

Over half the book is devoted to defining the "new politics." While the Jacksonians did not invent techniques such as political conventions and party newspapers, the editors assert that the Democrats were the first to exploit fully their political potential. Showmanship in combination with Andrew Jackson's personal popularity and the organizational skills of Democratic managers comprised the secret of the party's success. The Whigs, however, quickly adopted Democratic tactics, and, as William Henry Harrison's election in 1840 proved, they learned to play by the new rules of American politics.

Surprisingly, Gatell and McFaul devote only slightly more than one chapter to Jackson's presidency and concentrate almost entirely on the Bank War. Here their treatment is relatively standard. Jackson is portrayed as a strong President who expanded the power and authority of his office. His chief innovation was to nationalize politics through his insistent claims that he was the direct representative of the people. Jackson's veto of the Bank of the United States with its blatant appeals to chauvanism, equalitarian prejudice, and strict construction is seen as not only a brilliant piece of political rhetoric but as a summary of Jacksonian philosophy.

The editors of *Jacksonian America* have generally succeeded in capturing the flavor of the era. The chief flaw in the book is the sometimes superficial and misleading distinctions made between the politics of the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian periods. Even a casual study of the party struggles before 1815 would show that the "new politics" was not all that new. Despite this problem the volume would be a useful addition to the reading list of basic courses dealing with the first half of American history.

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*The Expeditions of John Charles Frémont. Volume I, Travels from 1838 to 1844, and Map Portfolio.* Edited by Donald Jackson and Mary Lee Spence. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970. Pp. xlv, 854. Illustrations, notes, maps, bibliography, index. Set, \$22.50.)

*The Expeditions of John Charles Frémont: Map Portfolio.* Commentary by Donald Jackson. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970. Pp. 16. Notes. \$10.00.)

It is difficult to decide what serious purpose this newest Fremont publication is meant to serve. Two thirds of the text of volume one consists of government reports long since published. These are not inaccessible to scholars today, and though the editors went back to

the original manuscripts, their emendations do not alter the traditional language very much. The personal letters and other previously unpublished items which are used to provide a narrative thread to the reports are interesting but do not advance an understanding of the Frémont saga beyond what his best biographers have said about him before. On Frémont as a scientific explorer the editors are apparently content to accept the judgments of W. H. Goetzmann—wisely, in this reviewer's opinion.

What, then, is new? A great deal of energy was expended on identifying proper names as they appear in the text, after the hallowed canons of Reuben G. Thwaites (sometimes to the point of absurdity, p. 103). The fulsome annotations to the financial records of the Frémont expeditions will be new to some readers if not altogether so to Frémont scholars who have presumably used these same records in preparing biographies and the like. The botanical annotations are both new and good, but these could have been published in a separate pamphlet at a very small price. As to cartographic annotations, they are of high quality but neither exhaustive nor very new. Jackson, the travel expert of the editorial team, covered much of the ground by car and then decided to rely on local experts in critical areas. Some of their calculations have never been presented in print before. For the rest he generally endorses such writers as Dale Morgan (another wise decision) or omits annotations altogether for long stretches of territory where, in his opinion, other scholars have satisfactorily labelled the region. The general reader will suffer because of this last decision. Indeed, the annotations are out of balance throughout the book. Some are useful to experts, some to general readers; but the book as a whole is well suited to neither class of users.

For serious workers what is wanted nowadays is a "Companion" to Frémont studies, a fat volume designed to be read concurrently with an uncluttered text. It would contain annotations of the usual kind but also very full references to secondary works touching all points of interest. Frémont's place in history is just too big to be edited in the old-fashioned way. The Frémont maps do not belong in a portfolio, as here. In a Companion they would be juxtaposed with explanatory overlays, the style employed by German cartographic historians. These overlays could be a treasure to scholars and a joy to everyone else.

*The Bear Flag Revolt and the Court Martial*, volume II of a projected three volume set, will probably be more interesting since it must deal with unresolved controversies of real importance. Prospective buyers should note that the Map Portfolio is to be used with all three volumes, not just the first.

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