

partially delivers on this pledge, instructors might want to direct students interested in these topics to more detailed historical studies. Teachers also can use the included primary sources as discussion documents. Finally, professors can take advantage of test banks, instructor manuals, transparencies, and study guides offered by the publisher; teachers who integrate the latest technology into their classes also might consider using the online student tutorials.

Purdue University

Karol K. Weaver

Richard Middleton. *Colonial America: A History, 1565-1776.* Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2002. Third edition. Pp. x, 558. Cloth, \$42.95; ISBN 0-631-22141-7.

This third edition of *Colonial America* contains a new chapter on Spanish and French colonization of continental North America, although the focus remains on the English colonies. Middleton has also retained the divided organizational structure employed in earlier editions. *Colonial America* treats the colonies chronologically up through the end of the seventeenth century and then turns to a thematic treatment of "provincial America" during the eighteenth century before concluding his book with two chapters on the revolutionary crisis leading to independence. The revised and updated bibliography serves as a competent guide to recent work as well as a few old classics.

Middleton begins with a brief treatment of Columbus, Spanish and Portuguese exploration, and Elizabethan efforts at colonization. Most of the first half of the book relies on a fairly conventional account of the development of the thirteen colonies, structured around the colonial dimensions of England's seventeenth-century political and religious upheavals. Themes covered in the second portion of the book include the economy, intellectual and religious life, women, slavery and African-American life, and Native American society and culture. A political and military historian, Middleton gives primacy to political events and institutions, but without neglecting social, cultural, and intellectual history. The prose, while uninspired, moves the reader steadily and clearly through complicated events.

Colonial America possesses some distinctive and useful features. Middleton occasionally discusses differing historical interpretations of a given event or phenomenon. For instance, he briefly summarizes the debate over whether or not the struggle over the Stamp Act "unleashed a struggle between rich and poor, giving ordinary people an opportunity to demand political rights." Many of the footnotes, besides suggesting additional reading, also provide clear and insightful commentary on the political and cultural contexts shaping historians' debates. Instructors might find such discussions useful in raising students' awareness of the ways in which historians interpret information and disagree over conclusions. Middleton includes 35 excerpted

documents, which are often much lengthier than the snippets provided in many survey texts. Instructors who use a separate sourcebook of documents might even find that Middleton has given them enough here to make such a sourcebook unnecessary, something to keep in mind as students increasingly protest over book prices.

Colonial America, in its length and subject matter, invites comparison with another recent one-volume history of colonization in North America, Alan Taylor's brilliant *American Colonies* (2001). While the two works are superficially similar, Middleton's book offers comprehensive coverage of a more narrowly defined area, and so his work, while less conceptually innovative than Taylor's, might be a better choice for classroom use. Some students might find the length and level of detail in *Colonial America* daunting, but it is a solid option worth considering for upper-division courses.

Lawrence University

Monica Rico

William Dudley, ed. *American Slavery*. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 2000. Pp. 255. Cloth, \$32.45; ISBN 0-7377-0213-3. Paper, \$21.20; ISBN 0-7377-0212-5.

William Dudley brings together a superb collection of articles examining American slavery from the Atlantic slave trade to its demise with the Civil War and Reconstruction. This collection represents some of the best scholarship on slavery, race, and abolitionism. Because of its high quality and clear writing, it can be used effectively in AP, undergraduate, and graduate courses. Moreover, the book contains primary documents, such as the early Virginia slave laws, constitutional debates, abolitionist literature, slave owners' opinions, and portions of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, that complement the articles.

The opening chapter explores the Atlantic slave trade and colonial slavery. Daniel C. Littlefield puts this trade into an international perspective by examining the economic systems of Brazil, Central America, the West Indies, and southern North America. John Boles looks at the transition from indentured servitude to slavery in Virginia and how it differed from the slave system that took hold immediately in South Carolina. Donald B. Wright's essay focuses on slavery in the northern colonies, a fact that often surprises students who identify slavery as a purely southern institution.

Peter Kolchin and Gary Nash consider slavery during the Revolutionary period. Kolchin explains how slavery contradicted the republican ideas of the American Revolution and led to emancipation in the North. Nash believes that the constitutional debates over slavery could have played out differently if antislavery advocates had pressed the issue.

The next section of the book examines the period from 1820 to 1860, as opinions hardened on the issue of slavery and western expansion. William Freehling describes the abolitionist movement and its paranoid effect on southern perceptions of the North. James Oakes illustrates how fugitive slaves inflamed tensions between the states and