

This volume, an outgrowth of the Fourth George Rogers Clark Institute lecture delivered by Page Smith on February 25, 1979, promises more in its title than it is able to deliver. It represents the "reflections" of a seasoned historian. The reader who approaches this volume expecting some type of psychological analysis is doomed to disappointment. This lecture and the appendixes that contain excerpts from Page Smith's history of the American Revolution, A New Age Now Begins, represent Smith's reflections on a lifetime of reading history. In this regard it is similar to Will Durant's The Lessons of History, which also reflected his conclusions after a lifetime of studying European history.

According to Smith, the military, politics, and religion are the three most important arenas for leadership. One wonders why he chose such limited fields to say that leadership is important. Surely, leadership ability is also important in the world of business, as witnessed by the careers of the Robber Barons, or in the realms of sports and education.

He sees religion and politics as areas where ideas predominate, while the military is dominated by action. A military leader, he argues, must have a sense of presence. He must dominate the will of his enemies. This differs from political and religious leadership where a sense of vision is important. He asserts without valid documentation that charisma helps political leaders, who frequently have piercing eyes. He cites Shakespeare for this and the reference in Hamlet to "an eye like Mars." Indeed, documentation for such a statement would be hard to come by.

Smith is particularly fond of detailing the exploits of George Rogers Clark, whose "triumph of fortitude and will" he greatly admires as the most outstanding military achievement of the Revolution.

This volume offers some interesting reflections on leadership, but apparently the author did not think them through with the care expected of a historian of the caliber of Page Smith. The volume focuses exclusively on military leadership and especially on George Rogers Clark. A more reliable analysis of the nature of leadership would
require a much more detailed study. In effect, this volume appears to be a shallow effort to grapple with a complicated question.

Kenneth R. Nodyne  
Department of History  
West Liberty State College  
West Liberty, West Virginia


This is the fifth volume of Karl Arndt’s monumental documentary history of the Harmony Society (reviews of previous volumes have appeared in the October 1975, January 1979, July 1982, and April 1983 issues of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine). This society began as a group of religious dissenters about 1785 in Germany under the leadership of George Rapp (1757-1847). They came to this country in 1803-1804 and founded the town of Harmony in Western Pennsylvania. In 1814-1815 they sold their town and founded the second town of Harmony in southern Indiana. In 1824-1825 they sold this town and founded the town of Economy in Western Pennsylvania.

It was at this last location that they reached their greatest economic growth. The textile industry that the society had started in Harmony, Pennsylvania, about 1808 was made into a large vertical organization, one of the larger in the west of its time. This industry developed under the direction of Frederick Rapp (1775-1834), whose death marks the end of this volume. The great schism of the society, the affair of “Count Leon,” also occurred during this period.

The volume contains some matters of less importance, if not interest. The Harmony Society’s experiments with steamboats include the final sale of their William Penn and the story of their second boat, the Pittsburgh and Wheeling Packet. Also documented is the affair of the beautiful Hildegard Mutschler who fascinated George Rapp and who ran off with one of the society members. The work mentions the development of the printing press, the science museum, and the music of the society.

Arndt calls 1826-1834 the period of the greatest power and influence of the Harmony Society. One might make a claim to another era of power and influence under Jacob Henrici, from about 1860 to 1885,