

Overall, *The Other Loyalists* is a welcome addition to Revolutionary historiography. With its broad array of people, groups, and geographic locations, it helps demonstrate the breadth and complexity of loyalism. It also offers some insights into why Loyalists failed. Finally, the essays will serve as useful starting points for comparative studies on others in both the middle colonies and elsewhere.

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Michael A. Lerner. *Dry Manhattan: Prohibition in New York City*. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007. Pp. 351, notes, index. Cloth, \$28.95; Paper, \$17.95.)

*Dry Manhattan: Prohibition in New York City* by Michael A. Lerner has accumulated a number of accolades since its release in 2007, ranging from a glowing review in the *New York Times* to a *Slate Magazine* Best Book of the Year distinction. The author holds a Ph.D. from New York University and presently serves as the Associate Dean of Studies at Bard High School Early College in New York City. Lerner's book is refreshingly straightforward; it is a monograph analyzing the prohibition era in New York City, with a central argument that the nation's "noble experiment" failed miserably (2).

Lerner's book is well organized and functions in a classic case-study format: analyzing a localized aspect in detail, but applying its historical lessons at a broader level. In *Dry Manhattan*, the author studies New York City and applies the lessons to American prohibition in general. Lerner begins his book by emphasizing the political roots of prohibition and briefly discussing the unique environment which allowed its inception. Lerner adheres to his formula by focusing on the Anti-Saloon League lobbyist efforts in NYC, specifically the arrival and effectiveness of New York State Superintendent William H. Anderson. However, in Lerner's opinion New York had a larger importance, stating that "Anderson's success or failure in New York would prove critical to the national campaign for Prohibition. . . . While New York was only one state, it loomed larger than most in the battle for a dry United States" (8). The Anti-Saloon League believed that New York would serve as a symbol for the larger movement—the idea being that if the League could succeed in the nation's most notable "ethnic city," a point which made it

“the state most hostile to its cause,” it could succeed anywhere (13). Lerner’s treatment on the origins of Prohibition exemplifies his style used throughout the book, using an extremely detailed record of New York City’s experience and then, when appropriate, giving his work a wider meaning by proving its pitfalls were universal.

While Lerner’s discussion of the origins of prohibition is interesting, the majority of the work focuses on the absolute failure of the near 14-year period. Central to the breakdown was the abundance of issues stemming from logistically administering the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Lerner argues that New York was the focal point for enforcement agencies such as the Bureau of Prohibition, whom eventually “engendered widespread opposition to the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment” (2). Lerner points out that the “Dry’s,” those people in favor of prohibition, seemed doomed from the beginning due to the ambiguous and incomplete nature of the prohibition legislation. The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment did not ban the consumption of alcohol, only the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors.” The second important prohibition legal measure, the Volstead Act, was also problematic, leaving several loopholes for liquor ownership and also failing to mention possession of alcohol as an offense. While possession was the most notable absence in the new laws, the Volstead Act also left openings for medicinal whiskey, industrial use of alcohol, and religious sacramental wine. These cracks in the legality of alcohol caused a number of problems and side effects. For example, Lerner reveals that after the Volstead Act bars and restaurants closed due to a decrease in profits; however, in their place was a boom of new pharmacies opening up around the city, most of which freely vended liquor under the auspice of medicinal whiskey. Many of the shortcomings of prohibition were actually brought about by ineffective and ambiguous legislation.

