

house. True, emancipation of slaves is the starting point. But given a belief in 'hereditary' and 'strong differences' between races, Jefferson is led to espouse the idea of 'racial hierarchy', those emancipated are to be 'sent away to a colony' and the resulting labour shortage is to be filled by white immigrants. The tension remains unresolved, with Jefferson's 'new fundamental category of racial hierarchy' posing 'a threat to the cause of promoting natural rights republics'.

In some ways, the final part of the book is the most interesting in tone and content. In tone, because though Zuckert responds to criticism, this continues the cooperative scholarly venture of the earlier pieces which were critical in a supportive collegial manner. In content, because under the headings of 'Coherence', 'Race: Natural History and Natural Rights', and 'Rights, Virtues, Goods', Zuckert succeeds not only in nuancing and sharpening his own position, but regularly those of his respondents as well. Take his re-phrasing of Ceaser on Jefferson's racism: 'The structure of Jefferson's thought is this: because of natural rights and natural equality, there must be emancipation; because of racial inequality and the legacy of slavery, there must be colonization'. Indeed, to quote more commendation from the back cover—this is a collection distinguished by 'the lucidity and attractiveness of the writing'.

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Gilbert Faccarello (ed.), **Studies in the History of French Political Economy: From Bodin to Walras** (London: Routledge, 1998), pp. 455, £ 65.

This book presents eleven essays on several figures and theoretical frameworks from French political economy, dating back to the late sixteenth-century. A substantial portion of the volume, particularly chapters one, two and four, addresses eighteenth-century topics. France's economic difficulties in the eighteenth-century, together with the vitality of its intellectual life, produced a robust economic debate, foreshadowing many issues still controversial today.

If any serious discussion of modern liberal and socialist political thought must include Smith and Marx, not to mention Malthus and Keynes, then the theories of such reformers of the eighteenth-century French economy as Quesnay, Turgot and Necker also deserve attention. In this regard the volume under review makes a useful supplement to such classic accounts as Elizabeth Fox-Genovese's *The Origins of Physiocracy* (Cornell, 1976), and the works of Georges Weulersse, *La physiocratie sous les ministères de Turgot et de Necker, 1774-1781* (Paris, 1950), *Le Mouvement physiocratique en France de 1756 à 1770* (Paris, 1910), and *La physiocratie à la fin du règne de Louis XV, 1770-1774* (Paris, 1959).

Of particular interest is Faccarello's 'Galiani, Necker and Turgot: A debate on economic reform and policy in eighteenth-century France,' the longest essay in the collection. Faccarello notes that for seventeenth and eighteenth century France, 'the question of the transition to a market economy was permanently on the agenda in various forms'. The debates between laissez-faire doctrinaires (the physiocrats) and more moderate reformers foreshadow discussions today regarding state intervention in the economy.

Faccarello outlines the various positions adopted by economic opinion-makers of the period. Of particular significance was the debate about regulation of grain price and supply. Food supply regulation has a long and honourable history, many rulers believing rightly that their own survival depended on keeping their people fed; the ancient republics, such as Athens and Rome, did not allow grain to be traded in an unregulated market, for fear that shortages might lead to civil disturbances. Eighteenth-century France, heir to the legacy of both absolutism and mercantilism, likewise regulated the staple food product. Yet, by the middle of the eighteenth-century it had become apparent that state intervention in the grain trade seemed to bring little, if any, improvement in what was often a situation of crisis. Reformers such as Turgot proposed radical market liberalisation, arguing that free competition would increase wealth and provide an incentive for farmers to improve their methods of production. Others believed such theories went too far, arguing for a brake on naked self-interest. Jacques Necker cautioned against naive adoption of 'liberty and property', while Galiani more pointedly adopted a utilitarian stance, relativising, as Montesquieu and Rousseau had, the policy appropriate to different types and sizes of regimes. To paraphrase the famous view of Rousseau: what is good for the city-state of Geneva is not necessarily good for the kingdom of France.

