

*The Union, the Confederacy, and the Atlantic Rim.* Edited by Robert E. May. (West Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Press, 1995. Pp. xi, 169. Notes, illustrations, map, index. Cloth-bound, \$24.95; paperbound, \$12.95.)

This volume, which derives from the 1994 Sears lectures given at Purdue University, contains essays by four prominent historians, together with audience questions and responses. Its theme is "the meaning of the Civil War to the international community and the war's place within the overall story of nineteenth-century world history" (p. 20). In his introduction, Robert E. May establishes the subject's parameters and significance, boldly insisting that Americans "will never truly comprehend their Civil War until they claim its diplomatic front" (p. 23). How successfully do his contributors meet this challenge?

The opening essay by Howard Jones, "History and Mythology: The Crisis over British Intervention in the Civil War," distills the argument of his recent monograph, *Union in Peril* (1992), that the threat of intervention was intensified and not diminished by the "pivotal" events of 1862. Jones correctly highlights the British concern over slave insurrection, which Lincoln's partial and belated emancipation only served to heighten, and he concludes that the Palmerston government's decision to stay out of the war "proved crucial" to the collapse of the Confederacy. The main problem here is the semantic uncertainty generated by the word "intervention" and the extent to which one can legitimately speculate, as an historian, on the likely consequences of any foreign action.

R. J. M. Blackett's essay, "Pressure from Without: African Americans, British Public Opinion, and Civil War Diplomacy," on the other hand, eschews the counterfactual and offers instead a fascinating glimpse into the war's impact upon British grass roots opinion. In particular, he records the contribution of nearly forty, mostly forgotten, black Americans who were actively engaged in enlisting British support for the Union, and in a detailed study of one cotton textile area he convincingly demonstrates that earlier analyses of working-class opinion failed to record the divided sentiments generated by the American war. Blackett deftly sidesteps the question of the wider impact of these local arguments by maintaining that the documentary record shows "an almost universally accepted conviction that government policy was susceptible to public pressure and that for this reason individuals were obligated to become involved in the effort to marshal public opinion in support of the causes in which they believed" (p. 76).

Equally wide-ranging in its implications although radically different in approach is Thomas Schoonover's contribution, "Napoleon is Coming! Maximilian is Coming? The International History of the Civil War in the Caribbean." Schoonover draws on

a variety of theoretical models to compare Union and Confederate involvement in this vital contiguous region. It is southerners, perhaps inevitably, who suffer by the comparison, as Schoonover perceptively charts Confederates' short-termism and "flawed understanding" of their society's connections to the world economic system.

In the final essay, "The Whole Family of Man': Lincoln and the Last Best Hope Abroad," James M. McPherson offers astute readings of the impact of Lincoln's "central idea" on foreign liberalism. However, McPherson's view that "most members of that minority of Englishmen who owned enough property to vote. . . probably would have welcomed the dissolution of the American republic" (p. 136) is entirely unverifiable, notwithstanding the manifest resentment felt by many in the middle and upper classes at American conduct during this period. Still, the essay provides an elegant finale to a thought-provoking collection whose international perspective is much to be welcomed.

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*The Third Day at Gettysburg & Beyond.* Edited by Gary W. Gallagher. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994. Pp. x, 217. Illustrations, notes, maps, bibliographic essay, index. \$24.95.)

In 1992 and 1993, Gary W. Gallagher and assorted historians published collections of essays on the first and second days at the Battle of Gettysburg. High in quality and traditional in their nature, these essays tackled the major command decisions in the most celebrated and costly engagement in the Civil War. In *The Third Day at Gettysburg & Beyond*, Gallagher and comrades complete their trilogy by expanding beyond the confines of that approach to place military operations into a wider context of the war and postwar perceptions of that conflict. The result is the most unusual and intriguing volume of the set.

The book opens with its best work, a study by Gallagher of the impact of Confederate defeat at Gettysburg on the Army of Northern Virginia and people on the home front. After poring over hundreds of letters and diaries written by Confederate soldiers and civilians, Gallagher challenges the argument that Gettysburg marked the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. In an essay spiced with wonderful quotations, he concludes that while the manpower losses were irreplaceable, the repulse at Gettysburg had limited impact on Confederate morale.