

It becomes clear after two pages of the last chapter that this is the *pièce de résistance*. In twenty succinctly written pages, the author sums up what he has to say in the first two hundred and fifty pages. 'Traditional' takes on an explicit meaning. The pattern of commercial movement between land and sea emerges as a triply triangular trade of India and Western Asia, China and Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. State interest, the self-sufficiency of Asian trade based on the handicrafts of India and China, long-distance trade commodities and short-distance ones, transportation problems, all find their place in the first ten pages of this chapter. The agents of change are next dealt with: fire-arms, European shipping including the steamship and the opening of the Suez Canal, the decline of traditional handicraft and the effects of plantation and mining activities accompanying western colonial expansion.

The author might well add to these, the change of Asian tastes and its effects on European trade in consumer goods in Asia. There is also the point that commodities like tin and rubber are not only new commodities of export to Europe but they are not in the luxury or handicraft category. Thirdly, European colonisation and development of Southeast Asia have stimulated Chinese immigration which has superimposed a second level of trade activities. This new trade has operated often with western enterprise and local production, but often independently of both.

Part of the difficulty is intrinsic in the size of the subject and its coverage. But the author's aims are modest: 'to write in a straightforward way on the great theme of trading relations between all the countries of Asia from remote beginnings to the momentous changes which came in the nineteenth century.' The book does achieve this limited aim. It is an extremely informative book and within its covers provides the general reader with information which he may otherwise have to look for in a dozen monographs. But its use for the specialist is limited, as there is little new information, there is no new interpretation and no use is made of special sources.

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The New Cambridge Modern History, III. The Counter-Reformation and Price Revolution 1559-1610. Edited by R. B. Wernham. Cambridge University Press, 1968. xvi, 599 pp. U.K. price: 60s.

RECENT REFLECTIONS on the nature and practice of history have made much of the difference in editorial policy between the two versions of the *Cambridge Modern History*. In his general introduction to the new series Sir George Clark expressly dissociated himself and his colleagues from Lord Acton's vision of 'definitive history'. The cautious relativism of the new outlook has been set against the positivism of the old. Yet those who have drawn attention to this contrast have taken Clark's remarks out of their context. No one who compares the recently issued third volume with its sixty-four year old predecessor will conclude that, unlike their grandfathers, the new contributors write as if they expected 'their work to be

superseded again and again'. They seem confident that they are presenting what the general editor called 'a coherent body of judgments true to the facts'. This may not, after all, be so very different from the old style. Nevertheless, there are striking differences between the new third volume and its earlier counterpart — differences which are only partly revealed by their respective titles, *The Counter-Reformation and Price Revolution* and *The Wars of Religion*.

The editors of the old third volume recognised a thematic unity in the history of Western Europe in the second half of the sixteenth century and stated it succinctly in their preface. They discerned a political tension between the growth of the modern national state and the endeavour to restore Catholic unity, and they proclaimed France to be 'the most complete instance of the constant intersection of native and foreign influences'. The volume began with A. J. Butler's essay on the French wars of religion and ended with J. N. Figgis's survey of political thought, in which the theories stimulated by the French conflicts occupied a central place. There were three chapters on literature (devoted to France, England and Italy) and all the rest were concerned with the political history of nation states or other political entities. Eleven out of the twenty-two chapters were written round rulers or important personalities, and the terminating date varied accordingly (France 1610, the Empire 1612, Spain 1621, England and the United Provinces 1625). The contributors referred to the interconnections between their subjects, but they seldom covered ground already traversed. They wrote on the history of politics, literature and political thought as if they were dealing with a single subject from one coherent point of view.

The arrangement (one cannot say the organisation) of the new volume exhibits the many robes in the wardrobe of the modern Clio ('the innumerable branches of history which isolate some special interest', in the revealing words of Sir George Clark). The introduction by the volume editor is followed by six general chapters which treat aspects of European history from a topical point of view (economic history by F. C. Spooner; the religious history of the Catholic and Protestant Reformations by T. M. Parker; social structure and office-holding by J. Hurstfield; international diplomacy by the late Garrett Mattingly; and warfare by J. R. Hale). Then come six chapters of political history, somewhat after the old style (although H. G. Koenigsberger boldly and successfully integrates his narrative of the conflicts affecting Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, France and England in a single chapter which might have provided the central focus for the whole volume). There follow chapters on education and learning (R. R. Bolgar), science (Marie Boas Hall) and political thought (Miss M. J. Tooley). The final chapter by J. H. Parry and J. B. Harrison is concerned with colonial development and international rivalries outside Europe.

In his introduction the volume editor bravely essays the task of drawing these diverse strands together. He writes of the growing insulation of political systems from each other, of inflation, of the centralising activities of national governments, of venality of office, of population outstripping agricultural production, of the nature of political and religious opposition, of technological and commercial change, of science and scholarship, and of the expansion of Europe. But in cataloguing these themes Professor Wernham does not attempt any schematic integration, for in fact they represent the diverse views of the majority of contributors within their

chosen fields. Of course, the chosen fields overlap from time to time, but in such instances there is more duplication than co-ordination. Jesuit methods of education are covered by both Bolgar and Parker; demographic problems are treated by Spooner and Hurstfield; French office-holding is discussed by Hurstfield and Koenigsberger; international law is listed in the subtitles of the chapters by Mattingly and Bolgar, but the former refuses to admit its existence in the modern sense and the latter makes no actual mention of it. On the other hand, in their respective chapters on the Ottoman Empire, Poland and Lithuania, and Sweden and the Baltic, V. J. Parry, P. Skwarczynski and I. Andersson discuss economic and military matters omitted from the chapters devoted to such general issues.

Some of the contributors (G. D. Ramsay on the Austrian Hapsburgs, for instance) might have been writing for the old volume rather than the new. Apart from diversity of aim and method, there is also much unevenness in quality. Some contributors have skilfully mapped the settled parts of their territory and also made provocative forays into areas which remain partially unexplored, such as demographic history, popular unrest and the comparative study of political and social institutions. Others have provided undistinguished surveys and stale generalisations. The editorial policy which has compelled Mr. Ramsay to use 'Emperor' for 'Kaiser' and 'Empire' for 'Reich' has not prevented other anomalies, such as Pierre de la Ramée being referred to in both his Latin and his French guise. Nor is the volume free of its share of factual errors.

But a more grave deficiency is the failure of the volume to reveal the coherence so optimistically forecast by Sir George Clark. Sometimes it would seem that not all the garments in Clio's new wardrobe have been designed to fit the same figure. When compared with J. H. Elliott's masterly survey in the same field, *Europe Divided*, or even with the joint work of Koenigsberger and G. L. Mosse, *Europe in the Sixteenth Century*, the third volume of the *N.C.M.H.* seems lacking in structural unity. Few would wish to sacrifice the breadth of vision and depth of understanding that a diversity of historical specialisations may afford, and no one would want artificially to impose the uniformity of attitude revealed by the historians of the earlier volume. Yet Elliott has shown that it is still possible to write structural history, and it is a pity that the authors of the volume under review could not blend their contributions into a composite whole.

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Edward VI: The Young King. The Protectorship of the Duke of Somerset.

By W. K. Jordan. George Allen and Unwin, London, 1968. 544 pp.
U.K. price: 70s.

PROFESSOR JORDAN describes his book as an old-fashioned narrative history in which 'we have indulged ourselves even with battles, broils and death bed or . . . scaffold scenes'. He sketches in the Henrician background, then traverses thoroughly the duke of Somerset's protectorate (1547-9) in pursuit of four themes: the progress of the Edwardian Reformation, the fero-