opposition papers indicate this to be case. Other incidents could be given, all of which suggest the need for more careful analysis.

The author is at her best in giving the backgrounds of the various movements and in her discussion of the problems involving religious controversies. However, more facts supporting her interpretations would have been of value.

The short biographies given in the footnotes enhance the usefulness of the dissertation. The bibliography is rather extensive, but some critical comment on the different sources, especially the newspapers, would have been worth while. Then, too, the documents available in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and a number of other places in Pennsylvania were apparently neglected.

For an interpretation of this period this study will be of most interest to the general reader who is satisfied with an incomplete picture of the factors that were to be found in these political movements.

_Jeannette, Pennsylvania_  
C. Maxwell Myers


Few prominent figures in American history have earned and received more opprobrium than General James Wilkinson. His activities extended over a wide area of the national territory and through the most critical half-century of national existence. He served with Arnold, Gates, and St. Clair during the Revolution and arranged for the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga. After a short period as clothier-general of the army (1779-81), Wilkinson resigned and served as representative from Bucks County in the Pennsylvania Assembly. In 1783 he turned from an apparently promising political career and sought his fortune as a land speculator and merchant in Kentucky. While playing an active part in the various Kentucky assemblies which sought separation from Virginia, Wilkinson became a Spanish informer and pensioner. In 1791 he was once more in the army, stationed at Fort Washington, Cincinnati, where he helped Wayne to pacify the Indians in the Northwest Territory. Wayne's death in 1796 left Wilkinson the ranking officer in the army, and he showed considerable ability as an administrator of the posts scattered from Detroit to Natchez. He was one of the American commissioners to receive Louisiana from the French in 1803. Although he was a failure as governor of Louisiana Territory
from 1805-1806, Wilkinson sent Pike and others on important explorations. In 1806 he concluded the neutral ground agreement with Herrera, and prepared to arouse the somewhat ridiculous tempest over the Burr conspiracy. Burr's trial in 1807 revealed Wilkinson in none too savory a light. His enemies, and those of the administration, started an investigation which gave him a coat of whitewash in 1808. His administration of the army at New Orleans and Terre aux Boeufs in 1809 was miserably incompetent, although the fault was not entirely his. Successfully through a court-martial in 1811, in which he was defended by Roger Brooke Taney, Wilkinson returned to the Southwest where he improved the defenses and occupied West Florida. Unfortunately promoted to major general, Wilkinson was transferred to the Canadian border in 1813. His failures there fit perfectly with the other dreary events of the War of 1812. Although acquitted by a court-martial in 1815, Wilkinson's army career was over. He wrote his Memoirs and then tried his hand as a planter on the lower Mississippi. In 1822 he sailed for Mexico to collect claims and better his fortunes. He was unable to fulfill the role of an empresario, and died in Mexico City in 1825.

In elaborating upon these and many other incidents in Wilkinson's career, Major Jacobs has written an excellent life of the Tarnished Warrior. The broad outlines of the narrative, as well as many of the details, had already been drawn by such scholars as Cox, Whitaker, Shepherd, Hay, and others. Although the author has made no startling discoveries, he has performed a significant service in writing, largely from the sources, a dispassionate and relatively complete life of General Wilkinson. Major Jacobs has consulted sources that are widely scattered, and he has made good use of secondary material, including theses of graduate students at Northwestern University, which he fully acknowledges.

There are very few errors which caught the reviewer's attention. An example of very careless proof reading is on page 288. The reference to Miranda on page 226 may be considered a misprint, and "deranked" must have been intended for "deranged" on page 153. One could easily quarrel with Major Jacobs' accounts of the Pike Sante Fe expedition, the neutral ground agreement, and the Long expeditions. These episodes should have been handled more carefully. There seems to be no reason for citing letters of 1805 and 1808 to show the location of the general's son, James Biddle Wilkinson, in 1813. Moreover, the young man was not near Mobile in June, 1813, but in Texas helping Toledo wrest the leadership of a filibustering expedition from
Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara. Major Jacobs makes no reference to this incident.

Major Jacobs has maintained an excellent sense of proportion in dealing with various phases of Wilkinson's career. He has provided descriptive material against which that career is sharply outlined, and his conclusions are temperate and carefully considered. The book is good biography and good history, well illustrated with maps and reproductions of portraits. The manuscript material is listed in the bibliography according to its geographical location, a practice which this reviewer can scarcely commend. There is an adequate index.

_Harris G. Warren_  


This Columbia University study deals primarily with the origins of the corporate and other forms of business. It does much to refute the impressions usually given by political histories that the American Revolution was highly destructive to trade, that the period of the Confederation was characterized by a series of commercial and financial crises, and that orderly economic development awaited the adoption of the Constitution and the initiation of Hamiltonian policies. The author points out that while the Revolution disrupted trade in some parts of the country, it acted as a considerable stimulus in other districts and that in most places some individuals were being advanced to commercial positions of importance. Considerable emphasis is given the claim that the Revolution neither led to the expatriation of wealthy loyalists nor indeed even to serious persecution. For the most part, it is held, these capitalists remained in the country and were accepted as business leaders after the war. The author maintains that throughout the Revolution and following years there was continuity of commercial development and that the war simply hastened changes in business practices and methods of financing already under way.

The 1780's were not a period of retrogression characterized by universal depression but rather a period of experimentation in methods of trade. New commercial families arose, and many old business leaders re-established themselves. The confusion of the post-war period was not tantamount to stagnation. Despite the depression in agriculture after the sharp decline in prices in 1785, economic activity generally was growing, particularly world commerce. Difficul-