

Larson documents the dramatic nature of the electoral events through detailed recounts of struggles within each state by the various means of selecting the electors. The drama is intertwined with politicking, maneuvering, and good old horse trading. Larson holds a Ph.D. in History, but as a professor of Law at Pepperdine University he approaches the subject from a legal perspective. At the same time, his background in science and religion is apparent in his analysis of the conflicts between Adams's Christian understanding of the republic and Jefferson's deist beliefs.

Starting at Independence Day, Larson recounts the events leading to the contested election of 1800 and the tied vote in the House of Representatives. Larson explores the emerging conflict between Adams and Jefferson, who shared the offices of President and Vice-President within the only split party occupancy of the two offices in the history of the republic. The thirty-eight ballots cast by Congress to break the tie, the maneuvering within state delegations, and the eventual outcome inspired constitutional changes in order to avoid future conflicts. Larson reiterates these points, providing analysis and contemporary parallels regarding presidential style and constitutional balance between the three branches of American government.

Readers searching for relevant historical precedents to understand contemporary political events will find Larson's work rich and rewarding.

—Howard Gaass

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Nancy Shoemaker. *A Strange Likeness; Becoming Red and White in Eighteenth-Century North America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. Pp. 232. Paper \$19.95.

Although the common perception, reinforced by scholars and popular histories, dwells upon the conflicts between Indians and Europeans, Nancy Shoemaker, a professor at the University of Connecticut specializing in American Indian History, argues that Indians and Europeans shared similar social constructs. In *A Strange Likeness; Becoming Red and White in Eighteenth-Century North America*, she examines the similarities between Indians and Europeans to ascertain how these cultures constructed new identities

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that highlighted their differences instead of their commonalities in the eighteenth century. A foundation of shared concepts and practices such as categorization, sense of direction, and the concept of nation, not only enabled Indians and Europeans to communicate initially, but also ultimately led to the expression of their differences. Shoemaker examines how similarities turned into tension-filled differences from the Atlantic seaboard to the Great Lakes between 1700 and the 1760s.

Shoemaker examines six concepts and analytical categories—land, kings, writing, alliances, gender, and race—that eventually led to new identities for both Indians and Europeans. The methodology employed throughout the book explains the Indian and European perspectives and then introduces the conflicts, which ultimately led to the construction of new identities focused upon the differences. This approach produces a significant departure to the relationship between the two cultures: an eastward facing Indian perspective challenges the Eurocentric viewpoint that most readers have come to expect. The necessity of creating a new identity in order to survive affected both cultures equally; previously, only Indian cultures were depicted as changing to adapt to European culture.

Shoemaker relies on the transcripts of councils between Indians and Europeans as an invaluable source. Although Europeans wrote these transcripts, they are imbued with Indian voices and perspectives. Some historians challenge the validity of these European records, claiming that they do not include Indian voices. Shoemaker spurns these critics by pointing out that tribal variations are discernible and even Indian contempt for Europeans is often clear. In other words, conversations between Indians and Europeans—what they said to one another—reveal deeply held ideas about each culture and the new ideas that emerged as a result of cross-cultural dialogues.

A Strange Likeness represents a fine work of imaginative history; it successfully constructs a new picture of Indians and the necessity to redefine their culture as the Europeans became more powerful in America. The book offers a vivid depiction of events that occurred when two different cultures came into contact and the changes that took place within both groups. The examination of language's inability to be transcribed accurately between cultures and the difference of cultural meaning and values provides an insightful universal cause for the tension between different cultures.

While her book was not envisioned as a definitive masterpiece, Shoemaker provokes discussion, leading other scholars to further investigate the sources employed and the relationship between the New World and the Old World.

—David Payne

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Timothy Tackett. *When the King Took Flight*. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2003. Pp. 288. Cloth \$24.95.

For anyone who has ever wondered about how the French Revolution, which started out with the high ideals of liberty, fraternity, and equality, descended into the Reign of Terror, University of California, Irvine Professor Timothy Tackett offers a new perspective. According to Tackett, the Revolution's downward trajectory was set in motion by Louis XVI's attempt to flee from France in June of 1791. By this time the country had achieved relative stability and was well on the road to becoming a constitutional monarchy. However, the king's attempted flight called into question whether the new government could have a monarch who was opposed to these ideals.

In eight largely chronological chapters the author closely examines the circumstances surrounding these events. He includes an extensive discussion about the nature of the monarchy, the role of public opinion in shaping the image of the king, as well as Louis XVI's personal traits such as his well-known inability to stick to a decision. Tackett also analyzes the major factions that made up the National Assembly and how the king's flight first caused fissures and then chasms between them. He details how the mistrust created by the king's perfidy led to a fear of external foes and eventually to alarm about internal enemies. In the end radicals ousted the moderate faction and unleashed widespread paranoia where anyone could become a suspect. These radicals went on to create the legal apparatus to deal with real and imagined enemies.

Historians of the French Revolution frequently slight the influence of the citizens of the provinces. Tackett, however, highlights their importance in two places. First, he shows how the revolutionary government created a new sense of national identity