

The book is laden with the use of historical documents that not only unveils history but also helps visualize old St. Louis. With advertisements, letters, maps, and other historical documents, researchers masterfully used digital technologies to visualize this historic town prior to the Louisiana Purchase. And surveys completed on the eve of Napoleon's financial gain help one to "see" where things stood as the region fell into American hands. Despite the loss of European oversight, St. Louis remained French in spirit through newspapers, language, and organizations. Vibrant French shops and commerce continued to thrive well into the nineteenth century through immersion schools and Francophone activities to the point that a French presence still remains in St. Louis today.

French St. Louis offers readers insight into a wide variety of topics related to St. Louis during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The knitting together of various forms of archival material provides a new glimpse of this midwestern Euro-Indigenous-born city, a socio-cultural perspective that enriches our understanding of what life was like in the region. Though focused on the upper expanses of the French Mississippi, the book describes events that shaped trade, government, relationships, and cultural growth throughout the Mississippi Valley on into the *Pays d'en Haut*. Clearly, *French St. Louis* is a refreshingly new, captivating text that is vital for anyone interested in the presence of the French along the Mississippi and beyond.

Seeing Red: Indigenous Land, American Expansion, and the Political Economy of Plunder in North America, by Michael John Witgen. Williamsburg, VA, and Chapel Hill, NC: Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and University of North Carolina Press, 2022. xv, 366 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendix, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Patrick J. Jung, Ph.D., is a professor of history and cultural anthropology at the Milwaukee School of Engineering in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is the author of several books and articles, most recently, "American Indian Resistance to Settler Colonialism in the Western Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi Valley, 1815–1832" (*Annals of Iowa*, 2022).

Michael John Witgen is one of a growing number of scholars (which includes Kathleen DuVal, Brett Rushforth, Robert Morrissey, Michael McDonnell, Jacob Lee, and David Nichols) whose research and writing are revolutionizing our understanding of Native-White relations in the Midwest. *Seeing Red* is the follow up to Witgen's earlier book, *An Infinity of Nations: How the Native New World Shaped Early North America* (2012). Despite its title, Witgen's latest book does not take a broad, national view

of American expansion and its impact on Native societies. Instead, he focuses on the Anishinaabeg of the Great Lakes: the Odawaag, Ojibweg, and Boodewaadamiig (anglicized as Ottawas, Chippewas, and Potawatomis). Of particular concern are those Anishinaabeg who resided—and continue to reside—in what would become Michigan and Wisconsin Territories, a country known to its Native inhabitants as Anishinaabewaki.

Witgen employs a novel approach by examining the various historical events that serve as the foundations for a deeper understanding of how the Anishinaabeg suffered the loss of their homeland at the hands of the United States during the early republic. In doing so, he employs several concepts that have become well established in the contemporary historical literature, such as Patrick Wolfe's notion of settler colonialism and "the elimination of the Indigenous" (7). The idea of "'unthinkable' history" (33), a concept taken from the work of Haitian historian Michel-Rolph Trouillot, is also noteworthy. In Witgen's understanding of Anishinaabewaki, American citizens found it unthinkable to consider "the idea that this continent already belonged to someone else" (34). Instead, the doctrine of discovery, according to Witgen, allowed the United States to assume Anishinaabewaki was an untamed wilderness waiting to be transformed into private property—the mark of a "civilized" society—after its Native inhabitants had been removed. This resulted in a phenomenon known as the "political economy of plunder" (20), an idea that becomes the central organizing principle of Witgen's book. Not only did the United States and its land-hungry citizenry covet the rich lands of the Anishinaabeg, lands from which the Native people would be eliminated, but the treaty process that emerged from the 1787 Northwest Ordinance and the monetary annuities Native people received for their lands also became fair game for rapacious traders. The 1836 Treaty of Washington, as one example, resulted in an initial annuity payment of \$30,000 to the Anishinaabeg. Yet only \$2,274 found its way into Native hands because the remainder had been claimed by non-Native traders for outstanding debts. Along the way, other actors such as Protestant missionaries and courts of law became entangled in the political economy of plunder. Witgen also deftly examines the roles Native and mixed-race women played as cultural mediators among the Anishinaabeg. The so-called "half-breed" Anishinaabeg, both male and female, occupied an ambiguous position in the White mind and were often forced to choose between their Native communities and inclusion as something less than full participants in the American republic's civil society.

Witgen demonstrates an impressive command of the relevant secondary literature as well as the primary source documents, many of

which are unpublished manuscripts. His citations and explanatory notes, all conveniently footnoted on each page, will engross the reader almost as much as the main narrative. The maps and illustrations are of high quality and expertly complement the text. The book's appendix provides an excellent summary of the various treaties negotiated by the federal government with the Anishinaabeg. Certainly, Witgen's work is of great utility for all students of Native-White relations in the Midwest.

The lands of present-day Iowa are largely absent; nevertheless, scholars interested in the history of Iowa will find the framework Witgen employs and the concepts he introduces, particularly the political economy of plunder, of great utility in their research. Even a casual understanding of the various treaties made with the Sauks, Meskwakis, Iowas, and Dakotas of present-day Iowa indicate the political economy of plunder characterized the process of treaty making farther west across the Mississippi River. Witgen has given scholars of Native-White relations in Iowa a powerful interpretive framework by which to investigate this phenomenon.

The Paradox of Power: Statebuilding in America, 1754–1920, by Ballard C. Campbell. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2021. vii, 254 pp. Appendix, notes, index. \$34.95 paperback.

Reviewer John Reda is Associate Professor of History at Illinois State University. He specializes in colonial, revolutionary, and early national American history and is the author of *From Furs to Farms: The Transformation of the Mississippi Valley, 1762–1825* (2016).

The once vigorous historiographical debate over whether there was truly a “state” in America before the twentieth century has long since become a rout. In the past generation numerous historians have argued persuasively for a vigorous nineteenth-century state that grew slowly but steadily until the Civil War when its size and scope began a more rapid expansion. Ballard C. Campbell, professor emeritus of history and public policy at Northeastern University, agrees that there was a state and aims to address what he sees as the need to explain the process by which a large American state developed in what he calls the “long nineteenth century” extending from 1754 to 1920. Campbell's explanation is built around his introduction of state and local governments that have largely been ignored in the recent literature. His central claim is that statebuilding in America prior to 1920 was often driven by responses to various challenges posed by geography, population growth, economic expansion, war, and the development of civic identity (nationalism).

This approach has the virtue of directly addressing two of the central—and related—paradoxes of American history: how did a country