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Military Migration and State Formation (review)

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The image of Florence Nightingale has been so dominant over the profession of nursing, and even more so the care of soldiers, that it is easy to assume that before the mid-nineteenth century there was little or no organised treatment of the casualties of war. This volume provides an important reminder that organised medical care has a much longer history. Taking the era between the outbreak of the First English Civil War and the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, this study deals with provision in both the royalist and parliamentary forces, before turning to the British dimension and the wars abroad that dominated towards the end of the era and finishing with an examination of diverse topics, including military hospitals and nursing personalities.

The author is highly successful in illuminating the differing natures of care in the opposing forces and finding the emergence of a more systematic organisation in the victorious army of Parliament that prefigured later developments. The study is based on a wide range of sources, all treated with considerable care and scholarship. These bring into sharp relief the neglected world of hospitals, surgeons and nurses, both on land and, much to the credit of the author, at sea.

It is rare these days that a work can genuinely be said to have opened up an almost unexplored aspect of early modern warfare, but this study manages to do so, and, in so doing, is a significant contribution to the histories of both medicine and warfare. Clearly written and without the hindrance of overcomplicated language, this is a well-constructed book, even if it occasionally betrays the author's less than total familiarity with the period. However, the work does not suffer significantly for that. The need to run through the course of the wars repeatedly from different perspectives is a little repetitive, but will be invaluable for increasing the comprehensibility of the work for those unfamiliar with the period. It is a pity that the relatively high cover price is likely to dissuade general readers from buying a copy of this work, but those who wish to understand the interaction of civil war and society in the seventeenth century could do a lot worse than to read this fascinating and illuminating study. For experts in the field the cover price may be an unavoidable expense.

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Military Migration and State Formation. By Mary Elizabeth Ailes. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002. ISBN 0-8032-1060-4. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 192. \$50.00.

This monograph, derived from a 1997 University of Minnesota doctoral thesis, charts the careers of 119 "British" (but mostly Scottish) officers who immigrated to Sweden from the late sixteenth century and links this migration to the rise of the centralised state in Sweden. Chapter 1 offers a cursory

overview of recruitment patterns but unfortunately Dr. Ailes gives no figures of how many mercenaries actually served in Sweden. This is a shame since the data is readily available at www.abdn.ac.uk/history/datasets/ssne, an online database constructed by Alexia Grosjean and Steven Murdoch and entitled “Scotland, Scandinavia and Northern Europe, 1580–1707” (Aberdeen, 1998–). Chapter 2 outlines the “push” and “pull” factors that underpinned migration throughout early modern Britain and Europe and sets the experiences of the “British” migrants to Sweden in a wider comparative framework. The analysis in these opening chapters would have been greatly enriched if Dr. Ailes had consulted Grosjean’s recent work on Scotland and Sweden, “Scots and the Swedish State: Diplomacy, Military Service and Ennoblement, 1611–1660” (Ph.D. diss., University of Aberdeen, 1998); “Scotland: Sweden’s Closest Ally,” in Steven Murdoch, ed., *Scotland and the Thirty Years’ War* (Leiden, 2001), pp. 143–72; and “General Alexander Leslie, the Scottish Covenanters and the *Riksråd* debates, 1638–1640,” in Allan I. Macinnes, T. Riis, and F. G. Pedersen, eds., *Guns and Bibles in the North Sea and the Baltic States, c.1350–1700* (East Linton, 2000), pp. 115–38; and Murdoch’s publications on Scotland and Denmark-Norway (*Britain, Denmark-Norway and the House of Stuart, 1603–1660* [East Linton, 2000]); “Scotland, Scandinavia and the Bishops’ Wars, 1638–1640,” in Allan I. Macinnes and Jane Ohlmeyer, eds., *The Stuart Kingdoms in the Seventeenth Century: Awkward Neighbours* (Dublin, 2002); “Scottish Ambassadors and British Diplomacy, 1618–1635,” in Steven Murdoch, ed., *Scotland and the Thirty Years’ War* (Leiden, 2001), pp. 27–50; “Diplomacy in Transition: Stuart-British Diplomacy in Northern Europe, 1603–1618,” in Macinnes, Riis, and Pedersen, eds., *Guns and Bibles*, pp. 93–114, and “The House of Stuart and the Scottish Professional Soldier, 1618–1640: A Conflict of Nationality and Identities,” in Bernard Taithe and Tim Thornton, eds., *War: Identities in Conflict 1300–2000* (Gloucestershire, 1998), pp. 3–55.

