

Editors' Note

In this issue of *Business History Review*, we offer one prominent scholar's reflection on the direction of the discipline. Per Hansen's article "Business History: A Cultural and Narrative Approach" argues forcefully for the importance of a cultural approach to the field of business history and an embrace of non-traditional sources. We also showcase one of our major themes, the role of government in business. Four of the five articles in this issue of *BHR* address the topic of business-government relations. The issue opens with Howell Harris's contribution, "Coping with Competition: Cooperation and Collusion in the US Stove Industry, c.1870–1930," which explores how stove manufacturers cooperated via their trade association to overcome the industry's weaknesses and how the industry responded to federal regulation. The trade association's anticipatory response to a possible investigation into price-fixing contributed to its own collapse. María del Carmen Collado's article, "Entrepreneurs and their Businesses during the Mexican Revolution," reveals entrepreneurs' attempts to navigate during an unstable political situation. The Braniff family, whose fortune came from textile manufacturing, utilities, and real estate, used their political connections to try to retain their many holdings during the turmoil of the Revolution. Chibuike U. Uche, in "British Government, British Businesses, and the Indigenization Exercise in Post-Independence Nigeria," discusses the British government's attempts to protect British businesses' interests in post-Independence Nigeria. For example, the British government used its foreign aid program in Nigeria as a lever to minimize the scale of Nigeria's program to indigenize companies. Yongdo Kim's article, "Interfirm Cooperation in Japan's Integrated Circuit Industry, 1960s–1970s," explores how integrated circuit companies and their customers, including the government-run NTT, worked with each other to improve their products. While this collaboration led to Japanese companies' leadership in the world market, it may also have hampered investment in fundamental research. The theme of business-government relations is further developed in William Child's review essay of *What's Good for Business: Business and American Politics since World War II*, edited by Kim Phillips-Fein and Julian E. Zelizer.