what slighted). Beyond this, it brings out episodes and factors which have been largely ignored. In no respect is this more marked than in the book's coverage of the Spanish contribution to the American cause in terms both of supplies and of actual military operations.

As the editor states, "American independence could neither be won nor lost in the West, but the future of the United States might be determined there in a more indirect manner." Rounding out the picture is certainly essential to genuine understanding of the American Revolution. Without question, this collection renders important service in facilitating such understanding, despite the complexity of the subject, and in putting this significant facet of the struggle for independence into context as a phase of a continuing historical development.

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Quantitative analyses of American society and politics for any period prior to 1850 are risky, for data-gathering techniques were crude and notoriously inefficient. Historians have, consequently, shied away from such treacherous undertakings, and we do not know as much about post-Revolutionary America as we ought to. Richard G. Miller has fearlessly placed his neck on the block, however, and has escaped largely intact. The result is a fine study of Philadelphia politics during the first party system.

Why Philadelphia? As Miller points out, Philadelphia provides a good arena for examining urban politics in the new nation. For the decade in question it was the state and national capital; it had two competitive political parties; the city underwent rapid demographic growth in the 1790s; and with large German and Irish populations its demographic complexion was mixed. Various theories of ethnic and urban voting patterns should find an adequate field for empirical testing here.

Miller's first chapter is perhaps his best, for he undertakes a demographic and economic analysis of the Philadelphia social structure for
the years following the Revolution. He finds a striking — and apparently growing — inequality of wealth distribution. Nearly one-third of the working population failed to reach subsistence levels. This analysis extends that by Allan Kulikoff, Gary Nash, Jackson Main, and others for the late colonial period.

At the same time, Miller provides us with a map of the urban landscape. The more prosperous economic groups lived in the peripheral wards, although all wards contained a diverse population. What is less clear throughout the book, however, is just how (or if) this correlates with voting patterns. Although we find voting percentages by election, we do not discover what percentage of the population could not vote. Surely it must have been large, for the inner wards appear to be consistently Federalist. Since both Republicans and Federalists were essentially elitists — their support resting on the gentry — voter perceptions of aristocratic and nonaristocratic behavior along with opportunities for upward mobility must have been critical determinants. That is, not only the actual social structure but the perceived social structure remained central to electoral behavior.

The remainder of the volume traces the fortunes of the two parties, their leaders, and the role of issues in election campaigns. For most of the decade the Federalist junta controlled city patronage and politics. But the fluidity of wealth and commerce in Philadelphia prevented stagnation and kept the avenues to power fairly flexible among the upper classes. Not all who wished to reach the levers of power could do so through the junta however; hence they began to look outside for opportunities. Constant increases in the number of men who claimed wealth put pressure on the Federalists, and increasingly these men spilled over into the Republican party.

Finally, local and national issues largely determined party affiliation and party fortunes. Taxes on distilled liquor, removal of the capital, the French Revolution, and American policy toward Great Britain all inflamed the populace. Each issue produced an explosion that allowed Republicans to erode Federalist support in the city. Less clearly explained, however, is why men of poor circumstances became excited over these affairs rather than over their own economic condition. Despite his first chapter, Miller has fallen too easily into a discussion of the political (and economic) elite.

Constant Irish immigration, peace with France, and the Alien and Sedition laws eventually eroded Federalist strength to the point of defeat. In 1799, Republicans gained some victories, and in 1800 they defeated the Federalists throughout the city. A new, broad-based
urban party had emerged. Miller traces the Republicans' success to an appeal toward "middle and lower-class voters and ethnic minorities" (p. 147). Clearly this success stemmed more from a perception among voters of the way things could be rather than from the way they were — for wealthy men still controlled the Republican party.

Miller's efforts to locate political support and trace urban growth are generally fruitful. What remains is to establish a comparative base. Unfortunately, few other studies exist for the period 1790 to 1840. We need more studies of this nature to provide a fuller picture of post-Revolutionary American life.

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Most Pennsylvanians lived on the land during the period 1750-1820, and this is a historically documented source book on everyday rural clothing during that period. At the time of the first national census (1790), there were 434,373 Pennsylvanians, of whom over 350,000, conservatively, lived in rural settings. Cities were not then large — Philadelphia in 1800 numbered some 62,000, Lancaster (second) only 4,300, and York and Reading fewer than 3,000. General interest in rural colonial clothing is heightened by the use of such clothing by many tradesmen, artisans, and laborers of towns and villages. Misleading common impressions of the garb of such periods have naturally resulted from the predilection of artists for depicting the urban rich rather than the more common person. This situation is well corrected for the colonial period in this book.

Special interest in the region treated here derives from the hearty response of the Swiss and Rhinelanders to William Penn's invitation to his "holy experiment." This led to a German-dominated population which held tenaciously to its cultural patterns. These patterns differed from those of other colonial regions, populated primarily from the British Isles. Items of clothing from middle-class