

*Causes and Consequences of the American Revolution.* Edited by Esmond Wright. (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1966. Pp. 316. Notes. Clothbound, \$7.50; paperbound, \$2.45.)

This book of readings on the American Revolution is considerably enhanced by a forty-page historiographical Introduction by Esmond Wright. In this Introduction the author in turn discusses accounts of the Revolution from the Revolutionary age itself, the Nationalist interpretation typified by Bancroft, the Imperial school which reached its peak in Charles M. Andrews, the Beardian "Progressives," the modern "Neo-Whigs," and the British "Conservative" view of Sir Lewis Namier and his followers. This is a concise, perceptive account which concentrates on causes rather than consequences of the Revolution. It is followed by a useful bibliography divided into the same categories, with the addition of a section on "State Studies."

The remainder of the book does not exactly follow the pattern laid down in the Introduction. Wright has taken his selections from articles published in scholarly journals and in books and has divided them into the two broad categories of "Causes" and "Consequences." His selections on the causes of the Revolution are only from the Imperialist, Progressive, Neo-Whig, and Conservative interpretations. Yet, the most important historians of these groups are well represented: Osgood, Andrews, and Gipson from the Imperialists; Schlesinger and Hacker from the Progressives; Davidson, Harper, and Morgan from the Neo-Whigs; and Namier and Wright from the Conservatives. Wright prefaces each selection with a brief note on the author and his views. Such notes are useful, but perhaps could have been improved for students by a little more information on the historians themselves.

The third section of Wright's book, which contains selections under the general head of "Consequences," is not really dealt with in the Introduction. It begins with Richard B. Morris' well known article on "The Confederation Period and the American Historian," and then has sections on consequences for the United States and for the world. The theme here is of necessity not as consistent as in the section on causes. Perhaps the most interesting selections are Frederick B. Tolles' re-evaluation of Jameson and Louis Gottschalk's discussion of the American Revolution in relation to the French Revolution.

All in all, this volume is superior to many of the books of readings that appear on the market and provides a very useful introduction to historical writing on the American Revolution.

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*America's Frontier Heritage.* By Ray Allen Billington. [*Histories of the American Frontier.* Edited by Ray Allen Billington.] (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1966. Pp. xiv, 302. Notes, bibliographical notes. \$5.95.)

Although Billington in his voluminous writings has produced monographs on many phases of American history, his first love is American frontier history. In addition to this work, he has authored