

RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY, by Eric F. Goldman, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1952, 503 pp. \$5.

Reviewed by DAVID GOLDSTEIN

The "rendezvous" which is the theme of this exciting book, occurred in the lifetime of many who are still living. The author, associate professor of history at Princeton University, has produced a valuable "History of Modern American Reform," tracing the evolution of social and economic reaction.

This interesting narrative begins with the post-Civil War Populist and iconoclastic movements, and continues through the era of the New Freedom (Wilson) and the New Deal (Roosevelt), terminating in the Welfare State of modern times.

Men and women with a conscience are shown to have fought continuously against existing wrongs. Movements such as Populism, anarchism, women's suffrage, trust busting, banking reform, pacifism and internationalism were all directed against current evils. All failed in their objectives.

Dr. Goldman has made an incisive study of personalities composing the living vanguard of America's social change. Men like William Jennings Bryan, Terence Powderly, Clarence Darrow, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Robert LaFollette, Lincoln Steffens, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, loom large.

Of particular interest to graduates of the Henry George School are the liberal quotations from *Progress and Poverty*, and the constructive analysis of the social and economic principles of Henry George. The extent of George's influence is revealed impressively in the amazing number of people who emerged as progressive leaders in the early 1900's after reading this book.

Clarence Darrow was only one of many who was jolted out of conservative ways of thinking by *Progress and Poverty*. Walter Rauschenbusch, a leading religious writer of his period, is said to have devoured whole chapters, after which he wrote: "Progress slackens when a single class appropriates the social results of common labor and fortifies its evil rights by unfair laws." Tom L. Johnson, Cleveland streetcar magnate, said to his lawyer, "I want you to answer that book for me. I can't, and I must. For if that book is right then I am all wrong."

The "destiny" for which the great reformers of yesterday worked was a better future (today). We therefore have our rendezvous with their destiny. It is true that some of the evils have been alleviated. Social conditions, however, remain fundamentally the same, except that disturbances are felt with increasing force.

Not only must social reform of today continue the aims of reformers in the past, but

it must meet the threats of communism, nationalism and atomic weapons. *Rendezvous With Destiny* offers hope and a measure of guidance. Definitely a book for serious students and teachers of fundamental economics.