

inal meaning of the Platt Amendment and kept faith with a sister republic" (pp. 222-23).

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*Competition for Empire.* By WALTER DORN. (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1940. Pp. xii, 426. \$2.90.)

It is a difficult thing for one historian to write a history of both Europe and America, even for a period of twenty-three years. It is also a difficult thing for the same historian to write accurately and penetratingly of society, politics, economics, war, science, literature and art. Such writing demands a very broad range of knowledge and an unusual capability for historical synthesis. Yet this is the sort of thing historians are increasingly being called upon to do.

This is what Professor Dorn has set out to do in this book. Since the containing institution of the life, national and international, of the mid-eighteenth century was the national monarchic state, his first four and last three chapters present the European state system, a system in which the fundamental unit was the "leviathan state" and in which international relations were a composite of "expansionist or imperialistic foreign policy" and the maintenance of a double balance of power in Europe and America—a balance maintained by standing professional armies.

On the whole, the discussion of the eighteenth-century state is excellent. "Like an old Gothic cathedral," he says (p. 18), "which, rebuilt at different epochs, presents strange incongruities of style, royal government everywhere on the Continent in 1750 was a hybrid mechanism compounded of elements that were bureaucratic and modern and others that were feudal and patrimonial." And so it was. It is also true that "the bureaucratic civil service may well pass as the greatest and most enduring achievement of the absolute monarchy, an achievement which, *mutatis mutandis*, survived all the revolutionary changes of the nineteenth century" (p. 21).

But when Professor Dorn attributes much of modern progress to the institution of the modern army, he goes, in the opinion of this reviewer, quite "off the deep end." For example:

It is obvious, in any event, that military discipline served as a model pattern for the organization of labor in the modern factory system. . . . So comprehensive was this influence [of the standing army] that in many countries in Europe it was less capitalism that called into being the standing army than the standing army that paved the way for modern capitalism (p. 14).

One might just as well say that because men are like monkeys they are descended from monkeys!

The one chapter (out of eight) devoted to intellectual history is probably the best in the book. The "Enlightenment" is here made to have unity and to fit, fairly well, into the general pattern of the economic and social life of the time. The Enlightenment he convincingly finds to have been a bourgeois movement; for "underneath the mask of their critical thought and humanitarian idealism . . . we can perceive the features of the bourgeoisie struggling for freedom from state regulation and the liberty of commerce" (p. 183). He also finds running through the intellectual and emotional life of the mid-century a persistent, true humanism that explains much of the eighteenth-century *Weltanschauung* and marks the Enlightenment as the lineal descendant of the Renaissance.

This discussion is eminently satisfying and it would be a pleasure to comment upon it more at length. One is disposed also to ask, however, why literature was slighted almost to the point of oversight, and why music was omitted altogether. One is disposed to ask why, if the American colonies (to say nothing of India) were included in commercial and military history, they should not have been included in intellectual history as well.

The importance of commerce and colonial empires to the mercantilistic national economies in the European state system is correctly and adequately recognized. Professor Dorn is evidently not a colonial historian, however, for he slips easily into an old pitfall when he says that "It is true that neither the French Canadians nor the New England colonists wanted a war in North America" (p. 165). It is true that *some* colonists did not desire war, but it is equally true that *others*, particularly in New England, did desire war, for the express purpose, among others, of driving France out of the fisheries. How else can we explain the New England expedition against Louisbourg or the bitter New England disappointment when Louisbourg was returned to France? He makes another false step with the sweeping statement that "both the French and British empires were erected on the foundation of slave labor and vital imperial interests were at stake in the competition of their nationals for the control of the African slave trade" (p. 261). Could this statement possibly be made to apply so sweepingly to Canada? To New England? To New York and Pennsylvania—or, for that matter, to the whole of Virginia, the Carolinas or Georgia?

With regard to the contemporary pictures here reproduced, it should be noted that they are not wholly successful. The idea is a good one, but the prints are excessively poor; furthermore, they would be much more useful were they placed in juxtaposition with

the pertinent passages of the text. The bibliography seems to cover about everything of a secondary nature; it might very well have been shorter and more selective.

This book is a commendable effort at historical synthesis, and to a considerable measure achieves its object. The first four chapters hang together very well, as do the last three, since they are all on closely related political or economic subjects. The chapter on the Enlightenment, excellent as it is, does not fit so well. It seems somewhat apart from the rest of the book; the author has not quite succeeded in achieving the "whole piece" unity between this chapter and the others. The reader is not brought quite to feel that the men of the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Diplomatic Revolution and the Enlightenment were all of the same intellectual generation. This fault might have been avoided, in part at least, by the inclusion, at the end, of a chapter drawing all the threads together.

It is an excellent book, nevertheless, quite up to the high standard of the other volumes in this excellent series.

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*The Triangular Struggle for Spanish Pensacola, 1689-1739.* By LAWRENCE CARROLL FORD. (Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, 1939. Pp. 175. \$2.00.)

The bay and region about the present "Annapolis of Aviation" have a history as old as any part of continental United States beginning with the earliest Spanish explorations of the New World. The most interesting chapter, perhaps, of this long record relates to the tri-cornered race for the effective possession of Pensacola during the last decade of the seventeenth and the early years of the following century, and it is this story which is recounted in the work under review. During the period indicated this beautiful bay occupied a place in the discussions of the councils of Europe and New Spain out of proportion to its actual importance because it then appeared that the nation occupying this port held the key to the entire lower Mississippi valley and the northern Gulf region. Consequently, Spain and France rivaled each other's efforts to establish and hold an outpost there while England, the third contestant, sought to gain possession by more devious methods. The first phase of this international struggle was adequately described by W. E. Dunn in his *Spanish and French Rivalry in the Gulf Region, 1686-1702* (Austin, 1917), a thoroughly documented account from Spanish records of the events set in motion by La Salle's ill-starred attempt to plant a French colony at the