

state with strong Confederate resistance. Every battle history is a story of powerful personalities and key questions, both of which Patrick handles well. The list of personalities is long and fascinating. Brief biographical sketches, with photos of the key participants, enhance the volume.

This is, above all, Nathaniel Lyon's story. Lyon, who was killed at the height of the battle, becomes a sort of Union Albert Sidney Johnston or Stonewall Jackson, generals linked forever with the question, "What if he hadn't been killed?" Lyon was a complex character, totally fearless and self-confident yet seemingly indecisive at Wilson's Creek. Why did he call councils of war for the first time? Why did he listen to General Franz Sigel and divide his army? Who was Sigel? Why was he important to Missouri Unionists? What happened to Sigel at Wilson's Creek? Why did he fail Lyon?

This is just as much a Confederate story, best exemplified by Claiborne Fox Jackson, Missouri's Confederate governor who was also a general. Missouri politics and generalship are explained through Jackson and other Confederates such as John S. Marmaduke and Ben McCulloch.

This is also a story of the soldiers who fought the battle— young volunteers, Union and Confederate, who, despite poor equipment and inexperience, proved to be remarkable soldiers. The Battle of Wilson's Creek was the climactic moment in the legend of the First Iowa Infantry, Iowa's only three-month regiment.

The book works well as both a campaign and battle history; scholars can easily create a day-by-day, attack-by-attack calendar of the campaign and battle. It is succinct, entertaining, and informative. If this book is an example of the Civil War Campaigns and Commanders Series, the full series would be a fine part of a scholar's library.

*Civil War Congress and the Creation of Modern America: A Revolution on the Home Front*, edited by Paul Finkelman and Donald R. Kennon. Perspectives on the History of Congress, 1801–1877. Athens: Ohio University Press for the United States Capitol Historical Society, 2018. vi, 226 pp. Illustrations, graphs, notes, bibliography, index. \$35 hardcover.

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The Civil War dramatically changed the nature and scope of the U.S. government. It forced Congress to expand the size of the central government and enact legislation to sustain the war effort. Moreover, the absence of Southern senators and representatives allowed Congress to take action on a number of previously controversial issues, ranging from federal support for internal improvements and education to encouraging

western settlement. The seven essays in *Civil War Congress and the Creation of Modern America* attempt to chart some aspects of this "revolution on the home front."

Perhaps the most pressing issue facing the Civil War Congress was the need to sustain the Union war effort. Two of the most vexing aspects of that problem are addressed in essays by Jennifer L. Weber on conscription and by Jenny Bourne on the 37th Congress and national economic policy. The war put enormous strains on Northern manpower. By 1862, it was clear that volunteerism would not meet the army's demand for new soldiers. As a result, Congress passed the Enrollment Act of 1863, creating a national program of conscription, an act that transferred the problem of military manpower from the states to the central government and, Bourne argues, permanently altered the relationship between the two spheres.

The government also faced the challenge of paying for the war. Congress introduced a number of new schemes to raise funds: the first-ever income tax (as well as the Internal Revenue Service to enforce it), large-scale borrowing, and the sale of debt. Just as the Enrollment Act attempted to nationalize military manpower, Congress moved to nationalize the country's currency and banking systems with the Legal Tender and National Bank Acts, developments that allowed the government to print paper money. As a result, by 1865 and thereafter, the federal government was firmly in control of monetary policy, and the nation had a unified currency.

Congress's actions on conscription and economic policy were revolutionary, redefining and expanding the powers of the federal government. Its actions on education were less dramatic. Peter Wallenstein argues in his wide-ranging essay on the Morrill Land-Grant College Act of 1862 that not only did Congress provide land to help fund education, but the very idea of giving eastern public colleges western lands also gave easterners a reason to support western settlement.

The remaining four essays do not focus on the Civil War Congress, but on Abraham Lincoln and the city of Washington, D.C. Daniel W. Stowell examines the Treasury Department's efforts to hire female clerical workers, an innovation that caused no little controversy. Guy Gagliotta looks at the completion of the U.S. Capitol. Jean H. Baker surveys life in the wartime White House. Paul Finkelman goes the furthest afield, analyzing President Lincoln's pardon of Dakota men convicted of war crimes in during the 1862 Dakota War in Minnesota.

Overall, the volume's essays present an interesting look at Civil War Washington, even if most of them fail to live up to the title's promise of a revolution on the home front and the creation of modern America.