

Jr., Joseph Hayes, William Edward Nelson, John Woods, Samuel Yellen, Cornelia Otis Skinner, and Bob Collins.

The book is enjoyable. A Hoosier emerges—one who is human, full of intelligent common sense, and a sometime sophisticate who understands sophistry but chooses not to use it.

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Joyce G. Williams

Contest for Empire, 1500-1775: Proceedings of an Indiana American Revolution Bicentennial Symposium. Edited by John B. Elliott. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1975. Pp. xii, 95. Notes, map. Paperbound, \$2.00.)

This neatly printed, readable book consists of six essays. With the exception of the first, which is intended as an introduction, each essay is commendably documented, some from original, unprinted material difficult to locate. In this respect Jack M. Sosin's essay on "Britain and the Ohio Valley, 1760-1775" deserves special recognition. Underlying all six essays is the suggestion that three centuries of international history preceded the Revolution and were relevant to it. The editor makes this point crystal clear in his prefatory remarks. It is a fallacy, still doggedly pursued by many historians, to treat the Revolution as though originating in quarrels over taxes and constitutional arguments suddenly coming to the fore in the interwar years, 1763-1775.

It is good to see an essay by an anthropologist included in the series. James A. Brown's paper, "The Impact of the European Presence on Indian Culture," provides broad and thorough analysis of that topic. John J. TePaske's paper, "Spanish Indian Policy and the Struggle for Empire in the Southeast, 1513-1776," follows a similar theme, showing how the French, but more especially the Anglo-Americans, altered the whole structure of aboriginal society. Many factors other than firearms and liquor caused the Indians to lose their independence. They grew completely dependent on European goods, "so covetous" of the latter "that they would go to any lengths to procure them" (p. 36). George A. Rawlyk's essay, "The 'Rising French Empire' in the Ohio Valley and Old Northwest," is refreshingly informative. Rawlyk, who comes from Queen's University and understands the Canadian French, rejects the errors of Parkman, the New England

historian, and comprehends Canadian fears of Anglo-American encroachments in the interior. Rawlyk shows that the rising French empire rested on false strategy due in part to complicated relations with the Indians. Building on his excellent book, *Whitehall and the Wilderness* (1961), Sosin shows how traders and land speculators consistently frustrated efforts of the British government to put in practice a policy regarding the trans-Allegheny West. As he points out, the American government after 1783 tried the same policy but was beaten by the same forces. In the sixth and last essay, "The Advance of the Anglo-American Frontier, 1700-1783," Thomas D. Clark takes a realistic view of the "all-but-faceless horde" of westward moving settlers who only later "achieved identity in the tracings of family genealogists" (p. 80).

Each in its own way these essays discount the Revolutionary mythology so dear to the hearts of New England historians.

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Richard W. Van Alstyne

A New Age Now Begins: A People's History of the American Revolution. By Page Smith. Two volumes. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1976. Pp. x, ix, 1899. Maps, bibliographical note, index. Set, \$24.95.)

These handsome volumes are fresh and unpretentious in style and monumental in scope. One hundred twenty nine chapters, though not so designated, travel the "long journey," as Smith calls it, from Jamestown through the Revolution. Some fifty-five of these chapters are not specifically military in content; rather they maintain and sharpen the reader's awareness of Revolution related events. In keeping with his "ingrained prejudice against footnotes" (p. 1833), Smith provides none—the absence of which the professional may oft times regret, though there is never any doubt about the author's command of the literature. A brief bibliographical note reviews the primary sources used in the work. Twenty-four maps of major military campaigns, compiled and drawn by an unidentified Colonel Carrington, provide limited usefulness. Proofreading errors are few.

There is much more than just historical narrative to entertain and instruct. Smith chides, even scores, fellow his-