

which the historian Frederick Merk regarded as a crucial force shaping American institutions in the nineteenth century. Likewise he abjures the idea of "plenty" elucidated so ably by the late David Potter.

Furthermore, the author deals insubstantially with the molding pressures of urbanization, industrialization, and secularization. By the year 1820 the transportation revolution and nascent industrial urbanization were already exerting an impact on American society. As Sam Bass Warner points out in his book, *The Urban Wilderness*, America in the antebellum period was gripped by a virulent youthful stage of urbanization which thrust America out of the status imbued "deferential society" and into a contract-based society; the process shook loose the social, political, as well as the legal underpinnings of the preindustrial normative order. Consequently, American history, as the historian John Higham recently argued, can be interpreted as an effort to "get us together," to restore the ever eroding traditional base. Certainly, it is difficult, if not impossible, to sweep the terrain of American legal history, as Schwartz has attempted, without taking cognizance of the underlying ideological framework suggested above.

History Department
California State College
California, Pennsylvania

JOHN F. BAUMAN

This New Man, The American: The Beginnings of the American People. By JOHN C. MILLER. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1974. Pp. xii, 719. \$15.00.)

For nearly forty years, John C. Miller has tutored his fellow countrymen on the origins of the American republic. A native Californian, Miller was educated at Harvard, and he carried a passionate devotion to American colonial history back to the west coast, where he became Stanford University's Robinson Professor of American History in 1950. In the course of his career, Miller has written fine biographies of Samuel Adams and of Alexander Hamilton. A unique contribution to the cause of American liberty, his study of the Alien and Sedition Acts, implicitly exposed the threat of McCarthyism in 1951. His other writings on American history from 1763 to 1815 have shaped a generation's thinking on the establishment of the world's first "new nation."

Recently retired from active teaching, Miller now offers up a matured synthesis of his own study of the prerevolutionary American experience. Well written and moving at a leisurely pace, the book, nevertheless, tends to focus upon decisive critical events, such as the failure of the Virginia Company, the threats of Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson to New England Puritanism, or the impact of the Glorious Revolution on the American colonies. Miller correctly seeks to redress the profession's long neglect of the role of Indians and black Americans in the nation's history. Some will take exception to his finding of "Fundamentalists" leading the First Great Awakening. But Miller's work is enriched by his careful reading of the best recent scholarship and the errors of judgment are few. *This New Man, The American* is recommended reading for a bicentennial recollection of our heritage.

Department of History
Allegheny College
Meadville, Pennsylvania

RALPH E. LUKER

"War Is Hell!" William T. Sherman's Personal Narrative of His March Through Georgia. Edited by MILLS LANE. (Savannah, Georgia: The Beehive Press, 1974. Pp. xxvi, 196. Introduction, illustrations. \$20.60.)

This reviewer must in all honesty ask bluntly: why was this book published? What justification is there in this day of inflation and shortages to bring out a book consisting of excerpts from the nineteenth century Sherman memoirs, a smattering of his letters to his wife, some eye-catching photographs, and an introduction almost exclusively based on secondary accounts? One can only surmise from the composition of this work that, despite the publisher's claim that this book is part of its "proud library of regional history . . .," it is in reality an expensive, attractively printed, addition for the coffee table.

The part of this book of most interest to historians is the introduction. Here, the editor, Mills Lane, argues that Sherman's movement through Georgia was "really the pivot point for an era which brought the industrial revolution to Georgia and which gave political power to the middle class for the first time." While citing some figures to buttress his point, editor Lane is not specific enough to make his case convincing. For example, in saying that the middle class ad-