the state for funds. Unless Tachau can demonstrate that most plaintiffs in debt cases were not from out-of-state, one would reasonably assume that it was diversity jurisdiction (almost irrespective of the quality of decision-making) that provided the lure of the court. And more generally, the measure of the significance of early federal courts lay not in their competitive place in a national or local market for judicial goods but in the ways in which they fulfilled the particular and limited roles given them in the federalist theory of the early republic.

Indiana University, Bloomington               Hendrik Hartog

_The Potawatomis: Keepers of the Fire._ By R. David Edmunds.  

R. David Edmunds has made a solid, impressive addition to the University of Oklahoma Press’ Civilization of the American Indian series. Like most volumes in the series, Edmunds’ book is not anthropological or ethnocultural and relies on traditional historical documents to narrate the history of Potawatomi-white relations. Within this traditional framework the author succeeds admirably in placing the Potawatomi in the context of their times and in relating their prolonged, but hopeless, struggle against the white onslaught.

The Potawatomis always seemed to be on the losing side. They were closely tied to the French through trade and sided with them in the eighteenth-century conflicts with England. After the French defeat the Potawatomis were eager followers of Pontiac’s doomed rebellion against their new British masters. They were only reluctantly won over to the British but nevertheless sided with them against the colonists during the American Revolution. Although only part of the tribe actively participated in hostilities against the Americans, the whole tribe was held accountable after the British defeat. After the Revolution various Potawatomi bands participated in the wars against the expansionist United States. Potawatomis were on the winning side of the defeats of Josiah Harmar and Arthur St. Clair but were soundly defeated at Fallen Timbers by Anthony Wayne. Recalcitrant to the end, Potawatomis formed an important part of Tecumseh’s strength and followed that fated warrior and his British allies in the War of 1812. This final defeat sealed their doom, and it was only a matter of time before the pressure from white settlers led to the removal of almost all the Potawatomis across the Mississippi River.
Edmunds is at his best in relating the inter- and intratribal rivalries that dominated Potawatomi affairs in this period. As in most societies, economic interests, kinship ties, and personality clashes all played a vital part in political development. Edmunds clearly reveals the operation of this tribal political system.

Although the book is admirable, two criticisms are in order. It is only natural for the author to emphasize the role played by the Potawatomis in the conflicts with the invading whites. However, he often gives the tribe too much credit. The reader might well assume that the Potawatomis played a much more important part in the battles against Edward Braddock, Harmar, St. Clair, and Wayne than is actually the case. It is also unfortunate that the book is so limited in scope. Edmunds covers only the period from 1600 to 1840, from the earliest white contact to the final removal of the Potawatomis from the Old Northwest. The opening date is understandable given the paucity of research materials, but it is indeed unfortunate that the Potawatomis' history was not brought up into the present century.

The Potawatomis were an important midwestern tribe, and their history has been too long neglected. Edmunds has used a wide range of source material to construct this fine contribution to Indian scholarship and has provided the standard history of the tribe.

Utah State University, Logan

Paul A. Hutton


This monograph, the purpose and scope of which are well defined by its title, overlaps to some degree Joel H. Silbey, The Shrine of Party: Congressional Voting Behavior, 1841-1852 (1967) and John H. Schroeder, Mr. Polk's War: American Opposition and Dissent, 1846-1848 (1973), but it offers more material on the Old Northwest than either. Norman E. Tutorow has ransacked newspaper files of the region as well as the Congressional Globe, serial Congressional documents, and state legislative journals for the political attitudes and actions of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan on a crucial issue, territorial expansion, during a crucial period, the 1840s. About