

the individuals. Not even on Dreyfus, although we learn a good deal about him and his ordeal: accusation, trial, conviction, imprisonment on Devil's Island, retrial, conviction, pardon, restoration to the Army with promotion and the Legion of Honor. There's enough drama here for any novel, but, of course, these things happened.

The author skillfully integrates these events within the context of a searing experience for French society and politics. In the process of trying to determine Dreyfus's guilt or innocence, the Republic nearly came apart as the French confronted fundamental issues of the *raison d'être* of the state and the nature of institutional authority within an ostensibly democratic society. Definitions of "justice" and "individual rights" took on an urgency that moved these abstractions into the arena of intense political debate. Explosively adding to the debate was deeply rooted anti-Semitism in French society, reflected across the political spectrum.

Further fueling the intense passions was the unresolved clerical issues. Prior to the Affair, Pope Leo XIII had told Catholics they could, after all, be republicans and still be true to their religion. But anti-Clericalism ran deeply as large numbers of the French distrusted the Church and wanted all traces of clerical influence removed from republican institutions. The pro-monarchist, virulently anti-Semitic right-wing fringe in the church caused a lot of noise, and some violence, ultimately helping to discredit both the anti-Dreyfusards and the institutional French church.

The book begins with a helpful two-page chronology. A very useful addition would have been a list of the principals, with the briefest of biographical information. Students will have a bit of difficulty keeping everyone straight. Nonetheless, Johnson has written a book that incorporates the best of Affair scholarship, developing thoughtful analyses of the individuals and the large issues that the Affair pushed into the forefront of French life. Readers will learn a good deal about French society and politics during the *Belle Époque*, and they will be reminded that some of the issues are fundamental ones, relevant for contemporary society as well.

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Walter Lowrie

Kirk D. Werner, ed. *The American Revolution*. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. Pp. 224. Paper, \$13.96; ISBN: 0-7377-0238-9.

The American Revolution is one of those small, easily accessible supplements that all undergraduates (and some graduates) pine for, yet rarely find. It is part of a series entitled "Turning Points in World History." It is quite apt for the series, for what American has not been imprinted with the importance of the struggle of the

founding of this nation? The volume in question does one better; it presents the material in a way that provides the reader with the possibility of doubt as to the success of the struggle. That is a point that has been left out of all too many other books of its kind. The American Revolution has largely been taught in schools as if it was inevitable, a *fait accompli*. The people, great and common, could hardly have agreed to such a view. One third rebelled, one third remained loyal to Britain, and the last third were apathetic. The rebels knew it was a struggle. The authors convey this reality, and that is one of the strong points of this book.

This work brings to light several important views that don't always emerge when discussing the Revolution. Economics is a factor as is diplomacy, or the failure of it, as well as the noble intentions of less than savory, and oft-times reluctant, revolutionary characters. The contributing authors also provide a healthy look at the "invisible" supports from within and without the American cause. There were those in Britain who supported American independence, or at least their rights to complain about unjust, even illegal treatment at the hands of their fellows.

The treatment of American Indians and their contributions in a real and substantial way have only recently seen the light of day. They were not, as some previous histories have portrayed them, passive, ignorant, nor especially foolish. Some members of the Iroquois Confederacy chose to support the British because the British had a more comprehensive and coherent policy towards the Indian population. It also seemed a safe bet to side with the best musketeers on earth against a rag-tag collection of thrown-together part-time soldiers who would rather plow than fight.

The editor as well as the contributing authors should be commended for their realization that the Revolution did not end with the surrender of Cornwallis. The Revolution extended beyond the fighting to laying the foundation of a new and experimental form of government, which was just as revolutionary as the war. Robert S. Peck's "The First State Constitutions" details how American government ran the revolution and provided a model for those bereft of Britain's guidance in the formation of policy.

The work also presents the Revolution in what it did not accomplish. Slavery existed in a republic where "all men were created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights ..." Donald Wright's contribution provides a foreshadowing of the struggles between North and South in the nineteenth century over the foundations of competitive civilizations and a "peculiar institution."

The only real weakness of the work is that it does not address women. Abigail Adams once chided her husband in a letter, "John, remember the ladies, husbands would be tyrants if they could." There are several excellent works that address the subject of women in the Revolution. Richard and Joy Buel's *Way of Duty* springs to mind, and of course, Mary Beth Norton's *Liberty's Daughters*. On the whole the work is quite useful and could be recommended to upper-level

undergraduates as well as graduates as a supplement to a course on the Revolution. It is a good general introduction to several scholars in the field, their views and contributions. It is also a good way to whet the appetite of a general reader who wishes to learn more about the historical significance of an event that many think they already know.

South Louisiana Community College

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Timothy B. Tyson. *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams & the Roots of Black Power*. Chapel Hill & London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999. Pp. 402. Cloth, \$29.95; ISBN 0-8078-2502-6. Paper, \$16.95; ISBN 0-8078-4923-5.

Timothy Tyson frames his prize-winning first book with two images. In 1936 an eleven-year old African-American boy in Monroe, North Carolina, witnessed a white police officer, Jesse Helms, Sr., physically assault a black woman and then drag her, dress up over her head, along the pavement to the local jail. White bystanders laughed. African American men hung their heads and hurried away. Sixty years later Robert F. Williams, that black boy who became an advocate of "armed self-reliance," was laid to rest, his body carefully dressed in a gray suit given him by Mao Zedong, his coffin adorned with a red, black, and green pan-African flag, and his eulogy given by Rosa Parks, the embodiment of non-violent resistance. Tyson calls for a rethinking of the relationship of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. His thesis is that these vital movements "emerged from the same soil, confronted the same predicaments, and reflected the same quest for African American freedom," and that we need to question the periodization that sees the emergence of Black Power as a reversal of the freedom struggle. Rather, Tyson posits a revival of a tradition of armed resistance, particularly from World War II on.

This well-written narrative centers on the life of Robert Williams, who rose to national and international prominence during the infamous "kissing case" of 1958 in which African American boys, ten and under, were held for days without being able to see their parents or any lawyers for "assaulting" three white girls. From then on, Williams, president of the local NAACP, emerged as a forceful spokesman, and dueled in person and in the press with white leaders as well as with Roy Wilkins and the national leadership of the NAACP, and eventually with Martin Luther King, Jr., over his call for "meeting violence with violence." This well-researched biographical approach allows Tyson to entwine powerful stories with deep political analysis, elucidating how the Cold War setting of the African American fight for freedom caused the most local history to be writ large. Williams pragmatically built