

of insightful observations based on both primary and secondary sources that could represent multiple foundations for additional studies on the subjects he raises in his book, but the absence of citations negates that prospect and renders his book of little use to the specialist. For different reasons, the incompleteness of Slaughter's *Independence* leaves it a book without an audience.

The common ground shared by *Dunmore's New World*, *The Counter-Revolution of 1776*, and *Independence* is that all three represent an attempt to provide a synthesis of key developments in Great Britain's Atlantic empire during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. James Corbett David concludes his book with a brief essay, "A Note on Method: Biography and Empire," which addresses the need for a synthesis but at the same time highlights the central problem with such efforts. David begins by observing that "the exploration of eighteenth-century empires seems to require a wide-angle lens" (David, 185). He identifies that the difficulty with many syntheses lies with topic definition, and he advocates a microhistorical approach that also allows for the author to develop the larger panorama of the time period. David successfully accomplishes this goal with his biography of Lord Dunmore. Gerald Horne and Thomas Slaughter should be commended for their attempts to develop an interpretive syntheses; the lack of clarity in defining their topics represents the underlying problem for their respective works and limits their usefulness to readers. Thomas Slaughter's book is well written, and Horne offers a semblance of scholarship by making an effort to cite (albeit incorrectly) his sources. James Corbett David's book avoids these errors and missteps and deserves recognition for his contribution.

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Mark L. Thompson. *The Contest for the Delaware Valley: Allegiance, Identity, and Empire in the Seventeenth Century* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013). Pp. 265. Notes, map, index. Cloth, \$48.00.

Contest for the Delaware Valley was recently named the 2014 winner of the Philip S. Klein prize for the best book on Pennsylvania history. It is well deserved. Making excellent use of Dutch and Swedish archives to study an often-neglected region, Thompson has crafted a compelling framework for understanding the intersection of nationalism and cosmopolitanism

in early America. He argues that “cosmopolitan forms of interaction and communication coexisted with, and indeed reinforced, national identities,” and that “empire fostered an interpenetration of the local and the national in the colonial setting” (13).

Thompson begins with the earliest European visitor to the Delaware Valley, Henry Hudson. The crew of the *Halve Maen* were both English and Dutch, and Hudson was an Englishman even if he captained a ship belonging to the Dutch East India Company. This kind of international cooperation was common, because ostensibly national ventures often became international as merchants cast a wide net for capital and talent. In other words, imperial ventures were often “Patriotic in principle” but “cosmopolitan in practice” (33).

The bulk of the book—three of the six chapters—focuses on the Söderkompaniet (Swedish South Company) and its colony Nya Sverige, better known as New Sweden. The South Company was a corporate chimera: dreamt up by the Dutchman Willem Usselinx, sponsored by the Swedish crown but funded by Dutch and German capital, operated largely by colonists from Finland, and led by the Dutch-born German Peter Minuit, who cut his teeth in the Dutch West India Company (WIC) as director of New Netherland. This multinational patchwork of capital and political allegiance was ambiguous enough to contain many contradictory visions, to be simultaneously a machine for generating Dutch profits and the vessel of Swedish imperialism in the Baltic and Atlantic.

Thompson is at his best when he examines the way that these contradictions played out on the ground, through the everyday actions of colonists rather than through the words of mercantile theorists. New Sweden was a trading colony, and was therefore predicated on flow; it welcomed people and goods from all nations. Yet the Swedish South Company was not the only power to claim the Delaware Valley: the region was contested by the WIC, the English proprietors of Maryland, and rogue New Englanders led by George Lambertson. So the South Company also blocked the flow of people and goods as a way of performing sovereignty, including acts of aggression such as tearing down trading posts and trampling the flags of rival princes. The actions of cosmopolitan men often served patriotic ends, as when South Company employees from Finland, Germany, and England threatened interlopers in the name of the Swedish crown. In this way, Thompson argues, the formation of imperial identities—the crafting of the relationship that turned subjects and sovereigns into a transatlantic imagined community—often flowed from the colonial fringes to the metropolitan center rather than the other way around.