The fall of the auspice of a prohibition utopia was swift; in fact, what Lerner calls a “full scale riot” against the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment followed mere months into the new program (60). As prohibition continued, the anti-prohibition movement grew in size—eventually enjoying a three to one margin over Dry’s according to one nationwide poll. The rebellion in favor of alcohol was ubiquitous and violent, involving mass corruption, ubiquitous and open disregard for the law, and an unrelenting political movement to overturn the new amendment. The origins of the corruption stemmed from a number of places, but the Treasury Department’s newly formed Bureau of Prohibition was perhaps the most outlandish example of it in *Dry Manhattan*. The Bureau suffered from a lack of funding and operated under an

appointment system which was better suited to hand out political favors than find qualified enforcement officers. Lerner gives countless examples of corrupt agents, but none were as shocking as Jeremiah Bohan's murder of Monk Eastman. Bohan, a Bureau agent, murdered Eastman, a supposedly reformed gangster after a disagreement over a gratuity at a neighborhood speakeasy on Christmas Day. The media probed the case and the public in turn wondered how an agent could be a murderer, publically consume alcohol, and have ties to people like Eastman—a relatively famous criminal. The essential problem with the Bureau of Prohibition was that the people chosen to enforce the law, like Jeremiah Bohan, would often abuse their power, break the prohibition laws themselves, and/or supplement their income by extorting distillers.

Lerner began the process of researching prohibition in New York City during his graduate studies at NYU under the direction of Elizabeth Cohen. However, the work continued and he ended up spending well over a decade immersed in his topic. Of particular use to Lerner during these years was the Municipal Archives of the City of New York, the Hagley Museum and Library, the New York Public Library, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, the National Archives Northeast Branch, as well as special collections in Minnesota and Chicago. Despite his vigilant consideration of primary sources, Lerner's use of secondary sources is not as overtly thorough. He fails to address the historiography of prohibition directly, therefore leaving it to the reader to decide where his work resides in the broader scope of prohibition scholarship. Unfortunately, the publisher's words on the matter do not help the situation, the dust jacket reads, "*Dry Manhattan* is the first major work on Prohibition in nearly a quarter century, and the only full history of Prohibition in the era's most vibrant city" (back cover). Thankfully, this comment is merely the opinion of the publisher and not of Lerner. While he does not address the historiography directly, his endnotes include a comprehensive collection of other scholarly works—including many written within the past 25 years.

While the book has many outstanding qualities, there are two noteworthy critiques. The first issue is that the sources used to explain New York's importance mostly come from within New York City itself. For example, Lerner cites Anderson and New York periodicals to substantiate his claim that New York was a key to the eventual creation of the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment. While the argument has merit, it would have been more convincing if he included outside sources for a more objective analysis. The second qualm is based on the book's target audience, making it more of an observation

than a true criticism. *Dry Manhattan*, while the product of serious research and writing, seems to straddle the popular history genre and scholarship designed for academics. The relegation of historiographical information to a limited number of endnotes and the lack of an overall analysis of prohibition after its repeal, make it slightly unsatisfying to the professional historians' intellectual appetite.

*Dry Manhattan* will satisfy casual readers and historically curious New Yorkers, yet it remains viable for use in the higher education classroom. On the whole, Lerner's case study was informative and interesting, its strong archival research ensuring that it will be seen as an important contribution to the field of American prohibition history.

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Liam Riordan. *Many Identities, One Nation: The Revolution and its Legacy in the Mid-Atlantic*. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007. Pp. 353, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$49.95; Paper, \$24.95.)

*Many Identities, One Nation* opens with the author's personal reflection of cultural and national identity. While cultural customs and events fill Riordan's memories, it has become his heritage, no longer his family's culture. While he may cling to the label of Irish-American, even his own brother opts for "just American." This modern reflection invites contemplation on the proverbial "melting pot" many Americans believe their country to be and further analysis of the Latin motto found on the Seal of the United States, *E Pluribus Unum*; Out of Many, One. How diverse cultures view themselves in America, how these cultural identities evolved, and the consequences of that evolution are important questions that Riordan skillfully answers. In doing so, Riordan tells us how this process emerged during the Revolution and continued to develop in the Early Republic.

To accomplish this study, Riordan analyzes three communities along the Delaware River valley during the Revolutionary era. While these communities shared many similarities such as population, economic activity, and role as regional political hubs, their differences allowed Riordan to examine the evolution of diverse cultural identities in similar environments. The Middle Colonies provide fertile ground for researching multicultural identities