

THE PAPERS OF JAMES MADISON, SECRETARY OF STATE SERIES, VOLUME 3, MARCH 1-OCTOBER 6, 1802. Edited by J. C. A. Stagg. (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1995. xlii, 657 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, editorial method, depository symbols, abbreviations, short titles for books, Madison chronology, index. Cloth \$47.50, ISBN 0-8139-1541-4).

During this hectic period of James Madison's tenure as Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of State, the frequently-ill Madison was presented with a dizzying array of important matters. American relations with France were strained by the rumored retrocession of Louisiana from Spain to France, a rumor French Foreign Minister Talleyrand would neither

corroborate nor deny. American Minister to France Robert Livingston was convinced that Florida was part of the cession, though American Minister to Spain Charles C. Pinckney correctly suspected it was not. Another source of tension between France and the United States was French Gen. Charles Leclerc's policy of compelling the sale of American cargoes at low prices and insisting that most such cargoes be paid for by bills on the French government, an exceedingly slow and uncertain process. While the Jefferson administration feared the impact of a successful black revolt in Saint-Domingue on the nearly one million slaves in the United States, they feared more the French use of the island as a base for recolonizing Louisiana. Little did they know that the Spanish intendant was about to revoke the American right of deposit in New Orleans (on October 18), that Leclerc's expedition to Saint-Domingue would fail disastrously, and that Napoleon would then offer to sell all of Louisiana to the United States.

During the same period American relations with Britain improved due to the British return of impressed Americans as a result of the Peace of Amiens and due to the American payment of 600,000 pounds to British merchants for pre-Revolutionary debts, in accord with the Jay Treaty (ratified in 1795). The British were still studying the payment of American claims in accord with the same treaty. While this glacial process concluded, another began: negotiations over the Maine-New Brunswick border, completed by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842. American diplomats also continued their effort to persuade the British to reduce their protective tariffs—an exercise as futile as the American effort to convince Spain to sell Florida (in the event it had not been ceded to France) and to pay American claims on the damage caused by French privateers who had operated out of Spain's Latin American ports during the Quasi-War of 1798.

Meanwhile, the Barbary War proceeded unabated. The United States cooperated with Sweden in blockading Tripoli and in convoying merchant vessels past the North African pirates. After capturing the merchant brig *Franklin* on June 17 the pasha of Tripoli proved less willing to negotiate an end to the war. Madison offered support for a coup which would replace the pasha with his brother.

The editors should be commended for their usual meticulousness. Their notes and abstracts are informative, and their index is fairly complete.

It is comforting to know that some things, however negative, have remained the same after nearly two centuries. The dictator of Libya is still a pirate, the United States still plans coups against the leaders of other nations, and American diplomats still complain about the exorbitant cost of living in Paris.

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