

the Revolution, especially the teaching of the American Revolution, if he is to be more than a name and a pamphlet title, can be a challenge.

Thomas P. Slaughter has done a masterful job of providing a vehicle for fitting Paine into the teaching of the Revolution. The paperback edition will be an ideal volume for any course on the American Revolution, the evolution of political thinking in the United States, or comparative revolutions. It continues the tradition of providing excellent teaching resources that the Bedford Series has established.

Slaughter has produced a slim, but dense volume that brings Paine alive as a person in a way that will be fully accessible for college students, including those in the American history survey course. He presents the forces, both societal and personal, that shaped Paine's views about the nature of government and society very effectively in a brief introduction that is a model of intellectual biography—not only providing the outline of Paine's life but linking his experiences to his later ideas on the nature of government and his personality. Slaughter also discusses Paine's career after the Revolution, making him a complete person, not just a name and a pamphlet. The full text of *Common Sense* (the Towne edition) is included so students can encounter Paine's ideas for themselves. Slaughter has also included five of Paine's earlier essays, including *African Slavery in America* and *Reflections on Unhappy Marriages* as well as two of his responses to the reaction to *Common Sense*, *The Forester, Number 1* and *The American Crisis*. This edition will allow students to see Paine as a real person who played an important role in the American Revolution and it will allow them to assess and understand that contribution fully.

Murray State University

William H. Mulligan, Jr.

**Noble E. Cunningham, Jr., ed. *Jefferson vs. Hamilton: Confrontations That Shaped a Nation*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000. Pp. xiii, 186. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 0-312-22821-X. Paper, \$14.20; ISBN 0-312-08585-0.**

Ask undergraduates about Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton and they will probably tell you that Jefferson was a president who had children with a slave mistress and that Hamilton was killed in a duel. One virtue of Noble E. Cunningham's compilation of documents is that its emphasis is very different from these current ones. *Jefferson vs. Hamilton* focuses on how in the 1790s the two Revolutionary War patriots became bitter opponents and leaders of the first American political parties, a rivalry that continued until Hamilton's untimely death during Jefferson's first term.

Cunningham, the author of many books on the period, has skillfully assembled selections from the letters of Jefferson and Hamilton, their government reports and papers, and their speeches, pamphlets, and memoranda. His commentary is integrated with the documents rather than in a stand-alone section, which helps to sustain a narrative flow. Since the historical context provided is rather minimal, it will have to be

further developed through lecture or an additional text should the book be used in a course. Although he is the author of a sympathetic biography of Jefferson, Cunningham maintains a scrupulous neutrality, leaving it to the reader to make judgments on each man's positions and character.

In addition to often-cited documents such as Jefferson proclaiming "We are all republicans: we are all federalists," and Hamilton remarking that Jefferson is "too much in earnest in his democracy," there are less well-known selections. In an 1802 letter, Jefferson analyzes the consequences for the United States of France's acquisition of Louisiana in a vein of *Realpolitik* that is not always associated with him. As for Hamilton, historians, other than specialists in the period, might not know that he wanted to break up the large states, the better to centralize power in the federal government. Absent from the compilation are documents from contemporaries, with the single exception of a letter by George Washington. Such sources could have provided insightful perspectives. What John Adams had to say about each man is especially worth reading.

The conflict between Jefferson and Hamilton as traced in this book has Shakespearean overtones. Both men were acutely aware of being present at the creation where policies and structures defining the nation for generations to come were taking form. Beginning as cordial associates in Washington's cabinet, they soon fell out on matters of principle in regard to the size and scope of the federal government. Before long, they were questioning each other's motives as well as positions. Their letters teem with eighteenth-century words for manipulation and deceit: "cabal," "faction," "intrigues." Yet in 1800, with the presidential election deadlocked between Jefferson and Aaron Burr, Hamilton used his considerable influence to swing the Federalist vote to Jefferson, whom he considered the lesser of two evils. Four years later, Burr would have his revenge by slaying Hamilton.

Despite the drama of the inner story, many of these documents will be rough going for undergraduates, particularly if used in a survey course. Issues such as the funding and assumption of the Revolutionary War debt and the debate about the constitutionality of a national bank are not among the clearest or most compelling parts of American history. Accordingly, *Jefferson vs. Hamilton* would be used to best advantage in a major-level course on the Early National Period or in a course on American political theory.

Mercy College

Peter Gregg Slater

**Michael P. Johnson, ed. *Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War: Selected Writings and Speeches*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2001. Pp. xx, 358. Cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 0-312-22763-9. Paper, \$14.20; ISBN 0-312-20854-5.**