men emerged, old leaders died or disappeared, and those who remained on the scene were not always consistent. Franklin, Reed, McKean, Findley, Rush, Clymer, Bayard, and Paine all changed sides at least once, and few electoral units (the counties and the city of Philadelphia) consistently elected representatives from the same faction. Bucks County in the east was strongly Radical, and Bedford in the west was strongly Conservative until the middle of the 1780s when both reversed themselves. Chester in the east and Westmoreland in the west were frequently divided. York in the west was generally Conservative; Berks in the east was more frequently Radical; and Cumberland, the heartland of the "western Radical democrats," possessed a Conservative contingency which enjoyed an occasional electoral victory.

Something more than the Radical-Conservative framework is needed to account for these patterns of leadership recruitment and electoral support and for the shifts which occur in these patterns over the fifteen-year period. Additional evidence is necessary to give new perspective and new meaning to the contemporary comment on which the book relies so heavily. New thinking is needed to transcend the democratic-oligarchic, West-East, farmer-businessman, poor-rich conceptual dichotomies which structure the evidence. Until this is done, our understanding of the nature of politics in revolutionary Pennsylvania must remain ambiguous at best. However, in this process of reinvestigation and reconceptualization, Robert Brunhouse's The Counter-Revolution must remain the essential starting point.

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Michael Pearson's book, as the title states, deals with the American Revolution from the British point of view. A British subject born in Buenos Aires, Pearson left school at sixteen to work as a reporter in a small London news agency; he has also written plays, magazine articles, short stories, and several nonfiction books.

His study of the Revolution through contemporary British rec-
ords has a fresh approach, is well written, and is the result of extensive research. Bless the British for never spring-cleaning old files! Even as the uniform designers for the Charles Laughton film interpretation of *Mutiny on the Bounty* could consult the tailor's records for the original Captain Bligh, down to the last inch of braid and the last brass button, so Michael Pearson had access to detailed army and navy correspondence with Whitehall, the private papers and journals of British statesmen and military officers, logs of ships, weather conditions during military engagements on land and sea, Lord Stormont's reports on the double-dealing at Versailles, old newspapers, cabinet meetings, and political quarrels in Parliament. He might have bogged down in his narrative with histories of regiments in action, but he stayed with engagements and events that marked turning points in the long struggle.

Through the entire book he has shown the effect on the outcome of military campaigns of personality clashes among high-ranking officers, disturbing in almost any war in human history, but lethal in its effect on the outcome of the American Revolution. General William Howe, for instance, frigidly ignored his second-in-command, Major-General Sir Henry Clinton, rarely using any of his barrage of suggestions and battle plans. Howe was relaxed, a man for whom there was always a tomorrow in which to execute a plan. Clinton was "up-tight," always watching his superior with ironic detachment, unfavorably judging Howe's every move; he was a solitary man, incapable of making friends or trusting anyone.

Later, Clinton as commander-in-chief, disliked and distrusted his second-in-command, Charles Cornwallis. Cornwallis, in his turn, when he achieved independent command in the Southern campaign that ultimately led to the surrender at Yorktown, did not completely ignore Clinton's orders, but rather gave them a free translation. In like manner admirals from the Secretary of War Lord Sandwich down the line, ignored everyone, not cooperating with generals or Lord Germain, unless it suited them. Finally, George III, with everybody under his divinely ordained thumb, needled Lord Germain for action and victories, and he in turn, toward the end of the war was practically directing all armies in North America from Whitehall. Naturally this crossfire from talented men was decidedly in favor of the Americans.

The average, history-loving American in his reading about the American Revolution, is likely to emphasize battles, American hardships, and the effect of the war on his own particular section of the
country, ignoring the continental European aspect of the war. Michael Pearson emphasizes this influence on the faraway colonial revolt. Every American victory of major or minor importance had its repercussions at Versailles, until France was sending supplies to the American rebels in French ships with French crews, and wound up with the splendid army and navy array at Yorktown. Conversely, when the Americans were losing, the French, much to the delight of Whitehall, often threatened to withdraw help.

In June 1779, a belligerent Spanish note was the equivalent of a declaration of war. A combined French-Spanish fleet planned an invasion, ultimately postponing the engagement, and returning to their home ports.

After the fall of Charleston in 1780, there was a rearrangement in European courts to adjust the balance of power. "A British defeat might not be in the interest of the Hapsburgs, despite Marie Antoinette, or even of the Romanovs. For currently Catherine of Russia was vigorously promoting her influence in Western Europe." The British were trying to negotiate a separate peace with Spain, offering Gibraltar. And Frederick of Prussia withheld permission for Hessian reinforcements to cross his territory on their way to America. Holland, from St. Eustatius in the Caribbean, was a cover for privateering John Paul Jones, and was ready to sign the armed neutrality alliance designed to protect neutral shipping that was being promoted by Russia; and so it went.

*Those Damned Rebels* ends on a delicious note. We see Ambassador John Adams presenting his credentials at St. James's Palace to his ancient enemy, George III, bowing three times on entering the Closet — "One at the door, another about half way, and a third before the presence," and then making a polite speech. Furthermore, George III replied politely.

*Pittsburgh*  
Florence C. McLaughlin