

in the development of this volume serves as an excellent example for developing studies of Stalin's leadership.

Introductory analytical essays prepare one to consider the scholarly studies used. These explain key issues, policies, leaders, and historical interpretations associated with the period. These can assist both the student and the faculty member in providing summary and analytical statements for discussion and lecture.

Each of the chapters and scholarly articles included have extensive endnotes of sources, documents, and important secondary studies. These notes are a good basis for bibliography on the subject being studied.

East Texas Baptist University

Jerry Hopkins

Minor Myers, Jr. *Liberty without Anarchy: A History of the Society of the Cincinnati*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2005. Pp. xvi, 280. Paper, \$16.95; ISBN 0-8139-2311-5.

This is an unrevised reprint of Myers's study of the Society of the Cincinnati first published in 1983. The only new material is a short Foreword by Jay Wayne Jackson, President General of the Society of the Cincinnati, discussing the commendable career of the late Dr. Myers and, very briefly, the history of the Society in the years since the book first appeared. The Foreword is inconsequential as a contribution to understanding the Society.

Myers was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati—in addition to being a political scientist, professor, and university president at the time of his death—but his membership does not seem to have skewed his work on the first Society—formed out of the Continental Army officer corps in the aftermath of the Newburgh Conspiracy. It might have colored his view of the current society and its origins, as I will develop below. This is a well-researched, nicely written study of an important organization that has not received the attention it deserves. This is especially true of the Society that emerged from the War for Independence.

There are, of course, two Societies of the Cincinnati as Myers acknowledges. The first grew out of the American War for Independence, while the second, a "revival" of the first, developed during the formation of hereditary, patriotic societies later in the nation's history. Myers' discussion of the first society is much richer and fuller than his discussion of the second. His discussion of the first Society is the largest part of the book.

Those who teach the era of the American Revolution and the formation of the United States will find much of value in Myers' discussion of the beginnings of the society in the final stages of the War for Independence. His discussion of the events at Newburgh and their aftermath, both immediate and lingering, is based on very wide

ranging research and familiarity with the literature. There is a lot here to enrich a lecture or two. Similarly, his discussions of the role of the Society in the debate over the need for a new form of government and the ratification of the Constitution draw on solid research and present a subtle and nuanced understanding of a complex situation. Finally, his discussion of the Society's lobbying—a modern concept and word that describe their activities well—on behalf of the economic interests of former Continental Army officers is a welcome reminder that real people with needs and economic concerns fought the War for Independence.

The discussion of the second, current, Society is presented as a revival of an existing organization, when the evidence is stronger for a revival of a dormant one. While Myers provides a rich societal context for the original Society, the revived Society seems to exist in a vacuum. While he acknowledges its similarities to other hereditary, patriotic organizations, there is no discussion of how the increasing diversity of the United States due to immigration effected a new interest in hereditary connections to the founding generation and the definitions of who was a real American inherent in this. That is the one weakness of an otherwise well-done book.

Murray State University

William H. Mulligan, Jr.

James E. Crisp. *Sleuthing the Alamo: Davy Crockett's Last Stand and Other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Pp. xviii, 201. Paper, \$13.00; ISBN 0-19-516350-8.

Sleuthing the Alamo is an amazing little book. James E. Crisp takes the reader behind the scenes and into the world of the revisionist historian. He shows how he found and analyzed documents, how he had to overcome his own preconceptions of what happened during the Texas Revolution, and how he had to deal with adverse public opinion. Apparently it can be dangerous to one's health to suggest that David Crockett did not go down swinging Old Betsy.

Crisp begins his saga with his own public school education in Texas history which, as it turned out, was based much more on myth than on reality. He traces his personal growth into a revisionist historian bent on finding the TRUTH, no matter what myths had to be overturned in the process. The heart of the book reveals his passion for Alamo history and his search for documents about the de la Peña diary. Discarding rumor, he finds that mistranslations have led previous historians down the wrong paths, and that edited diaries can be just as deceptive. Crisp became determined to find out what really happened at the Alamo.

His journey took him to various sources, both real and imagined. Looking at the famous paintings of the Alamo, Crisp learned that imagery often revealed racial prejudice that then influenced generations of both Texans and tourists. He includes