trait made him a valuable addition to the white settlers when they met the challenges of the frontier in Western Pennsylvania during the last decades of the eighteenth century.

Barsotti and Darlington have preserved the style of Smith in this sturdy book, yet their combined annotations have made the journal much more valuable to the twentieth-century reader. The Ohio Historical Society is to be commended for undertaking this editorial task and for making this inexpensive book available to the reader. Scholars and those interested in the history of the trans-Appalachian frontier who have not acquired earlier, more expensive editions will want to add this book to their collections.

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This book is a welcome addition to the growing number of works devoted to the study of American ideology and its influence on the actions of the Revolutionary generation. By tracing the public career of Thomas McKean, Rowe "seeks to explore McKean's impact on American republican ideals and practices between 1750 and 1815, and how, in turn, McKean was shaped by republican values and assumptions" (p. xiii). Republicanism, a political philosophy based on the concept that man cannot resist the temptations of political or economic power, advocated that governmental power be limited; that checks and balances be placed on its exercise; and that those employing it be constantly watched by a virtuous citizenry. In McKean, quondam Delawarean and Pennsylvanian, the author has an ideal subject who was prominent in state and national affairs: for Delaware, an assemblyman, member of the Stamp Act Congress, of her constitutional convention (1776), and of the Continental Congress for eight years, signer of the Declaration of Independence and of the Articles of Confederation, and president of the state (1777) and of the Continental Congress (1781) ; for Pennsylvania, the president of the Provincial Conference (1776), advocate of the ratification of the Constitution of 1776, a writer of the Constitution of 1790, her first
chief justice (1777-1799), and three-term governor (1799-1808).

This work challenges a general view of McKean as a trimmer, an egotistical timeserver whose ideology shifted to support his single-minded pursuit of office. In its stead there emerges the picture of a man whose public life was shaped by long-held, immutable, republican convictions, many of which were not widely shared. What had the surface appearance of trimming was his defense of these less popular ideals, such as an independent and powerful judiciary, nepotism, plural officeholding, while his fellow republicans were bent on instituting a more responsive, cheaper court system and rotation in office.

McKean is an excellent example of the committed republican in public life. Like many of his contemporaries, he never credited his opponents the right honorably to disagree. In his opinion opposition sprang from corrupt, not pure motives. In advocacy or defense the republicans fought a no-quarter battle on the side of right. They were neither loving nor lovable men. They were contentious, and probably virtuous, but they certainly were not noble.

The author thoroughly demonstrates the impact of republican values on McKean’s practices, but is not equally successful in showing McKean’s influence on the ideology of his generation. Rowe’s clarity of exposition is admirable — not a mean accomplishment, as the term “republican” had multiple meanings, and at one point three were in use at one time. Enjoyment of the narrative is marred by indications that the manuscript was not ready for press — the too frequent misspelled word, stylistic inconsistencies in capitalization, and, in one instance, the description of future Pennsylvania Governor Snyder’s supporters in the assembly as “congressmen.”

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In 1944, Gunnar Myrdal in The American Dilemma found the key to The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy (his subtitle) to be the clash of the idealism of white Americans’ creed with their racial