The Great Rent Wars: New York, 1917–1929

Robert M. Fogelson. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013. x, 495 pp. $45.00.)

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Robert M. Fogelson's The Great Rent Wars is a meticulously researched and wonderfully written study of how New York City tenants and landlords (not to mention judges and legislators) struggled over the question of rent regulation in the aftermath of World War I. In examining this story Fogelson makes a valuable contribution to American urban history. At the same time,
there are a few occasions where he could have presented his analysis and argument more forcefully and where he provides more detail than is necessary.

The book has many important strengths. Fogelson is at his best in describing the individual historical figures that fill the book. Few particulars escape his attention, whether in the detailed passages describing the local judges who were called upon...

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