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Nationalizing France's Army: Foreign, Black, and Jewish Troops in the French Military, 1715–1831. By CHRISTOPHER J. TOZZI. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2016. ix + 306 pp.

This history deals with the problematic absorption of foreign-born and minority racial or religious groups into what is considered to have been an army of citizen soldiers at the time of the French Revolution. By using an exclusionary model of nation-building to examine how the composition of the army apparently helped to forge and define the modern French nation state, the strategy here is to undermine concepts of universality, citizenship, liberty, and equality through analyses of difference. An account of the make-up of the army in the years leading up to the Revolution usefully sets the scene. It is also right to highlight the extent to which the military, and issues to do with the military, were at the forefront of early revolutionary events. ~Addressing the perceived failures of the French army in the run-up to the Revolution, and considering the philosophical trend towards the furtherance of peace for the benefits of humanity away from the destructive effects of warfare on people, would, however, result in a more nuanced approach to issues of French nation building both before and during the decade of Revolution. The common soldier, whether French or foreign, came in for a good deal of criticism, which did not suddenly cease in 1789. The tying-in of the coming of conscription in 1798 to the making of French citizenship certainly belongs to assessments of the enduring legacies in history of this momentous period. That this legislation entailed the exclusion of women soldiers, as well as foreigners, only mentioned in parenthesis in the concluding paragraph, is, however, awkward. The sixth chapter on Napoleon's foreign troops covers the absorption into the army of soldiers from the conquered territories or from neighbouring client states and also the difficulties encountered by direct enrolment into French foreign regiments, battalions, or legions. Christopher Tozzi notes, furthermore, that the attempt to integrate frontier populations into the empire through army

recruitment did not succeed for, by the end of the Napoleonic regime, doubts about the loyalty of these troops resulted in the purging of foreigners from combat units. Yet the approach taken here relies on a too-simple binary construction of difference. Questions of nationality during periods of intense internal division and/or when frontier borders shift are open to contestation as are the gaps that exist between the pragmatism of actual circumstances and rhetorical promise. The inflammatory words of Jean-Paul Marat are, for instance, frequently cited. His praise of the Swiss soldiers who had mutinied in 1790 (p. 60) contrasts with his targeting of individual foreign generals such as Thomas Ward and Miranda when France was at war in 1793 (p. 124, pp.129-31).. Similarly, the *dons patriotiques* of Jewish individuals and communities were legally proscribed in Metz in 1793 and in Bordeaux in 1794 and happened at a time of destructive dechristianization. The roles of those who supplied and equipped the army before, during, and after the Revolution deserve also to be investigated further. Taken from a hand-coloured etching of 1792, the dustjacket provides an endpoint for the issue of representation I raise: it might seem appropriate, given the slaughter of the large proportion of Swiss Guards defending the Palais des Tuileries. Yet the figurative forms of the selected scene belie the assertion (p. 80) that this attack was perpetrated by a 'mob'.

VALERIE MAINZ

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