Maxine Lurie and Richard Veit's most recent contribution to the historiography of New Jersey is not just colorful eye candy, but a clearly articulated and well-contextualized walk through of hundreds of years of the region's history. This weighty reference volume, *Envisioning New Jersey: An Illustrated History of the Garden State*, is at first glance a gorgeous coffee table book for students and researchers of New Jersey history, but it proves itself to be especially useful for instructors at all levels. Its goal is not to present incisive new and critical analysis of New Jersey's past but to carry readers through a thoughtful parade of the state's most fascinating primary sources and intriguing cultural artifacts. The obvious contribution of this volume is the collection of visuals included here, an unparalleled assemblage of primary sources for use in the classroom. Lurie and Veit have saved many educators many hours of library and internet researching with this collection.

Beginning with New Jersey's geological origins and transitioning into an attentive representation of this land's original inhabitants, the Lenape or Delaware Indians, the volume is organized chronologically, but spends the most time exploring the state's national contributions and significance in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Lurie and Veit are to be commended for highlighting the remnants of these histories on the present day landscape, noting historical sites and markers across the state where readers can visit for more in-depth analysis. This is a valuable contribution to place-based history, connecting these sites with the larger themes in New Jersey history, an effort particularly beneficial to regions of the state that often receive less

historical analysis, including the more rural agricultural south. This is fitting given the collaborative nature of the work that went into producing this volume in order to assemble the 654 images that comprise the volume from over 150 institutional and private collections. Readers' attention to the credits for these images should drive researchers and potential visitors to these repositories and historic sites, from the Monmouth County Historical Association to Rutgers University Archives and Special Collections to the Newark Public Library, American Labor Museum, and Burlington County Historical Society. Sites that often get overlooked due to their geographical location or to New Jersey's notoriously divided historical identities are given attention here, including, for example, the location of the East Jersey slave market in Perth Amboy, where thousands of enslaved people entered the state and were auctioned, and Seabrook Farms, a successful early-mid twentieth century frozen foods company that hired thousands of Japanese-Americans on work release from detention camps across the country during World War II.

Envisioning New Jersey draws connections between national trends and local events that will aid educators in helping students see where their state's story fits into the broader tale of United States history. It makes a useful visual guide for not only New Jersey history courses but also United States history surveys and other history courses taught within or near New Jersey. Where it falls short is in our more recent history. The latter portion of the book is dubbed "Postwar New Jersey" but it blends the past seventy years into one short chapter that is very light on the later twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. This is unsurprising, perhaps, as *Envisioning New Jersey* is intended to serve as a companion volume to the highly accessible and useful survey of New Jersey history that Lurie and Veit authored a few years ago, *New Jersey: A History of the Garden State.* General survey volumes on New Jersey history tend to fall into this trap, however, leaving educators and researchers to tie together the threads of the past fifty years through

individual articles and stand-alone monographs. This is a gap we might hope to see rectified in the next decade of publishing on New Jersey history.

But the volume makes a concerted effort to construct a unified historical narrative that does not merely tack on women's history or African American history where these subjects usually make an appearance (suffrage and emancipation or civil rights, respectively), but effectively incorporates these histories into the traditional narratives of New Jersey's contributions to shared colonial and revolutionary milestones. Indeed, the book emphasizes New Jersey's broadly defined diversity as a categorical characteristic, along racial, ethnic, social, religious, and economic lines. While the state's cultural identity in the minds of most Americans and American historians remains an enigma, it is this mélange quality that guides Lurie and Veit through the state's history.

Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan
Rutgers University