

I come away as hungry from this anthology as from a huge buffet table, where there are many fine dishes in small portions served uniquely by a chef with too many agendas for a single meal.

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Eric J. Evans. *The Forging of the Modern State: Early Industrial Britain, 1783-1870.* London & New York: Longman, 1996. Second edition. Pp. xv, 486. Paper, \$24.95. ISBN 0-582-08953-0.

Clive Emsley. *Crime and Society in England, 1750-1900.* London & New York: Longman, 1996. Second edition. Pp. x, 312. Paper \$22.95. ISBN 0-582-25146-X.

New editions often suggest that a book has justified a publisher's investment; they also provide authors an opportunity both to correct inevitable errors and to bring their efforts up to date. Here are two worthwhile and sophisticated books, each intended for classroom use, that have been given editorial second wind. Evans's textbook takes into account recent research, with special attention to the Industrial Revolution and its consequences (i.e., about social change and whether there actually was an Industrial Revolution in late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Britain). He has reduced some—but not all—of the Anglocentric nature of his earlier effort; he has added a new chapter that discusses the degree to which the four national parts of the United Kingdom are genuinely national; and he has paid more attention to women's history (wisely) by the superior route of revising the whole rather than with an appendage-like afterthought. Emsley, whose subject is given scant attention by Evans (or by other textbook authors, for that matter), has added a chapter on crime and gender that makes for fascinating reading, especially insofar as female criminality was perceived and on the evolution of general (mostly *male*) attitudes toward prostitution and abortion.

While there is a rationale for the terminal dates Evans employs, 1783-1870 might not be practical for courses that include all of both the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; also, some historians might question 1783 relative to the subtitle in that the Industrial Revolution in Britain started earlier, and that 1783 has nothing to distinguish it with regard to economic change. But the wise teacher and student will use this book not only for its breadth and detail, but for its invaluable reference additions: Three of the book's four sections are preceded by a "Framework of Events," a year-by-year summary of significant activities; a 70-page "Compendium of Information," which includes a complete list of each British government, all measures for parliamentary reform, all legislation covering factory and industrial reform, and statistics on local government, public health, poor law, and education; graphs and charts on the economy; a series of maps; and a helpful (but not annotated) bibliography.

The narrative rests on a healthy mix of older and/or standard secondary sources and newer ones published in the last decade. Among the many concise and clearly-articulated

chapters is one on free-market capitalism and the influence of Adam Smith and Malthus; it goes beyond clichés to explain the nuances and paradoxes of *laissez-faire* philosophy, complete with ironies for our late twentieth-century world. The Industrial Revolution, in its myriad manifestations and examined broadly (including not only inventions but markets, organization of workforce, poverty, protest, quality of life, and labor organization), is allotted one of the four main parts into which the book is divided.

Effective use is made of anecdotes and stories to enhance what could otherwise be mistakenly dismissed as a panoply of generalizations. There is also a wealth of detail here--benefiting from so much attention paid by scholars to every nook and cranny of British studies--although some of the vocabulary used (e.g., *bibulous*, *refulgently*, *purblind*, *spoliation*) is not for the dictionary-deficient.

And yet this could easily have been a more useful book for students and teachers. There are no summations and too few periodic assessments that might otherwise bring effective closure to chapters and subjects. There are no visual aids to enhance the narrative. The names of many prominent people pass before our eyes, but their human qualities are not fleshed out: Peel, Disraeli, Victoria, and the rest are cardboard cutouts. Minimal attention is paid to cultural history, especially to the arts. There is precious little on Victorian vice, immorality, or sexuality. Women and women's roles are emphasized, but larger issues of gender are not.

In short, this is mostly a traditional approach to British history, with primary emphasis placed on politics, diplomacy, religion, and economics, and some important secondary emphasis on social history, such as on demography, urban development, and leisure. And as might be expected, "England" and "Britain" tend to be treated synonymously (the author's assertion notwithstanding), with the reader primarily becoming aware of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales only when they are infrequently introduced. Yet, in the concluding chapter, some important distinctions are drawn as to the greatness of the UK by 1870 and to the relative roles played by each of its four constituent nations and by the idea of national unity.

By synthesizing recent research, Emsley seeks to determine what the English in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries understood crime to be, what patterns of crime were detected, who committed the crimes, and how such crimes were treated (in terms of prevention and punishment). Part of the problem with the English notion of crime may be summed up in the words of Anatole France: The law "with magnificent impartiality forbids rich and poor alike to steal bread and sleep under bridges." Emsley doesn't employ this quip, but he acknowledges it indirectly in his discussion of the development of law from consensus and of how abuses, once detected, were essentially reformed. The English sense of fair play aside, criminal law was usually an instrument of the ruling class, and this book treats us to many of its particulars.

The book--solid, occasionally stolid--is divided thematically (e.g., perceptions, realities, gender, professional criminals, pursuit, and prosecution), with each chapter's opening and concluding paragraphs providing an overview and summary; it is especially useful for its fair and balanced assessments and for the generalizations made from the mass

of facts, statistics, and analysis provided (e.g., the availability of statistics made crime national and the criminal a national bogeyman). There are two mid-point chapters of assessment and a concluding one that ought to be studied attentively, while the rest can be devoured or picked at like cooked birds at a holiday feast, all depending on how hungry one is for each particular dish served. In the process, we come to understand what constituted the Victorian frame of mind, on both sides of the legal divide.

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Lynn Hunt, ed. *The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History.* Boston & New York: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1996. Pp. x, 150. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 0-312-12249-7. Paper, \$7.50; ISBN 0-312-10802-8.

T.C.W. Blanning. *The French Revolutionary Wars, 1787-1802.* New York: Arnold, 1996. Pp. xvii, 286. Paper \$19.95. ISBN 0-340-56911-5.

In the absence of a new, all-encompassing interpretation of the French Revolution of 1789 to replace the seductively simple Marxist triumph of the bourgeoisie, its historiography has become kaleidoscopic. Hence, the Revolution provides the perfect training ground for building students' analytical skills. When confronted with the multiplicity of perspectives on the Revolution, they quickly realize how present preoccupations bear upon our view of the past, as well as how our view of the past influences present attitudes and assumptions. The two books under review are a case in point: They could not vary more greatly in their conceptions of the Revolution's significance. Whereas Lynn Hunt sees the debates of 1789-94 as the key to understanding current western notions of human rights, T.C.W. Blanning views the wars of 1787-1802 as having laid the foundation for Nazi Germany. Each is writing for a particular series so their approaches, of course, differ, but ironically so: Hunt seeks to stimulate argument while Blanning tends toward polemic.

Anyone who has required students to analyze primary sources will know how the task generates enthusiasm in some and causes paralysis in others. Course-readers tend to be intimidating in size and scope. Editors of the Bedford series have devised the perfect solution by soliciting short document collections, each organized around a specific theme. Hunt leads off by exploring the implications of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 being based on the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen of 1789. There is a 31-page introduction that frames the problem, explains the historical context, and introduces the forty documents. Debates on rights in revolutionary France concerned four marginalized groups: the poor and unpropertied, religious minorities and persons of questionable profession (actors and executioners), free blacks and slaves, and women. For Hunt, the period's most revolutionary aspect consists in legislators having felt compelled to debate the rights of these groups in spite of society's deeply ingrained prejudices. Indeed, the contemporary sources she excerpts convey the tension between long-held views, practical considerations, and abstract principles. For instance, she