
Review

Reviewed Work(s): Mohammed and Charlemagne by Henri Pirenne

Review by: Ilse Cohnen

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list of suggested questions on each chapter which can be used as the basis for discussion in the classroom and language club. It is a book that should interest not only the general reader but also the student contemplating the study of linguistics and philology. It is an excellent work for orientation in this field.—*Andrew A. Zaccagnino*. Fordham University. New York City.

✂ Abbé Arthur Maheux. *French Canada and Britain*. Translated by R. M. Saunders. Toronto. The Ryerson Press. 1942. 121 pages. \$1.00.—This book, published under the auspices of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, is a translation of *Ton histoire est une épopée, Tome I, Nos débuts sous le régime anglais*, reviewed in our Summer, 1942, number. Maheux, a member of an old French Canadian Catholic family, shows on the basis of historic documents how scrupulously the English government respected the cultural and religious susceptibilities of the French Canadians in the years immediately after 1759. The book is especially notable at a time when the British colonial policy is so often under fire.

The translation is very good.—*H. C. Ladewig*. Norman, Oklahoma.

✂ Henri Pirenne. *Mohammed and Charlemagne*. London. G. Allen & Unwin. 1939. 7+293 pages.—The French original of this book appeared in Paris in 1937. The author has undertaken to point out the close relation between the spread of Islam and the formation of the Middle Ages. The book, completed shortly before his death, deserves to be widely read.

For Pirenne the importance of the Roman Empire lies in its Mediterranean character. The Empire owed its cultural and political unity to its position around *Mare nostrum*, not having to make distinctions between nations and civilizations. As late as the beginning of the seventh century there was no breach as yet to be noticed in the "body" of this

Empire, which extended from the Aegean Sea, along the North African coast to Spain. It was only about the middle of that century that the Empire was overrun by the Mohammedans, thus definitely dividing Orient and Occident. About the beginning of the eighth century the axis of Occidental civilization moved northward. From that time on, the Germanic peoples played a considerable rôle in the development of Europe. The ancient tradition had come to an end and the Middle Ages began. The Empire of Charles the Great was their frame. Charles not only rebuilt the old Roman Empire, but laid the foundation stone for the new Empire of St. Peter. Political unity had disappeared, but cultural unity continued. The states of the Occident, founded in the fifth century by barbarian kings, retained their Roman character; similarly France, Germany and Italy retained that of the Carolingian period.—*Ilse Cohnen*. City of Westminster Public Libraries. London, England.

✂ Vernon John Puryear. *France and the Levant*. Berkeley. University of California Press. 1941. xvi+252 pages. \$2.50.—Professor Puryear has written several books on Near East problems. His basic idea here is that from 1815 till 1856, and even till 1871 and 1878, the conflicts that directly concerned Turkey, Egypt, Greece, Syria and the Balkans have been among the most serious problems of European history and have reacted directly on the alliances and oppositions of the Great Powers. This work covers the period between 1815 and 1833. It studies the diplomatic and economic policy of France in the Near East. The account has been topically organized to accommodate the problems and periods that best depict the fluctuations of French policy in the Levant, though certain policies of the other Powers have been outlined as well.

The author has done a prodigious amount of archival research and should be commended for his careful scholar-