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Letter from the Editors

Jordan C. Cerone
Gettysburg College

Carly A. Jensen
Gettysburg College

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Abstract

We are proud to present this year's twenty-second edition of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal*. Having finally overcome the Covid-19 pandemic, the editors of the journal have had the opportunity to work together and with professors in person that we did not experience in the past two years. Coming out of the pandemic invigorated and ready to work, *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* received a plethora of submissions from both Gettysburg College students and other students around the country. The works accepted this semester offer a wide range of research spanning topics from Revolutionary America to postcolonial efforts in Vietnam.

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The Gettysburg Historical Journal is a student-run organization, providing undergraduate students with an opportunity to gain valuable experience in reviewing, editing, and organizing academic articles for publication. In all cases, authors and editors have also had the opportunity to apply these skills to their future careers, or their work as graduate students. With the assistance of The Cupola, Gettysburg College's online research repository, and the distinguished college faculty, our authors' work has received both serious scholarly and national attention. Past authors have even published follow-up work in refereed journals and presented their work at undergraduate and professional conferences.

The following works we have selected for this year's edition of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* demonstrate the varied interests and abilities of undergraduate historians, as well as their dedication to examining history from different perspectives:

Patrick J. Artur's paper, "Huelgas en el Campo: Mexican Workers, Strikes and Political Radicalism in the US Southwest, 1920-1934," aims to give a summary of the struggles and efforts towards self-organization of workers of Mexican ancestry in the US Southwest during the Interwar Period, or around 1920-1934. They were in a unique context, many of them having experienced first-hand or knowing people who lived through the tumultuous events of the Mexican Revolution from 1910-1920. The class battles on melon farms in the late 1920s and early 1930s between sometimes politicized and often undocumented Mexican workers and field-owners who employed violent strike-breaking tactics, all against the backdrop of a world economic crisis, are not only of value for historians, but they are also of value for the lessons which we may extract from them, in a world where such large-scale class battles appear on the horizon.

Ziv R. Carmi's paper, "To Bigotry No Sanction, To Persecution No Assistance: Jews in the American Revolutionary Period," aims to evaluate the role of Jewish people in the conflict, contextualizing the experiences of this small minority within the larger narrative of the American Revolution and establishing their importance in the development of religious freedom in the United

States. While Jews were a small minority in the American colonies, they nonetheless participated in the American Revolution on both sides. Through the examination of these topics, this paper aims to explore the Revolutionary period from the perspective of the Jewish-American, discussing their often-overlooked experiences in this watershed period within U.S. history.

Carl J. DeMarco Jr's paper, "A Historical and Philosophical Comparison: Joseph de Maistre & Edmund Burke," aims to show that Maistre was just as influential in the development of conservatism as Burke during the Revolutionary years in Europe. Most historians have focused on the British thinker and statesman Edmund Burke, when discussing the development of Conservatism. He is often considered the "Father of Conservatism" as his principal work *Reflections on the Revolution in France* inspired generations of conservative thinkers. The paper will also demonstrate that Joseph de Maistre developed conservative thought at the same time as Burke but has received little to no credit for the influence he held, and that he was not an extremist as many historians have portrayed him to be.

Reese W. Hollister's paper, "Postcolonial Museums and National Identity in Vietnam," investigates the colonial origins of Vietnam's museum landscape, stemming from French ethnographic museums in colonial Indochina. Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism* then serves as the theoretical framework to understand

the Vietnamese nation's collective, historical memory of the French and American Wars. This paper concludes that the Vietnamese national identity is based on the shared trauma and socialist solidarity that arise from anti-colonial resistance. Museums both construct and preserve this national identity, and it leads Vietnamese nationals to imagine a community between space and time with people they may never meet.

Marco J. Lloyd's paper, "The Reintegration of the Loyalists in Post-Revolutionary America," discusses how most White Loyalists were able to successfully reintegrate into society after the American Revolution. They made their case through decisions to stay and petition for amnesty, which was helped by demonstrating that they embodied republican civic virtues and by making amends with their community. Americans were willing to accept them back into society because of republican ideals, exhaustion from the war, the desire to repair community cohesion, and the social ties that prevailed between both sides throughout the war.

Jordan Cerone and Carly Jensen