

Civil War Book Review

Summer 2018

Article 1

Summer 2018

Tom Barber
tbarbe6@lsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/cwbr>

Recommended Citation

Barber, Tom (2018) "Summer 2018," *Civil War Book Review*. Vol. 20 : Iss. 3 .

DOI: 10.31390/cwbr.20.3.01

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/cwbr/vol20/iss3/1>

Welcome to the *CWBR*'s Summer 2018 issue.

One of the problems I'm lucky to have each issue is choosing what books and reviews to highlight in the editorial. This publishing cycle offered important entries on the themes of memory, politics, and Native American history.

Richard Hulver reviews *A Bloodless Victory: The Battle of New Orleans in History and Memory* by Joseph F. Stoltz III. Hulver praises *A Bloodless Victory* for cohesively detailing how collective memory of the battle defined American politics before and long after the Civil War era. Memory studies converge again with Robert J. Cook's recent *Civil War Memories: Contesting the Past in the United States since 1865*. Reviewed by Matthew E. Stanley, who considers Cook's book a valuable contribution for its description of how collective memory of the Civil War operated as a powerful instrument of social power for a generation of policymakers who had no memory of the war itself. Stanley also commends the author for taking the history of Civil War memory up to the conflict's sesquicentennial anniversary.

Political junkies will undoubtedly find their fix with Graham A. Peck's *Making an Antislavery Nation: Lincoln, Douglas, and the Battle over Freedom* and Erik Mathisen's *The Loyal Republic: Traitors, Slaves, and the Remaking of Citizenship in Civil War America*. Reviewer Michael Green highlights *Making an Antislavery Nation* for its ability to synchronize national and local political strife, and for extending the discussion of antislavery politics to the nation's founding. Rather than viewing citizenship as a legal badge granting access to individual rights, Mathisen's *Loyal Republic* instead focuses on the obligations that citizenship entailed. Bennett Parten, who reviews *The Loyal Republic*, finds Mathisen's unconventional approach rewarding for emphasizing how the national government's growth, and popular demands for rights protection, combined to centralize the state and increase its potency.

Familiar topics in Native American history in the southeastern United States receive a fresh perspective this issue. Zac Cowsert reviews *Cherokee in Controversy: The Life of Jesse Bushyhead* by Dan B. Wimberly. Cowsert credits Wimberly for selecting Jesse Bushyhead as his subject because the Cherokee leader played a vital political role before and after Indian Removal. Biracial and middle-class, Bushyhead's perspective also provides a unique glimpse into the social and racial dimensions of Cherokee life in the early and middle parts of the nineteenth century. For other Native Americans in the southeast, the Indian Removal Act renewed armed conflict. Reviewer Jake Hagstrom praises C.S. Monaco's *The Second Seminole War and the Limits of American Aggression* for both illustrating how the conflict influenced the U.S. military's institutional practices, and how the Seminole's resistance illustrated the limits of American military power.

In this issue I interview Graham A. Peck about his new book *Making an Anti-Slavery Nation: Lincoln, Douglas, and the Battle over Freedom*. Rather than focusing on the polarizing forces that led to sectionalism and secession, we discuss how political centrists first marginalized antislavery politics for the sake of compromise, and why a later generation of centrists abandoned compromise for freedom.

Taking a well-deserved vacation, Frank Williams's column Look at Lincoln will return next issue with a review of David W. Blight's *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*. LSU Special Collection's librarian Hans Rasmussen takes a close look at the accomplished Confederate cartographer Léon Joseph Frémaux in Civil War Treasures.

Regular readers will recall that I interviewed Brook Thomas author of *The Literature of Reconstruction: Not in Plain Black and White* for our spring issue. This issue not only includes Sarah Gardner's review of *The Literature of Reconstruction*, but also a closer look at a central figure in that book: Albion Tourgée. In Civil War Obscura, Meg Groeling guides readers through Tourgée's *A Fool's Errand*.

As always, I want to thank the *CWBR*'s contributors, readers, and publishers. See you in the fall!