Other especially illuminating essays in this collection are Christine Théré's 'Economic Publishing and Authors, 1566-1789,' and Antoin Murphy's 'The Enigmatic Monsieur Du Tot'. Théré's essay investigates the production and dissemination of economic texts in this period, commencing with the question of the rise of prices debated by Malestroit and Bodin in 1566. She charts the emergence of a new discipline through the crucial dimension of publishing. The author compiled information on 227 authors who published 3652 works in the period under investigation. Her work demonstrates the notable increase in economic works after 1750, contemporaneous with the prominence of the question of the regulation of the price of wheat, although actually preceding the rise of physiocracy. Other influences were at work in the newly emerging sphere of economic publishing (often carried out under loopholes in the censorship provisions, for example the *permissions tacites* and *permissions simples*); these included the publication in 1748 of Montesquieu's *Esprit des Lois*, which 'became a key reference point for all those interested in the functioning of human society', and the generally rising trend in book production, reflective of 'the development of a book culture in the second half of the eighteenth century'. Among the leading topics the author identifies are population studies (23 percent of works appearing 1550-1789) and immediately before the 1789 Revolution, public charity and banking projects.

Murphy's essay tries to shed some light on the mysterious Monsieur Du Tot or Dutot, an apologist, together with Jean-François Melon, for John Law's highly controversial Mississippi System, launched in 1716-1717. Du Tot's *Reflexions politiques sur les finances et le commerce* (The Hague, 1738) were quoted by such eighteenth-century luminaries as Hume and Smith, but we can not even state his Christian name or his birth or death dates with certainty. Murphy's research leads him to propose either Nicolas or Pierre Du Tot, from Cherbourg in Normandy, as probably being the actual Du Tot. Du Tot's work has been called 'the most notable contemporary contribution to French economic history of the first third of the eighteenth century'. While an apologist for the controversial Law, who fled France in December 1720, Du Tot perceived Law's problems to stem from the displacement effects that he had created in substituting a totally new system for the old *Ancien Régime's* financial model. Law, in a very short space of time, had replaced the *rentiers* with shareholders, had removed most of the power base of the financiers, and, seemingly, unfettered the monarchy from the shackles of the *rentier*/financier classes. It was not just an economic revolution that he had produced but also a socio-political revolution (p. 67).

Other chapters in the collection cover topics from the nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries: 'Mathematical economics and probability theory: Charles-François Biquille's daring contribution,' by Pierre Crépel; 'Jean-Baptiste Say: the entrepreneur, the free trade doctrine and the theory of income distribution,' by Philippe Steiner; 'Sismondi and the evolution of economic institutions' by Jean-Jacques Gislain; 'Jules Dupuit, the French ingénieurs économistes' and the Société d'Économie Politique by Manuela Mosca; 'From the dynamics of the entrepreneur to the analysis of the firm: *la science des affaires*, 1819-1855', by Luc Marco; 'The development of Walras' monetary theory,' by Antoine Rebeyrol; 'Léon Walras and applied science: the significance of the free competition principle,' by Jean-Pierre Potier; and 'French economists and marginalism (1871-1918),' by Yves Breton.

This volume has considerable relevance for those interested in the history of political economy and political thought.

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Quentin Skinner, **Reason and Rhetoric in the Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes** (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 477, NZ\$41.95.

Quentin Skinner's substantial book is divided into two parts; in fact it is virtually two books. Part I contains five chapters on classical rhetoric and its reception and development in Renaissance England. Part II, again five chapters, amounts to a monograph on Thomas Hobbes's attitudes toward and use of the rhetorical tradition.

Rhetoric is the art of persuading, initially especially by speaking, but extended to include writing. For earlier times, rhetoric had a far more precise meaning than a particular author's style, or clear and effective use of language or, pejoratively, overblown or bombastic language. Rhetoric, as Skinner ex-