

but that movement could not have succeeded without the support of rural people who sought their own brand of liberty. For Moyer, that relationship illustrates that the radicalism that characterized the revolutionary period, particularly in the countryside, grew out of something more than the ideas espoused by British writers or peoples' material concerns. It grew out of farmers' desires to acquire the political and economic independence guaranteed with property ownership.

*Cleveland State University*

THOMAS J. HUMPHREY

*Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America.* By PETER SILVER. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2007. 352 pp. Figures, charts, appendix, notes, index. \$29.95.)

During the height of the Indian conflict known as Pontiac's Uprising, a patrol of Pennsylvania militiamen led by George Allen surrounded the camp of three peaceful Delaware Indians. Convinced that these Delawares were part of a war party responsible for recent raids in the area, Allen and his men decided to kill their captives. Ironically, one of the Indians was well-known to the Pennsylvanians. He was called George Allen, having taken that name from the very same militia leader who now leveled his musket at the surprised Delawares. This association, however, did not prevent the soldiers from shooting down the three hapless Indians. After scalping the fallen Delawares, the militiamen turned to leave when, suddenly, the Indian known as George Allen jumped up and escaped into the forest.

The tale of militiaman George Allen's attempted murder of Delaware George Allen contextualizes Peter Silver's monumental study of how Indian warfare in the mid-Atlantic region of early America helped to forge a distinct American identity that embraced democratic government, civil liberty, and a regard for ethnic and religious toleration. The middle provinces, unlike other regions in colonial America, were home to a multitude of European ethnic groups. These diverse settlers brought many age-old cultural and religious tensions with them to America. As Silver eloquently explains, however, warfare with Indians forced these European transplants to set aside their suspicions and prejudices toward one another to focus on a common enemy. In the process, these disparate peoples also found common ideals that far outweighed their ethnic and religious differences.

The author begins with a fascinating, yet graphic, discussion of how Europeans living in the mid-Atlantic backcountry came to fear Indians. While these settlers may have been inured to armed conflict as practiced on the battlefields of Europe, they were wholly unprepared for the style and nature of Indian warfare. The mere rumor of Indian attacks sent thousands of terror-stricken

frontier folk fleeing to the safety of more settled areas and forced them to appeal to their government for protection. Silver deftly shows how this sense of terror created a new rhetoric that emphasized national and racial unity against a merciless and savage foe. Later, politicians seized upon this rhetoric of fear and hatred to advance their own agendas. For example, the author demonstrates how opposing political forces in Pennsylvania used this new polemic to attack Quaker influence in government and proprietary interests at the same time. In addition, revolutionary leaders found it easy to link Indians with the British and Loyalists, thereby fueling agitation against the Crown.

A thesis as broad and complex as Silver's requires meticulous research. Sifting through an impressive array of letters, diaries, contemporary literary sources, and ethnographic data, he clearly establishes a new and fresh perspective on the origins of the American character. Many historians have questioned the dynamic role Indians played in shaping early American history, but it is Silver who finally puts an end to this speculation by producing a work that is thoughtful, well written, and compelling.

*Slippery Rock University*

DAVID DIXON

*Profiles of Revolutionaries in Atlantic History, 1700–1850.* Edited by R. WILLIAM WEISBERGER, DENNIS P. HUPCHICK, and DAVID L. ANDERSON. (Boulder, CO: Social Science Monographs, 2007. 360 pp. Notes, index. \$40.)

This collection of essays covers important revolutionaries throughout the Atlantic world, ranging from George Washington to Toussaint Louverture to Alexis de Tocqueville. Lesser known figures are also included: the Mexican revolutionary Padre Miguel Hidalgo, the Argentine rebel José Francisco de San Martín, and the Irish revolutionary John Mitchel. In addition, the editors added some interesting pieces on nonrevolutionaries, namely Molly Pitcher and Hezekiah Niles. Their purpose in assembling such an eclectic mix of essays is to show how "prominent individuals associated with various revolutionary movements" affected "revolutions in science and technology, the political revolutions in the Americas between 1776 and 1812, and those in Europe between 1789 and 1848" (1).

Less clear, however, is how the essays in this volume relate to the Atlantic world. For example, we get a series of biographical sketches without any larger context. Except for some qualified exceptions, the authors do not highlight the connections between various revolutionary and counterrevolutionary movements, nor do they explain how the revolutionaries were similar, how they were different, or how/if they influenced each other. The essays on Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, for instance, contain a brief overview of their accom-