

eight chronological eras presented, although the reader can only guess as to their historical significance because no introductory remarks are given for individual time periods. Standard primary source materials, such as Thoreau's *Walden*, the Declaration of Independence, and Andrew Carnegie's "Wealth," are used to illustrate the themes of land, government, and people. Sheridan then concludes each era of study with an innovative attempt to broaden the nature of the themes presented by exploring documents that might refute ideas and concepts suggested earlier under land, government, and people. For example, after the reader is exposed to Turner's "Significance of the Frontier in American History" for land, the Homestead Act of 1862 for government, and *Letters of a Woman Homesteader* for people, counterpoint arguments are offered by Red Jacket, Petalsharo, and Chief Joseph. An excerpt from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* is used for the international perspective. Although this format is a noble idea, because the editor gives no clue for why these juxtaposition readings are found together, the reader will probably be confused about the placement of some of these counterpoint and international perspective selections.

America: Readings in Themes and Eras also suffers from several other pedagogical shortcomings. Although many of the selections are of historical value, most represent white male America. It is appalling in this day of multiculturalism that not one African-American is mentioned, not Frederick Douglass nor Martin Luther King, Jr. Women and Native Americans do appear, but almost by chance. Anyone interested in pursuing more information about most of the selections would have a difficult time in doing so because the editor's introductions are brief and bibliographical citations incomplete. Five-sixths of the book deals with pre-twentieth century America and examines little or no historical content that physically occurred west of Pittsburgh. The two sections on the twentieth century are such a gamut of topics as to be almost totally meaningless—social security, atom bomb, the environment, abortion, and television.

Sheridan attempts to define American studies and gives a brief history of the movement in her introduction. Like selections found in the rest of the book, the four articles that appear in the appendix under the title "The Field of American Studies" contain little or no explanation as to why they are there. The index to the book is equally brief and offers only a topical approach to the content presented.

If *America: Readings in Themes and Eras* is supposed to reflect what should appear in an introductory American Studies course, then the editor needs to rethink her structure. The world has changed dramatically in the last decade and so has the content and the focus of American history and American studies courses at the precollegiate and collegiate levels. Readers of this book will receive only a distorted, outmoded look at America.

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Bernard Bailyn. *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution.* Enlarged Edition. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992. Pp. xvi, 396. Paper, \$12.95.

Bernard Bailyn redirected much of the scholarship of the era of the American Revolution when he published the first edition of this volume in 1967. His study of the vast pamphlet literature of the era offered a fresh and exciting reinterpretation of political thought and theory from the 1760's through the 1780's. Bailyn rediscovered a debate over the sources and uses of power that had meaning in its own right, contributing centrally to the presentation and resolution of many economic, military, diplomatic, and constitutional questions. Simultaneously, he directed our attention away from classical and Enlightened sources of colonial thought, turning instead to the radical commonwealth heritage of 17th century England. By advancing

an argument for an adaptive, pragmatic American political leadership, he suggested a continuity of discourse that made the revolutionary state constitution a continuation of, rather than a break with, pre-war ideas. Bailyn offered a compelling paradigm that spawned a quarter century of dialogue on the meaning of liberty, virtue, and republicanism.

This enlarged paperback edition reprints the 1967 text adding a new preface and a concluding chapter that first appeared in 1990 as an essay on the ratification of the federal constitution. The preface is a short, and fairly sharp, rebuttal to those critics Bailyn believes have misread the evidence by emphasizing classical republican models of civic humanism and by claiming discontinuity between the debates of the 1770s and 1780s. The concluding chapter amplifies Bailyn's argument that ratification was a logical extension of the pragmatic spirit of the new constitutions of the individual states.

It is hard to find a contemporary textbook that does not address the issues that Bailyn raised. yet the very power of Bailyn's argument means that, even with the added materials, it is the starting point of a quarter century of subsequent study, evaluation, and commentary. Historians who use the book in classroom situations should consider how to involve students in this ongoing discourse.

Several alternatives teaching approaches are possible. Bailyn can be used to establish a context within which primary documents of the era can be reviewed and evaluated. Collections of documents such as Charles S. Hyneman & Donald Lutz, *American Political Writing during the Founding Era, 1760-1805* (2 volumes, Indianapolis, 1983), and Bailyn's own *Pamphlets of the American Revolution, 1750-1776* (Cambridge, MA, 1965) permit many library assignments. Bailyn's views can also be used to prepare briefing papers and presentations for mock legislative and conventions, such as the program developed for the *Jefferson Meeting on the Constitution* by the Jefferson Foundation, P.O. Box 33108, Farragut Station, Washington, D.C. 20033. The book can be used more traditionally as a basis of a variety of historiography essays. The symposium presented by the *William and Mary Quarterly* (Third Series, Vol. XLIV, No. 3, July, 1987, 549-640) on Gordon Wood's subsequent *The Creation of the American Republic* (Chapel Hill, NC, 1969) is indicative of the range of approaches possible with this lively topic.

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George W. Geib

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Bullitt Lowry of the University of North Texas concludes his work as Book Review Editor with this issue. We wish to thank him for his talented efforts. We also wish to welcome back Bill Mugleston as Book Review Editor beginning with our next issue. Books for review and correspondence regarding reviews should be sent to:

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