

Charles Carlton. *This Seat of Mars; War and the British Isles 1485-1746*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011. xxii + 332 pp. + 24 illus. + 9 maps + 7 tables. \$40.00. Review BY EDWARD M. FURGOL, MONTGOMERY COLLEGE-ROCKVILLE.

Charles Carlton set on an ambitious project and has produced a good synthesis of British (including Irish) military history for the early modern period. He rightly points out the importance of warfare in the isles during early modern period. As Carlton observes, it made the British state and laid the foundations for the British Empire and the Pax Britannica.

Carlton's writing style engages the interest of the reader. His technique of alternating chapters of narration with thematic ones helps the reader gain a deeper understanding of the material. The author properly provides extensive coverage of the English Royal Navy. Although he should have stated that HMS *Sovereign of the Seas* was the first of a new type of warship—the ship of the line. He also demonstrates an impressive knowledge of the secondary works and printed primary sources with a vast command of the English, Welsh and Irish history of the period. For those areas his mining of the material results in a valuable foundation for researchers. The book benefits from a number of illustrations and maps. The use of endnotes and the lack of a bibliography are regrettable. Carlton's book only dimly reflects the most recent historiography for Scotland. In that regard a second edition is clearly warranted, because Scotland offers some unique elements to the subject.

Since the book strives to “examine the hard reality of how war ... affected the history of early modern Britain” (xv), the Scottish lacunae are particularly disturbing. Carlton's contention (6) that state formation is a top-down activity is contradicted by the Jan Glete's studies of the United Provinces and the accomplishments of the Scottish covenanters in 1638-41. In chapter two the discussion of recruiting overlooks Scottish differences. Into the 1800s officers were levying men for either national or mercenary service recruited from their kin, traditional supporters, and tenants. That feature of Scottish recruiting was as, if not more, important, than the scouring of the country for the dregs of society that Carlton details. The second method (restricted to

1639-51) created local regiments raised by parochial recruiting boards responding to the committees of war/the shire, which had received instructions from the national government. Carlton omits the wars of Mary Queen of Scots. Her first one, in 1562, against the overmighty earl of Huntly, received the congratulations of Elizabeth's government, because it removed a pro-Roman Catholic magnate from the British equation. In 1565, during her honeymoon, Mary took to the field as co-commander with her father-in-law the earl of Lennox. The successful rebellion in 1567 ended in negotiation on the battlefield, and had important ramifications for Britain as a whole. The Scottish civil war of 1568-73 impacted British affairs and led to an English expedition north to help the King's men defeat Mary's supporters. These matters are too important to be ignored; their absence gives the reader an incomplete picture of military-political dynamics affecting England and Scotland. The omission of Scottish sixteenth-century military service in the United Provinces and Sweden is unfortunate, because of disproportionate numbers involved compared with England, and the Scots' demonstration that Britons could perform effectively overseas.

No mention is made of the ability of Scottish mercenaries to receive senior or independent command or ennoblement from the kings of Denmark and Sweden in the first half of the 1600s. The discussion of the king's militia plans (89) omits those for Scotland, which led to successful resistance to a crown policy. Chapter four's discussion on why men served omits any reference to religious, familial or political motivation. Certainly amongst Scottish officers on the continent (such as Alexander Leslie and Robert Monro) allegiance to Protestantism, the head of their family or the anti-Habsburg alliance trying to restore the Stuart princess of Palatine-Bohemia inspired them. Instead Carlton quotes Sir James Turner (95), a former covenanter serving in the Scottish Royal Army that officers served only for money. The Third Civil War ended with the completion of the conquest of Scotland in 1652—not the battle of Worcester in 1651 (112). Alexander Leslie was not at the "Trot of Turriff" nor did he invade England in 1639, contrary to what's stated (115). The marquis of Hamilton is wrongly placed in the Firth of Forth in 1640 instead of 1639; his role in arranging transportation of the Irish army to attack Scotland in 1640 is overlooked (116). The Protestant response to the Irish rebellion

