlin	1965	Frederick C. Lane
1915	H. Morse Stephens	1966	Roy F. Nichols
1916	George Lincoln Burr	1967	Hajo Holborn
1917	Worthington C. Ford	1968	John K. Fairbank
1918-19	William Roscoe Thayer	1969	C. Vann Woodward
1920	Edward Channing	1970	R. R. Palmer
1921	Jean Jules Jusserand	1971	David M. Potter
1922	Charles H. Haskins		Joseph R. Strayer
1923	Edward P. Cheyney	1972	Thomas C. Cochran
1924	Woodrow Wilson	1973	Lynn White, jr.
1924-5	Charles M. Andrews	1974	Lewis Hanke
1926	Dana C. Munro	1975	Gordon Wright
1927	Henry Osborn Taylor	1976	Richard B. Morris
1928	James H. Breasted	1977	Charles Gibson
1929	James Harvey Robinson	1978	William J. Bouwsma
1930	Evarts Boutell Greene	1979	John Hope Franklin
1931	Carl Lotus Becker	1980	David H. Pinkney
1932	Herbert Eugene Bolton	1981	Bernard Bailyn
1933	Charles A. Beard	1982	Gordon A. Craig
1934	William E. Dodd	1983	Philip D. Curtin
1935	Michael I. Rostovtzeff	1984	Arthur S. Link
1936	Charles McIlwain	1985	William H. McNeill
1937	Guy Stanton Ford	1986	Carl N. Degler