

Diplomacy on the Indiana-Ohio Frontier, 1783-1791. By Joyce G. Williams and Jill E. Farrelly. (Bloomington: Indiana University Bicentennial Committee, 1976. Pp. ix, 118. Map, notes, illustrations, appendix, bibliography. Limited number of paperbound copies available upon request, \$3.00.)

The territorial provisions of the Treaty of Paris which ended the War for American Independence in 1783 immediately sparked a protracted struggle among the United States, Great Britain, and various Indian tribes for control over the region known as the Old Northwest. More than an extended essay about this triangular diplomacy during the decade following the Revolutionary War, *Diplomacy on the Indiana-Ohio Frontier* is also the first chapter of the tragic American saga which ended at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in 1890.

With consummate skill Joyce G. Williams and Jill E. Farrelly outline the stakes of postwar forest diplomacy. The United States wanted to neutralize and remove the Indians to facilitate settlement of the trans-Appalachian territory. Great Britain wanted to maintain good relations with its wartime allies in order to profit from the fur trade as well as to bolster British hegemony in the Great Lakes region. The Indians, caught in the middle, wanted to retain both tribal independence and ancestral homelands. The outcome was never really in doubt. Neither the British nor the Indians, separately or in concert, could match the political power and military might of the Americans. When efforts of the United States to acquire aboriginal lands peacefully through purchase met militant resistance from the Wabash-Ohio tribes, the action moved from the negotiating table to the battlefield. By 1791 the frontier skirmishes that first flared in 1786 had erupted into open warfare, the first salvo in what was to be a century long battle between Americans white and red for empire.

This monographic miniature is a welcome addition to the literature of the Revolutionary era in general and Indian-white relations in particular. The book is firmly based upon thorough research in relevant British and American sources; the ninety pages of text are buttressed by 272 consecutively numbered footnotes, many of which are explanatory in nature. If historians will find few surprises here, they will rejoice that Williams and Farrelly have fashioned the first compre-

hensive, integrated study of Ohio country diplomacy. The accounts of the major treaties—Ft. Stanwix (1784), Ft. McIntosh (1785), Ft. Finney (1786), and Ft. Harmar (1789)—are models of clarity. The book also contains sensitive and revealing sketches of such Indian leaders as Joseph Brant (Mohawk), Cornplanter (Seneca), and Little Turtle (Miami). While clearly sympathetic to the plight of the Indians, the authors treat the emotional and controversial subject of Indian-white relations in a dispassionate, judicious manner. In sum, this tightly written and closely argued work will serve as a standard diplomatic history of the Northwest during the Confederation period.

While there is little to criticize in the substance of the book, there are weaknesses in format and presentation. The authors do not provide sufficient background or perspective; there is neither a discussion of the wartime diplomacy so essential to a just appreciation of postwar developments nor an attempt in the cursory "Epilogue" to relate the diplomacy of the 1780s to the larger course of relations between the United States and Indians in the nineteenth century. On occasion the flow of the narrative is disrupted because the eight chapters are arbitrary divisions of the text rather than unified topical subdivisions. The work is marred by careless editing; inconsistencies abound, especially in the footnotes. Finally, a personal complaint: the illustrations are attractive, but the sketch "Indian Ambush along the Ohio River" (p. 78) is an unnecessary and tasteless portrayal of the ignoble savage stereotype.

Such criticism aside, the book can only be judged a success. The authors deserve congratulations for a job well done; the Indiana University Bicentennial Committee deserves commendation for sponsoring a work of substantive scholarship as an enduring commemoration of the Bicentennial.

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Britain and the American Frontier, 1783-1815. By J. Leitch Wright, Jr. (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1975. Pp. xii, 251. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$9.50.)

As the United States begins its third century, it is worth recalling how many people believed that the new republic would not survive its youth. J. Leitch Wright's new