

the Records of the Judge Advocate General in the National Archives.

Yet Kelley deserves credit for beginning the rehabilitation of Milligan, condemned by nationalistic historians who unwittingly endorse "the doctrine of necessity" used to justify the many arbitrary arrests of Civil War days. Kelley also makes a contribution to Huntington County history with his "labor of love"—a story of "a seminal newspaper battle and Milligan's dedication to law" (p. xi).

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The Development of a Revolutionary Mentality. Library of Congress Symposia on the American Revolution. (Washington: Library of Congress, 1972. Pp. 157. Notes. \$3.50.)

This collection of essays and short critiques carries on the intensive discussion of the revolutionary character of the American experience of the late eighteenth century, a discussion that began in the 1950s. If the opinions expressed here are in any sense representative, historians seem to be in general agreement that ideas were of central importance in the development of the American Revolution. Whether this intellectual movement generated ideas of a formal sort that can be denoted an ideology or merely a loose congeries of attitudes that stimulated discontent with the empire is not yet clear. And there are still historians who believe that the distinctive American social experience is critical for explaining the ideas that eventually became characteristic of the Revolution.

Henry Steele Commager blithely unites ideas and social experience. In an extended paeon to the eighteenth century rationalist mind, he contends that the America of the revolutionary generation realized the Enlightenment that the Old World formulated but could never bring to fruition. The essay is tendentious yet at the same time almost elegiac in its evocation of that age when European intellectuals stood trembling at the brink of some great social consummation. Doubtless many European intellectuals entertained the visions that Commager attributes to them, but it is much less certain

that the revolutionary generation translated them into reality in the New World.

Moreover, it is difficult to reconcile Commager's conception of eighteenth century ideas, optimistic and fertile of new things, with the description of American attitudes offered by Richard L. Bushman. Instead of hovering on the verge of paradise, the colonists seem cramped and fearful, determined to defend their preserve of painfully acquired liberty against the inroads of corruption. The intense American fear of executive greed seems a good distance from the grand schemes of Enlightenment savants depicted by Commager. But whether American attitudes derived from the colonial experience as claimed by Bushman or from theology and philosophy as proposed in response by Edmund S. Morgan, their source is not easily identified with the continental thinking depicted by Commager.

Caroline Robbins submits a broad survey of European ideas concerning republicanism in which many of the elements of the American position can be detected: right of resistance, government adapted to the times, constant supervision of government, written constitutions, a limited executive, and separation of powers. American attitudes derived from the Whig tradition which eventually issued in the republicanism of a new political order. Even the loyalists were Whigs according to Mary Beth Norton. And in this fact lay the most difficult problem of all. Why if the loyalists were Whigs did they not support the Revolution? Whiggery, Norton contends, did not offer a certain answer to the problem of the distribution of authority within the empire. For some it dictated loyalty to the settlement of 1688; for others it imposed the need for a new arrangement of life in the New World. Pauline Maier and her critic, Jack P. Greene, attempt to explain how the winning branch of the Whig tradition broke with the empire. Following the argument in her recent book, *From Resistance to Revolution*, Maier describes the gradual draining of America's loyalty to the king after 1768 and the concomitant consolidation of local authority eventuating in the creation of a new government. In this manner Whig ideas became republican reality. Greene would require greater emphasis on the actualities of American life in order to explain the events of the 1770s and 1780s. He wants more

social analysis of the republican order and less lingering on the intellectual content of the Whig tradition.

This collection proves, if anything, that the issues are not settled and that historians can look forward in the months before the bicentennial to a provocative effort to extend the understanding of the revolutionary generation.

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The War of 1812. By John K. Mahon. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1972. Pp. xii, 476. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

John K. Mahon's latest book is an impressive account of the military events of the War of 1812. By judiciously collating secondary studies of the war, published primary materials, and government records in Ottawa, London, and Washington, Mahon avoids the temptation of many American scholars to present a provincial view of the war and increases the reader's appreciation of complex strategies and tactics. His detailed chronological and topical development may lead some readers, "who feel no need for . . . details" (p. vii), to skim reports of battlefield casualties or descriptions of a frigate yawing, kedging, or crossing the T. On the other hand, those who have long awaited a thorough military history of the War of 1812 will not be disappointed. Sections dealing with the Battle of New Orleans, the contest for naval supremacy on the Great Lakes, and Indian warfare in the West and South perhaps most dramatically reveal Mahon's mastery of his subject.

Mahon seeks "to place the operations of the War of 1812 precisely within the politics and culture of the time" (p. viii), but the isolated political passages do not match his battlefield descriptions. The chronological arrangement of the book facilitates the author's movement from one theater of the war to another but forces him to scatter discussions of political considerations throughout the narrative, except for three chapter divisions which generally chart the protagonists' military preparations. Consequently, bitterly contested partisan disputes between Republicans and Federalists that strike at the heart of the United States war effort, such as reliance on militia or volunteer forces and inadequate provi-