

***The Papers of James Madison*, Vol. 14: 6 April 1791-16 March 1793.** Edited by Robert A. Rutland, Thomas A. Mason, et al. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1983. Pp. xxx, 495. \$27.50.)

This volume covers a crucial turning point in Madison's career, a period roughly coincident with the meetings of the second Congress. The documents reflect the issues and questions which transformed the Madison of *The Federalist* in 1788 into the Madison of the Virginia Resolutions in 1798. They also demonstrate that from Madison's perspective, it was not he who changed, but rather the character of the national government. His own movement from Federalism to Republicanism was the product of philosophically and politically consistent responses to increasing error and corruption within government. The second Congress is an excellent vantage point from which to discern Madison's development of a coherent strategy of opposition to deal with issues which would grow increasingly divisive as the decade progressed.

Volume 14 offers a wealth of material for students of the troubled politics of the 1790s, as well as for those seeking the roots

of the sectional and ideological disputes of the subsequent six decades. The papers include a preponderance of correspondence with Jefferson, testifying to the close relationship between the two men which embraced every aspect of their private and public lives. There is also extensive correspondence with Daniel Carroll concerning the struggles to build a worthy capital city on the swampy banks of the Potomac.

Of more strictly political interest is Madison's correspondence with Henry Lee, then Governor of Virginia, which is focused largely on their shared distress over the First Bank of the United States, the assumption of the states' Revolutionary War debts, and the financial machinations surrounding both. The similarity of Lee's and Madison's sentiments in 1792 and 1793 is of particular interest in light of Lee's vigorous opposition to the Virginia Resolutions five years later.

The other issues and events chronicled in Volume 14 are numerous and intrinsically valuable to students of the revolutionary, early national, and antebellum eras. Among the most prominent topics about which this volume contains useful information are America's reactions to the increasing violence of the French Revolution; the creation of a partial military establishment to defend the frontier; and concerns about the implications of militarism, deficit financing, and the proper role of congressional oversight of executive operations. Moreover, concerns about congressional prerogatives and finances were enhanced by disputes over the policies of Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and increasing up-country dissatisfaction with the whiskey tax. The presidential election of 1792 provided evidence of Washington's continued, though diminishing, reliance upon Madison, as well as of the beginnings of the maneuvers and strategy which ultimately led to the organization of the Republican party. Of additional interest are Madison's comments on slavery, and accounts of the Kentucky constitutional convention. This volume also contains the series of political essays written by Madison for Philip Freneau's *National Gazette* during its first year of publication. These essays are excellent public evidence of the state of Madison's theoretical and strategic thinking midway between the Convention of 1787 and the Revolution of 1800.

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