

The Impact of the American Revolution Abroad. Papers presented at the fourth Library of Congress Symposium on the American Revolution, May 8 and 9, 1975. (Washington: Library of Congress, 1976. Pp. viii, 171. Notes. \$4.50.)

This volume maintains the scholarly standards of its three predecessors and perhaps presents a more cohesive intellectual design and texture than the others. One finishes the book with a sense that the Revolution's impact abroad was considerable, though not always in the places, at the times, or upon the persons one might most readily suspect. Quite commonly, as Robert R. Palmer points out in his restrained and judicious opening essay, "it was the action of the Americans, not their ideas, that was influential" (p. 13).

Claude Fohlen's "The Impact of the American Revolution on France" tends to be very critical of previous interpretations, overly cautious, sometimes agnostic ("it is better at this point to admit our ignorance," p. 28), and occasionally just plain banal ("The American Revolution was more or less present in the background of the Constituent Assembly," p. 35). He also, unfortunately, seems to be unaware of Joyce Appleby's very pertinent article in the *William and Mary Quarterly* (April, 1971).

In essays covering the impact of the Revolution on the Dutch Republic, the Spanish and Portuguese speaking world, and Ireland, J. W. Schulte Nordholt, Mario Rodríguez, and Owen Dudley Edwards all offer much more vigorous, substantial, well documented, subtle, and charming discussions. Edwards' article, in fact, is brilliantly written and is frequently fresh in its conclusions, although it is also outrageous or hyperbolic at times. (Even his footnotes are both puckish and provocative.) Edwards reinforces Palmer's point with this well founded assertion: "It quickly emerged that the American revolution, if it contributed little in ideology to Ireland, gave a new sense of priorities to Irish Protestants. Once they were armed they could see the logic of more economic power for themselves as preferential to the absolute subordination of the Catholics" (p. 141).

Edwards' treatment seems in some respects to contradict John H. Plumb's passing remarks upon Ireland in his essay concerning the Revolution's impact upon Great Britain. Otherwise, Plumb's piece is very personalized and readable, though

it suffers from the strange neglect of relevant monographs by Arthur Sheps, Dora Mae Clark, and Solomon Lutnick. Nikolaï N. Bolkhovitinov, a senior academician from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, performs very predictably in "The American Revolution and the Russian Empire." Proper incantations about Karl Marx and the capitalist system pop up in the first two paragraphs. The author then settles down to some good descriptive writing but loses all sense of proportion on pages 89-90 with a series of wildly overstated claims about the cosmic importance of Aleksandr N. Radishev.

The book concludes with three very brief commentaries about the Revolution's impact upon Germany, Japan, and Spain. Overall the volume has been poorly proofread, and it lacks an index, which will reduce its utility. It does offer rich documentation, however, which many will mine to good effect in the future. It is, most certainly, an interesting volume with some stimulating lessons for the United States about the Enlightenment's applied influence, about the consequences of provincial pride in tension with metropolitan arrogance, about the filtration of the "American" experience to other lands through French books, and, implicitly, about the inappropriate usage of "America" when one really means the United States.

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Servants of the Sword: French Intendants of the Army, 1630-70. By Douglas Clark Baxter. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1976. Pp. xvii, 243. Notes, tables, appendix, bibliography, index. \$11.95.)

This is, despite its merits, a flawed volume. As the author correctly points out in his preface, there are at least three major limitations to the work. The study is extremely narrow in scope; it is based upon a flimsy research foundation; and there are serious methodological problems in determining precisely who the French intendants of the army were in the seventeenth century. These are, however, not the only limitations to Baxter's book. It is written in a disjointed and often opaque manner. As a result it is often difficult for the reader to come to grips with the essential thrust of the author's argument. Moreover, the fragmentary