

focus on Indian atrocities, which clearly did occur, though as Dixon admits, there were atrocities on both sides. Dixon is successful in achieving his goal, but for a more thorough understanding of Pontiac's Uprising on its own terms, there are now more profitable places to look.

Particularly unsatisfying is Dixon's explanation of Pontiac's true role. Though Dixon acknowledges at the end of the book that Indian social structure basically precluded the kind of authoritarian leadership that has been attributed to Pontiac, during the majority of the book Dixon refers to the natives who moved against the English as "Pontiac's forces." While Pontiac undoubtedly displayed more leadership than some works have given him credit for, his role was nuanced and the peoples acting as part of his uprising did so for their own reasons. Better understanding of Indian culture could have led to greater appreciation of factors such as what a wrenching experience and loss it was for Indians to turn over long-time captives who had often integrated into Indian societies. At times the role of captives just appears as a negotiating point, while John Bradstreet is criticized for not demanding enough in his peace negotiations.

Another uncomfortable aspect of Dixon's approach appears in his rather curious treatment of the introduction of smallpox blankets to Indians by Europeans at Fort Pitt. Granted, Indians did engaged in biological warfare of a sort, and it is possible that the smallpox may actually have come from sources other than those blankets. However, as Dowd points out, this does not change the fact that Englishmen engaged in a type of warfare that was technically forbidden in their theories of war, nor does it remove the question this incident raises about European attitudes towards Indians.

These reservations aside, this is a sound and useful analysis of Pontiac's War, though perhaps one that should be used in conjunction with other works to get the most complete picture.

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*Naval Documents of the American Revolution. Vol. 11, American Theater: January 1, 1778–March 31, 1778. European Theater: January 1, 1778–March 31, 1778.* Edited by MICHAEL J. CRAWFORD ET AL. (Washington, DC: Naval Historical Center, Department of the Navy, 2005. xxx, 1365p. Illustrations, maps and charts, notes, appendices, index. \$82.)

Few people will read this book cover to cover. At almost 1,200 pages of documents organized chronologically by day, the eleventh volume in the *Naval Documents of the American Revolution* series is not exactly a page turner. And yet there is a drama to this volume all its own. The book covers a crucial three months in the Revolutionary War—the first three months of 1778—as France

prepares to enter the war against Great Britain and turn its surreptitious aid into overt support. This theme is the subtext of the first 855 pages covering the American theater of the war and emerges much more prominently in the last 339 pages on the European theater.

The day-by-day coverage is both a benefit and a handicap to reading the book. Only occasionally are consecutive documents connected to one another. A notable exception is the sequence of accounts describing the voyage of the frigate *Boston* across the Atlantic. In a number of instances, the book has the same event described by the captain, Samuel Tucker, a marine lieutenant who kept a journal on board, William Jennison, and entries from the diary of the ship's distinguished passenger, John Adams. This multiangled approach is even supplemented by the journals from British war vessels that spotted and chased the *Boston*. More often, however, the documents next to each other are unrelated and the reader is spirited on one day from the West Indies to New England, to the Mississippi River, to the Chesapeake Bay, to New York Harbor, to the Delaware River. The reader, just like in many novels, must keep the different plot lines separate and clear. Many of the stories are unheralded, yet reflect the diverse ways the war entered the lives of Americans. Because his expedition took place on the Mississippi, Captain James Willing's capture of Natchez and attack on West Florida plays a prominent role in the book. The British scrambled to send forces to meet this threat. They also corresponded with Spanish officials who seemed to protect the American raiders, allowing them to sell captured goods and slaves in New Orleans. The crew of the sloop *Providence* carried out another daring raid, sending a handful of men ashore at New Providence in the Bahamas. The small expeditionary force captured the main fortress, aimed its cannon on the town and its shipping, and netted themselves several prizes before spiking the guns and making their escape. Both of these exploits suggest the difficulties the British faced in defending a far-flung empire from marauding Americans. This vulnerability can also be seen in debates in the House of Lords in February 1778, which pointed out that over seven hundred British vessels had been captured by the Americans. Most of the documents, however, are more mundane, including daily entries of ship logs describing wind and weather. At times the documents are merely lists of goods purchased for individual ships, or the brief entry of a committee report on supplying a ship or appointing an officer.

Although there might be a slight prorevolutionary bias in the selection of documents in this weighty tome, like the ten previous volumes, it provides a useful tool for the study of maritime subjects during the Revolutionary War. There is an excellent index of almost two hundred pages, and the notation identifies appropriate names of persons and ships. In short, this book should find itself on the shelves of many research and university libraries.