continue living among the ruins of a world he had helped to destroy.

Although the section in the book covering McIntosh's military command in Pittsburgh has real authority, it is as a socio-political historian that Jackson succeeds. When he records the confused swirl of political infighting at local and state levels he makes a valuable contribution. It is with particular skill that he shows how McIntosh illustrates the fate of his class; the soldier, as in so much else, was a loser in the bitter struggle over who should rule at home once the British had been ejected. As an example of the "better sort" his career reveals how slim were the pretensions upon which his claim to social superiority rested and, perhaps, how fortunate Georgia was that he and his kind lost.

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Ms. Coward has written a very readable account about what would appear to be a very dull subject: the process by which Kentuckians developed their Constitutions of 1792 and 1799. As they wrote their first constitution and established a new state government in 1792, Kentuckians looked to their parent state Virginia for counsel and advice (especially to Thomas Jefferson and James Madison). While a strong ministerial and legal element dominated the first convention, under the leadership of George Nicholas the 1792 constitution consolidated power in the hands of the elite (the governor, the senate, and the court of appeals) in order to check any tendency to unruly democracy. Not only was a strong central government established but slavery was recognized as an established institution.

Subsequently, Kentucky's population grew rapidly with a marked increase in slaves in the central part of the state. As such, a number of new counties were created. Kentucky's first legislature under the Constitution of 1792 established a court system, levied taxes, and established an educational system. While Kentucky's first governor, Isaac Shelby, was extremely cautious and rarely used the veto, his successor, James Garrard, advocated greater public spending and frequently used the veto power. In national politics, Kentuckians were
strongly Democratic Republican due to the efforts of such leaders as John Breckinridge, chairman of the Kentucky Democratic Society. Ms Coward believes that some Democratic Republican leaders used such national issues as the Alien and Sedition Acts as well as the slave controversy for their own political gain.

As early as 1799, a move occurred to call a new convention to reform the Constitution of 1792. The motivation was primarily pragmatic: to improve the "workability" of governmental practice. This convention contained less religious representation and more lawyers. Under the presidency of Alexander Bullitt the "careful separation of powers" provided for in the 1792 Constitution was partially dismantled, slavery continued to be protected and unlimited importation of slaves was permitted, universal male suffrage was provided but free blacks and Indians were denied the vote, public officers were directly elected, and the judicial system was reformed.

So acceptable was the 1799 Constitution that it remained in force for the next fifty years. Whatever criticism was leveled at it arose out of an undemocratic county court system which had also been corrupted by the selling of offices. Ms Coward believes the framers of the 1799 Constitution were "intensely introspective, writing a document to suit their needs and dismissing the claims of either precedent or posterity" (p. 166). Yet she claims the majority of delegates were realists when they included such features as "the direct election of state officers, universal male suffrage, no property qualifications for office holding, and no prohibition on campaigning" (p. 167). By 1800, Kentucky had shed much of its dependency upon Virginia.

Ms Coward's research rests upon sound primary sources. Not only has she used county and state records, but significant collections at the Library of Congress, the libraries of the University of Kentucky, the University of North Carolina, the University of Chicago, the Kentucky Historical Society, the Filson Club, and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

This book is highly recommended to all students not only of Kentucky history, but of early constitutional development as well. This reviewer has long believed that Kentucky provides a microcosm worthy of study in depth for its unique answers to national issues and concerns. Ms Coward's study confirms this.

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