Chapters 3, 4, and 5 are much more original and derive from extensive research in the Swedish (but, ironically, not English, Irish, or Scottish) archives. Collectively these—using detailed individual case studies—explain the mechanics of recruitment and the importance of military and political patronage both in Sweden and back in the Stuart kingdoms. Levels of social and economic integration within Swedish society are carefully unravelled through discussions of marriage patterns and the ability of an officer to secure a noble title, together with political office and influence. Strangely lacking is any analysis of how these experiences in Sweden influenced the migrants’ perception of themselves or—depending on their geographic origin—their sense of “Englishness,” “Irishness,” or “Scottishness.” Equally, while Dr. Ailes makes a tantalizing reference to how the migrants may have shaped Swedish culture (p. 111), this is never fully developed. Finally, Dr. Ailes suggests that the experiences of these “British” military migrants was “unique,” certainly when compared to those of their compatriots in Denmark or Russia. Yet, the experiences of military migrants, especially from Ireland and Scotland, to the lands controlled by the Spanish or Austrian

Habsburgs offer striking and instructive parallels that are not explored here.

Though limited at times, this book nevertheless makes a useful contribution not only to seventeenth-century Swedish national history but also to the histories of the three Stuart kingdoms and to early modern migration studies. Clearly structured and well written, this book is worth reading, especially alongside the recent work of other historians of the Scottish, Irish and English—rather than “British”—military Diasporas.

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Bearing Arms for His Majesty: The Free-Colored Militia in Colonial Mexico. By Ben Vinson III. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8047-4229-4. Maps. Tables. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xii, 304. \$60.00.

This well-researched and well-written institutional history by Ben Vinson III focuses on the origins, development, structure, and privileges of the free-colored (*mulatto*, *pardo*, or *moreno*) militias in Colonial Mexico. The author attempts to “uncover historical trends and discontinuities” involving the free-colored militias both before and after the Bourbon reforms of the 1760s (p. 2). Vinson uses a multi-regional approach, as New Spain’s free-colored population was highly dispersed and lived in both major cities and in rural coastal areas, in order to assess their participation in the military. He uses numerous primary sources, from the environs of Tamiagua, Puebla, Iguala, Veracruz, and Mexico City, to analyze what “race might have meant through the lens of a corporate institution” (p. 4). New Spain had one of the largest free-colored populations in Spanish America with around 370,000 persons in 1793 and the crown used thousands of free-colored militiamen to guard the colony and provide local ancillary defense to municipal and provincial authorities when needed (p. 1). Vinson illustrates how, from the 1550s on, free-colored forces “figured prominently in the colony’s military defense scheme” and how units of free-colored soldiers acquired increasing autonomy through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (p. 2). However, he points out that by the 1790s militia units were being disbanded and that the “corporate-based racial identity began to fragment” since the structure of privilege was being eliminated (p. 5). The author concludes, therefore, that the Bourbon reforms of the 1760s—which expanded the military establishment and the role of Spanish soldiers born in the New World (*creoles*)—came at the expense of free colored companies, which experienced a reduction in numbers and institutional privileges. Vinson’s discussion of free-colored participation in New Spain’s militias provides insight into social mobility, race relations, racial identity, and racial categorization during the colonial period. His comparison in Chapter 3 of members of the militia with their civilian free-colored counterparts with respect to