

it suffers from the strange neglect of relevant monographs by Arthur Sheps, Dora Mae Clark, and Solomon Lutnick. Nikolai 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

nature of the evidence presented creates serious problems regarding both continuity and analysis.

Baxter traces the evolution of the office of the French army intendant during the period from 1630 to 1670. The army intendant's major responsibility shifted gradually from the administration of justice to a far more complex role. He became responsible for the army's finances; he took care of its sick and wounded and also paid the troops. In addition, he supervised work on fortifications and reported to his superior, the secretary of state for war, everything that occurred in his locality. It is clear that the army intendant's real power rested not only on his own administrative ability but also on the kind of support he received from his king. Not surprisingly the king utilized army intendants to try to impose civilian control upon the regions of France.

Despite the book's structural and stylistic weaknesses, there is a great deal of valuable information regarding seventeenth century France to be found in *Servants of the Sword*. Furthermore, a serious effort has been made to write an administrative history about what until now has been a most obscure office.

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Sir William Johnson: Colonial American, 1715-1763. By Milton W. Hamilton. (Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1976. Pp. xiv, 402. Illustrations, notes, note on sources, appendixes, index. \$17.50.)

Within two decades of his arrival in North America Sir William Johnson had become a legend. As a farmer, merchant, soldier, and diplomat, and as a Mohawk sachem, colonial official, and English baronet, Johnson's decisions and activities affected the lives of many Americans, both red and white, during the volatile years of the second half of the eighteenth century. As a result, previous accounts of Johnson's life have often been mired in myth, half truth, and misstatement. In this first of a projected two volume biography, Milton W. Hamilton seeks to rescue Johnson, who "has suffered so much unjust representation over the passage of time . . ." (p. ix). As former editor of the Johnson Papers and retired state historian of New York, Hamilton is emi-