

While seeking to maximize rents, they also made allowances for good tenants who fell on hard times. But in return for this benevolence, they expected—and wielded—a great deal of control. The Verneys' enclosure of Middle Claydon reduced the village's population, and the family strove to keep the population small. They also kept a firm hand on housing and charity in the village, significantly influencing the lives of the people. Broad argues that the Verneys' dealings with the people of Claydon reflects the tension between the family's modernizing economic outlook and a strong sense of paternalism, "modified and modernised to accommodate the Puritan ethic" (195).

Broad's detailed look into the lives and landholding strategies of one prominent family offers a useful window into both the changing patterns of rural life in England and the development of "modern" economic attitudes. The author might have done more to grapple with the issue of economic thinking—was Sir Ralph Verney's focus on the bottom line in his farming practices and his prioritizing of wealth over status in marriage negotiations typical of gentlemen of his rank in 1650? It is perhaps less surprising that his son and grandson followed these practices in the eighteenth century. The words "modern" and "modernizing" are also used without clear definition at times. Nevertheless, the story of the Verneys, their estates, and the people of their community is well told; it should appeal to scholars interested in local history, rural society and agriculture, and economic development in early modern England.

Guy Rowlands. *The Dynastic State and the Army under Louis XIV: Royal Service and Private Interest, 1661-1701*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. xxv + 404 pp. \$70.00. Review by WENDY F. KASINEC, SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY.

This ambitious and provocative book by Guy Rowlands regarding the army during Louis XIV's rule situates this vital institution within the context of personal and dynastic concerns held by both the king and his noble subjects. While nominally considering the ministries of Richelieu and Mazarin and the early years of the Sun King's personal reign, the work deals primarily with the latter portion of the seventeenth century, especially from the Nine Years' War into the War of Spanish Succession. Rowlands's decision to concentrate his research on those years is especially relevant given the importance of the army

in times of extended warfare as well as the tremendous cost of those wars to the kingdom of France.

The book is divided into three sections: Part I focuses on the “Patrimonial bureaucracy,” wherein the first half of the section is devoted to the actions of the Le Tellier family, such as the marquis de Louvois, within the Ministry of War while the other half considers civilian officials, corruption, and the financial situation within the Ministry of War. Part II pays attention to the management of the French officer corps and the creation of a standing army by detailing how they were organized, funded, and accommodated during Louis XIV’s reign. Part III considers various commanders-in-chief of the French army with particular emphasis on the relationships between Louis XIV and important, often talented, nobles within the military. Rowlands demonstrates clearly that military commanders, if they were trusted by the king, enjoyed great freedom in the field, that they expended much of their own capital at times to support the war machine, and that they tried to fill their companies with trusted associates with whom they had personal ties. While coverage of those connections and the financial costs of war in terms of individual commanders, such as the maréchal de Luxembourg as head of the army of Flanders, is particularly well illustrated throughout the study, the entire monograph rests upon extensive research from a variety of sources such as memoirs, royal correspondence, and official documents from the Ministry of War.

The author argues that dynasticism is “the crucial prism” by which one should understand the development of France’s standing army in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in the context of Louis XIV’s concern for the Bourbon dynasty. It also provides the basis for his consideration of various noble families associated with the army, notably the Le Tellier family and its occupation of the office of Secretary of State for War in the seventeenth century. Rowlands’s view highlights the personal and familial concerns of Louis XIV as expressed by his advancement of his sons, legitimate and illegitimate, within the army as well as those nobles who were closely aligned through marriage ties with his second wife, Madame de Maintenon, such as the maréchal-duc de Noailles, as commander of the army of Catalonia, whose son married her niece. The overall analysis of the king as a pragmatic, knowledgeable, and involved leader is illustrated by numerous examples, and it serves as the basis for Rowlands’s characterization of seventeenth-century France as a very personal, dynastic domain tied to the unique abilities of Louis

## XIV.

The introduction and conclusion both emphasize the importance of dynasticism in Louis XIV's reign with an explicit rejection of "modernist" theories of statism and centralization. Given the author's perspective, it is not surprising that Louis XIV's leadership is a focal point within the work, but the implementation and rationale of civil and royal policy in the field deserves increased coverage. Rowlands's total rejection of the statist view of seventeenth-century French history denies the vision of Louis XIV and his ministers, such as Colbert and Louvois, who recognized the importance of established interests (especially those of the nobility) but also the need for reform along rational lines. The desire for reform in civil and military administration coexisted with the continuation and manipulation of traditional patronage, clientage, or dynasticism by the king, his ministers, and royal agents.

The strength of this book is in the details about the management of war in terms of finances, communication, and personal ambitions of the military leaders from the bottom of the military pyramid to the king. Rowlands's mastery of intricate familial and political connections, with reference to multiple and shifting titles, is just one example of how the work is grounded in a solid understanding of the century, the people, and the system. His argument is clear, as is his strident rejection of other interpretations (notably those found in the works of John Lynn, such as *Giant of the Grand Siècle: The French Army, 1610-1715* (1997)), and it has changed the parameters of the ongoing discussion about 'absolutism' among military and political historians of the seventeenth century. Despite his overly broad conception of dynasticism as the primary way of understanding Louis XIV's kingdom and government, his work provides valuable information about royal power, status, and the place of the army within a broad framework of social, cultural, and political history, making an important contribution to our understanding of Louis XIV and his reign.

Alan James. *The Navy and Government in Early Modern France 1572-1661*. Rochester: Boydell & Brewster, 2004. ix + 198 pp. \$70.00. Review by EDWARD M. FURGOL, NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER.

Building upon his doctoral dissertation dealing with Richelieu and the French navy, James has produced a book that contains a number of surprises