of 1641 omits that of the local settlers and the Scottish army sent to protect them (118-19). Contrary to the claim that Highlanders were antithetical to Presbyterianism (132), there were many covenanting clans in the Highlands. The presence of Irish Roman Catholic musketeers in Montrose's army and the sack of Aberdeen in 1644 are not discussed (133). Mention of Montrose's consistent failure to value intelligence and his poor relations with Scottish royalists would have enhanced the discussion of his campaigns (134). The English atrocities in the storming of Dundee in 1651 are omitted, although the court martials convened after two weeks of pillaging (67) are included. The account of the 1648 battle of Preston (163) is overly simplified, and omits the Scots' abandonment of their English royalist allies, and the battle of Winwick. The Jacobite rising of 1715, which featured an English component, and had battles in both England and Scotland, is ignored entirely. Chapter thirteen lacks any reference to Scottish parochial relief provided to widows and orphans of soldiers, and to disabled soldiers.

There are some other issues. For instance, Henry VIII's spending on foreign mercenaries (16) was normative for the period, not exceptional. Stating that parliament chose the earl of Essex as commander in chief due to his title (71) overlooks his extensive military service. That James I had no interest in military affairs after 1603 (79-80) omits his use of veteran regiments against the Spanish in the Thirty Years' War. The account of the Second Bishops' War has nothing about English diplomatic, intelligence, mobilization and leadership challenges that help explain their defeat. There is no reference to Prince Rupert's problems in moving Newcastle's army to Marston Moor (127), which prevented him from attacking. Charles' victory at Lostwithiel (128) did not counter balance his strategic defeat in the north. The combatants in the First English Civil War would find the statement that there were relatively few sieges (155) contrary to their experience. Cavalry attacking the flank or rear of an infantry unit had devastating results, which are not mentioned in the passage about combat between the two arms (172). The coverage of sieges (174) lacks any reference to successful relieving forces. The research of J. Glete and J. Hattendorf empirically contradicts Carlton's statement on the relative efficiency of English naval administration as opposed to that of the Dutch (189).

It was not naval success (192) that led to peace between England and the United Provinces in 1673, but parliamentary opinion. In 1689-90 it was not the relief of Derry (197), but the duke of Schomberg's failure to defeat James that led William to campaign in Ireland. There is no mention of the importance of fire ships in naval warfare. The Royal Navy had accepted signal books at least a decade before 1803, contrary to Carlton (213).

In spite of these flaws, Carlton is to be commended for providing non-military historians of the British Isles with a sound introduction to a subject of immense importance to the period.

Sara F. Mathews-Grieco, ed. *Erotic Cultures of Renaissance Italy*. Farnham and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2010. xix + 291 pp. 28 color plates. \$99.95. Review by DUNCAN SALKELD, UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER.

This beautifully illustrated collection of essays offers a fresh approach to the study of eroticism in early modern visual culture. Taking often surprising points of departure, the essays cover an unusual range of sources, including doodles, sketches and other ephemera, to show the extent to which the erotic permeated everyday Renaissance life. Guido Ruggiero begins the volume with a succinct introduction to the essays, carefully noting the innovative approach each one takes in analyzing the history of sexuality's visual representation. His own example of an unusual source is taken from a tale by Machiavelli that transmutes cruising for boys in the streets of Florence into a charming story of bird-hunting. Birds, he notes, will feature again in the collection, which the editor has divided into two halves, the first section under the title "Visual testimony and verbal games." Sarah F. Mathews-Grieco then offers a major essay on the diversity of printed sexual images of the fifteenth century in Italy. She goes beyond obvious sources such as Marcantonio Raimondi's *I Modi* to discuss a variety of lesser known printed sexual images. Phallic penetration, she argues, distinguished the pornographic from the more sensual or evocative naked human, and a tacit "decency threshold" lamely guarded the