

number of scattered pronouncements on this subject. He also gives slaves a role in pushing the narrative forward, demonstrating that their activities of dissent helped to dramatize the trade's evils and force people to recognize that they were not animals but human beings. Finally, it is helpful that Louisiana State University Press has bucked an increasing and unfortunate trend in scholarly publications by using footnotes, rather than hiding these citations at the end of the book, and that it contains a bibliography. All these considerations make this an admirable monograph.

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The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents, 2d ed. By Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005. Foreword, preface, acknowledgments, introduction, chronology, illustrations, maps, figures, epilogue, index. Pp. xv, 198. \$10.50, paper.)

Black Indian Slave Narratives. Edited by Patrick Mingos. (Winston-Salem, N.C.: John F. Blair, Publisher, 2004. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes. Pp. xxiii, 200. \$10.95, paper.)

Theda Perdue and Michael Green begin the second edition of *The Cherokee Removal* by stating that "The purpose of this book is to help students and other serious readers of history understand the complexity of Cherokee removal." Of course, that is also how they began the first edition. The older edition has been highlighting the complexity of Cherokee removal since 1995. It contains a fine introductory essay by the editors and a wealth of diverse and challenging documents (each ably introduced) that lend themselves to classroom exercises on historical and methodological questions. And the first edition is—as all offerings in this series are—short, cheap, and well produced. Not surprisingly, the first edition has become a standard for instructors of everything from ethnohistory to Jacksonian-era history. The second edition features four new documents: the 1827 Cherokee constitution; a circular from a group of Euro-American women opposed to removal; a letter written by a Cherokee while on the Trail of Tears; and a removal-centered excerpt from Wilma Mankiller's 1993 autobiography. These documents enhance an already fine book. Are they, in and of themselves, sufficient cause to issue a second edition? Teachers will have to decide for themselves. However, given that textbook publishers routinely make very minor changes in their books and then use the "new" edition to push used copies of the "old" book off store shelves, we should be grateful that Bedford/St. Martin's has allowed Perdue and Green to do more than make cosmetic changes. An already fine book has gotten better, perhaps not by leaps and bounds, but progress is progress.

Like Perdue and Green, Patrick Mingos aims to introduce readers to a complex situation: "These narratives present a complex view of not only the institution [of slavery] but also of the persons who practiced chattel slavery and those who were victims of this tragic period in our history." He believes that "scholars have chosen to ignore" the fact that Native Americans were both slaves and slave owners. His introduction provides a brief overview of Native American slavery from the colonial

period through the Civil War and an even briefer discussion of the context in which the Works Progress Administration (WPA) employees gathered the narratives. The core of the book, however, is the narratives themselves—twenty-seven in all—each of which is presented with the barest of introduction. For most of the narratives, Minges mentions only where the person was interviewed, the name of the interviewer, and in which WPA volume the interview was published. Minges's editorial voice is thus almost entirely absent after the introduction, a choice that Mankiller praises in a dust-jacket blurb: "Patrick does not overanalyze this often emotional subject. He simply allows the people to tell their stories."

To be sure, the stories are riveting. They offer an unparalleled window into the narrators' lives. And yet the very complexity that Minges mentions suggests that truly introducing readers to the subject requires a more active editorial presence. To begin with, the historiography on Natives as slaves and slave owners is more extensive than Minges suggests. His acknowledgments mention in passing several scholars—Perdue, Daniel Littlefield, Tiya Miles, Celia Naylor-Ojurongbe—that a reader wishing to pursue the issue further needs to be aware of, but Minges names only one of their books, and he ignores three award-winning scholars (James Brooks, Alan Gallay, and Brent Rushforth) who work on Indian slavery. Minges offers no suggestions for further reading. Equally important, he should unpack the phrase, "Black Indian slave." This term obscures more than it reveals. "Black Indian slaves," in his book, could be African American slaves of Indians, Indian slaves of Euro-Americans, and, most commonly, people of mixed racial background owned by people whose ancestry was similarly complex. Putting these varied backgrounds—and the experiences they helped produce—into dialogue could lead to a provocative exploration of the nexus of race and status in nineteenth-century America. Unfortunately, Minges has simply juxtaposed the narratives, not put them into dialogue. The end result is a flattening out of diverse experiences: the narrators, no matter their background or life course, are simply Black Indian slaves. While anyone with an interest in American history will appreciate the narratives, specialists already familiar with the WPA's work will find nothing new here, and nonspecialists will find neither a framework for understanding a complex situation nor a guide for further research.

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Jacksonian Antislavery and the Politics of Free Soil, 1824-1854. By Jonathan H. Earle. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. Frontispiece, acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations, maps, conclusion, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. Pp. xii, 282. \$22.50, paper; \$59.95, cloth.)

Third parties' lack of electoral success in American politics often renders them little more than asterisks in the annals of U.S. history. In *Jacksonian Antislavery and the Politics of Free Soil, 1824-1854*, however, Jonathan H. Earle examines the centrality of the Free-Soil movement to antebellum American politics. His book

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