Thompson's supple analysis also shows the limitations of national identification, and the points at which they simply fractured. Allegiance, he points out, was often conditioned upon protection, and colonists from all nations were often willing to declare allegiance to any sovereign whose officers could provide effective governance. The WIC conquered New Sweden in 1654 and transformed it into New Amstel, and then in 1664 the Duke of York's agents conquered New Amstel and transformed it into an appendage of New York. In each case conquest followed a prolonged period of decay, and colonists deserted in droves as it became clear that their governments could not defend them against Native American attacks or aggression from encroaching Europeans. Colonists of all nations were often willing to transfer allegiance to their conquerors. Because their loyalty was so important for the new regimes to secure, however, they were able to extract recognition as minority populations, often with special privileges such as religious toleration, exemption from trade restrictions, and even separate courts of law, gaining what Thompson calls "a new form of power that came with ethnic solidarity" (147).

There is much to admire about Thompson's book, which is the most sophisticated and comprehensive treatment of the Delaware Valley that has been produced in decades. It makes a strong argument for the significance of early modern nationalism, a case that is based on careful examination of the contradictions inherent within ideas about nations and that paradoxically derived its power from those contradictions. As Thompson demonstrates in an epilogue that takes the history of the Delaware Valley all the way into the early American Republic, careful attention to the interplay of nationalism and its countervailing forces has important implications for our understanding of eighteenth-century Anglicization, Pennsylvania's unruly pluralism, and the development of racial identities.

Thompson gives ample credit to the agency and power of Native American nations, who were more powerful than the hardscrabble European outposts and as savvy traders often controlled the terms of economic exchange. He shows that Lenapes and especially Susquehannocks were decisive actors in shaping the course of events in the Delaware Valley, intervening decisively between squabbling colonial agents on a number of occasions. This makes it all the more surprising that Thompson neglects to bring his sophisticated analytical apparatus to study these Native American nations. Despite his consistent focus on European ethnicity and nationalism, he misses opportunities to explore the ways that these concepts operated in the Indian countries.

This is an unfortunate omission, given recent scholarship highlighting the complexities of Lenape identity, such as Gunlög Fur's analysis of gendered nationhood in *A Nation of Women*, and sources that Thompson himself cites which describe the Susquehannocks as a collection of "united nations" (139). Indian ethnicities, forms of national belonging, and relationships between people and polity, all cry out for interrogation.

Still, if the strength of a book can be judged by the paths that it opens for those who follow, then Thompson should be commended for inviting further scholarship that explores these subjects. *Contest for the Delaware Valley* suggests productive new ways of studying the interplay of sovereignty, nationalism, and the messy realities of how big ideas manifested in the midst of sordid rivalries. The prominent roles played by the Swedish South Company, the WIC, and the city of Amsterdam (which owned the colony of New Amstel) suggest that future work can further explore the tensions between familiar forms of nationalism and the peculiarities of corporate sovereignty.

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Ian K. Steele. *Setting All the Captives Free: Capture, Adjustment, and Recollection in Allegheny Country* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013). Pp. xvi, 688. Illustrations, maps, tables, appendix, notes, index. Cloth, \$39.95.

Scholars have long been interested in the treatment and redemption of colonists taken as captives by Native Americans and integrated into their communities. Yet, the extant literature is disproportionately focused on the New England region. The same attention has not been paid to Allegheny country, where "the rich military history of this contested region has paid scant attention to captives" (4). Ian K. Steele's *Setting All the Captives Free: Capture, Adjustment, and Recollection in Allegheny Country* corrects this gap by refocusing the study of captivity on Allegheny country and "putting captives at the center of a study of the cultural and military war for Allegheny country" (4).

Steele's investigation of captivity is more than simply an attempt to track those taken by Indians. Instead, it uses the evolution in the taking of captives from 1745–65 to explore the cultural, social, and political implications of captivity within the context of imperial conflicts between the British and French. Steele's work offers insight into the role of captivity in shaping