THE SOUTHERN COLONIES IN THE
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 1607-1689, by
Wesley Frank Craven (A History of the South, ed.
by Wendell H. Stephenson and E. Merton Coulter,
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R. S. Cotterill
Reviews

THE SOUTHERN COLONIES IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 1607-1689,
by Wesley Frank Craven (A History of the South, ed. by
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$6.00.

This is not a History but a commentary. Instead of retelling
the already well-told story of Virginia, Maryland, and Carolina
beginnings, the author has chosen to restrict his attention, or at
least his emphasis, to certain features which he might hope better
to interpret or more clearly to explain. His choice has fallen for
the most part on land policies and government; among the sub-
jects neglected are Indians, geography, boundaries, diseases, ar-
chitecture, crops and trade. It is not a book, then, for the general
reader desiring a rounded narrative but for the scholar who al-
ready has his facts well in hand.

Spanish colonization influenced the later English attempts
chiefly by establishing a route to America, by the transmission of
Spanish crops, and by the utilization of native products. Gilbert
and Raleigh were motivated not by a desire to explore for the
Northwest Passage but by a hope of producing in America the
things England needed. Virginia also was designed from the be-

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marily a real estate speculation. In order to secure settlers he borrowed from Virginia the headright system and local self-government, and added to these religious freedom. Baltimore planned the economy of Maryland as the company had that of Virginia, but, as in Virginia, individualism made short work of it.

Virginia and Maryland were neutral in the English Civil war because they depended on the King for their charters, present and prospective, and on the London merchants for their commerce. Royalist sentiment in Virginia arose not merely from sympathy for the King but also from fear that the Parliament might incline to re-establish the company, the leaders of which were ardent for the Puritan cause. Because of her commercial dependence on London, Virginia submitted to Cromwell but the terms of submission were such as to leave the colony virtually independent. The independence Virginia prized, however, was not provincial independence but independence for the county. Professor Craven's discussion of county development and administration in Maryland and Virginia is enlightening and forms a fitting foundation for Professor Sydnor's treatment of a later period. Virginia retained its liberties under the Restoration. It also retained its loyalties and the author is unable to detect in Bacon's Rebellion any anticipation of the American Revolution.

The men to whom King Charles granted (possibly with reluctance) the area called Carolina had the same plans as did the London Company and Lord Baltimore, but intended to carry them out with settlers obtained not from England but from the other colonies. They, too, planned for compact settlement, orderly expansion, and production of needed crops. Their "Fundamental Constitution" looked to these ends as did the Manorial System in Maryland. Both failed before the impact of frontier individualism. The failure was hastened in Carolina by the swift development of Indian trade, leaving as its chief trace the hegemony of Charleston in the colony.

R. S. Cotterill*


The adoption of the title, "Local Government Law," for a new casebook on Municipal Corporations implies that the editor is offering something more than a new book in an old field. Dean

*Department of History, Florida State University.