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Napoleon and His Collaborators: The Making of a Dictatorship
(review)

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things we did not know and end with confidence that we are in the hands of a master of his craft and subject. And if you believe as I do that history is a literary art, despite the efforts of many to prove otherwise, you will appreciate Grizzard's mastery of brevity and clarity of expression.

The book is not a mere compilation of facts. Although giving Horatio Gates his due as an able military administrator and paying tribute to his "warm and generous" (p. 129) nature, Grizzard leaves no doubt that he had a character plagued by vanity, ambition, and susceptibility to flattery. Essays on other controversial characters, such as Benedict Arnold and Charles Lee are equally well done. Nor does Grizzard neglect Washington's shortcomings, for example, at the Battle of Brandywine, where his poor, and inexcusable, knowledge of local geography led to defeat and near disaster. Nathanael Greene is given his due, when Grizzard notes what is so often ignored, that Greene's brilliant Carolina campaign set the stage for Yorktown.

My quick examination of selected Washington biographies reveals no index entries under humor or wit, and indeed Washington is usually portrayed as stiff and reserved. Yet he had, as Grizzard takes pains to point out, a well-developed sense of humor, on at least one occasion, a contemporary reported, laughing "till the tears ran down his face" (p. 152). Under the entry "Humor" Grizzard includes several examples of Washington's wit, including his anticipation of Mark Twain by well over a century, when he wrote to his brother after the Battle of Monongahela (1755), "The report of my death was an exaggeration," and continued, "As I heard . . . a circumstantial account of my death and dying Speech, I take this early opportunity of contradicting the first, and of assuring you that I have not, as yet, composed the latter" (p. 152).

Washington specialists, I am sure, will wonder why certain individuals or subjects do not merit entries in their own right, but that would be quibbling. In my opinion, Grizzard has covered the waterfront and done it admirably. Despite the stiff price, the book is a worthwhile investment for students of American history.

John Buchanan

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Napoleon and His Collaborators: The Making of a Dictatorship. By Isser Woloch. New York: W. W. Norton, 2001. ISBN 0-393-32341-2. Index. Notes. Pp. xv, 281. \$15.95.

While many of Napoleon's military assistants are famous in their own right, his civilian political assistants are almost completely unknown. Some examples of the former include Marshals Davout, Lannes, Ney, and Masséna, who have all been the subject of numerous biographies. Isser Woloch attempts to address this imbalance by focusing on the politicians who aided Napoleon's seizure of power in the Coup of Brumaire (1799) and then helped him run the Consulate and subsequent Empire. This is not a general history text and will be difficult for the nonspecialist public to follow as it contains

many references to people, events, and institutions that the author does not explain in detail. Woloch does, however, give some warning of this fact in his introduction by stating that his book should be read after digesting a full-scale biography of Napoleon.

The author adroitly examines the political machine that Napoleon used to run France and focuses on the most influential politicians in the government. While Talleyrand and Fouché, Napoleon's two most famous civilian officials, are given their rightful place in the text, they are not the main focus. Woloch illuminates a host of officials from the Directory and Consulate governments as well as the Imperial Senate and Legislative Corps who can be shown to have been crucial to Napoleon's success. The author chose to focus on men like: Boulay de Meurthe, Théophile Berlier, Antoine Thibaudeau, Regnaud de St. Jean d'Angely, Lazare Carnot, and most important, Jean-Jacques-Régis Cambacérès. His goal of exposing the reader to a generally unknown aspect of the Napoleonic period is ambitious and could easily have led to a quagmire of stories of petty political dealings. Woloch escapes this fate with a clear writing style and a level of detail that is comprehensive without stifling the flow of the narrative.

Woloch's sources are excellent. He uses numerous files from the Archives Nationales in Paris that are the logical choices for accurate primary documentation and supplements these by consulting a number of memoirs and collections from the private papers of the participants dealt with in his accounts. His documentation is concise and careful with an average of sixty endnotes per chapter.

Anyone looking for a military or diplomatic history of the era should look elsewhere. However, for the reader interested in acquiring a better understanding of the Napoleonic regime or the larger issue of how nascent republics can be led to dictatorship, this is a worthwhile addition to the field of study.

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Napoleon's Italian Campaigns, 1805–1815. By Frederick C. Schneid. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2002. ISBN 0-275-96875-8. Maps. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xviii, 228. \$64.95.

Napoleon's Italian campaigns of the 1790s are familiar to readers interested in Revolutionary and Napoleonic warfare. The reason for this is obvious. In Italy, Napoleon defeated Austria, the Republic's most dangerous enemy in the 1790s. He established French hegemony in the Italian peninsula, put Vienna in an impossible strategic situation, and solidified his reputation as a military genius beloved by the men in the ranks. Napoleon's revolutionary campaigns in Italy had transcendental consequences, so military historians have naturally been interested in recounting them and drawing lessons from them.