

stands four-square with his Victorians, whether lecturing to the Liverpool Philosophical and Literary Society or among the pilgrims inhaling the 'power and poignancy' of Hlíðarendi and reflecting on Gunnar's words 'the corn fields are white to harvest, and the home mead is mown; and now I will ride back home, and not fare abroad at all'. Of all the academic books I've read in the last few years, *The Vikings and the Victorians* is the one I'd like most to have written.

Steve Murdoch (ed.)

*Scotland and the Thirty Years' War, 1618-1648*

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Peter Graves

This splendid volume has been published as volume 6 of the series *History of Warfare* under the general editorship of Kelly Devries and represents a further instalment of the developing comparative dimension of Scottish history. The Scotland and Europe theme has been strong in recent years, with such volumes as T.C. Smout (ed.), *Scotland and Europe* (1986); three volumes edited by Grant Simpson on *Scotland and Scandinavia* (1990), *The Scottish Soldier Abroad* (1992) and *Scotland and the Low Countries* (1996) contributing to the field. This volume, edited by Steve Murdoch, of the University of Aberdeen, provides impressive empirical data on a wide variety of aspects of Scotland's relationship with the Thirty Years' War. Scotland was initially drawn into the conflict by dynastic links through the marriage of Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of James VI, to Frederick V, the Elector of the Palatinate; as Murdoch notes this meant that Scotland had 'formed a very strong connection with Protestant Germany' (p. 2). However, not all Scottish links were in this direction; one could note the activities of the seventh earl of Argyll a Roman Catholic and Hispanophile and contrast them

with those of his successor, the eighth earl and first marquis of Argyll, a leading figure in the Covenanting movement in the 1640s.

The chapters are divided into three sections: diplomacy and politics; the military contribution; and lasting impressions. Usefully, the editor provides a substantial introduction that serves to link the essays together and introduces the major themes discussed in the volume. Scotland's involvement in the European conflict was closely related to her own turbulent history in this period, with the Covenanting revolutions projecting an ideological commitment to Presbyterian zeal which was not confined to national boundaries, as Allan Macinnes notes in his preface: 'Covenanting Scotland, as the new Israel, was preparing the ground for not just European but global reordering when the forces of godliness had vanquished those of the Anti Christ'. (p. x)

Essays by the editor, and by David Worthington, discuss diplomatic themes, and draw on impressive multi-lingual research for their substance; John Young contributes a characteristically robust piece on the development of Scottish foreign policy as considered by the Scottish Parliament in the 1640s; essays by J. V. Polišíenský, Matthew Glazier, Alexis Grosjean, Paul Dukes, Robert Frost and William Brockington discuss the military dimension of the conflict. Two quite different essays, by Dauvit Horsbroch, and Hartmut Ruffer and Kathrin Zickermann, complete the volume. Horsbroch's essay, in particular, contributes a human dimension to the vast conflict through a detailed and sophisticated analysis of the writings of Scottish soldiers involved in the conflict.

Perhaps if one can have a criticism of such a solid and well researched volume it is that it does not contain some more reflective writing which would have complemented and assessed the overall significance of the empirical data in the individual contributions. The academic apparatus in the volume is certainly very full, although there are one or two items in the footnotes, which do not appear in the bibliographies (an important resource in themselves) which appear at the end of each chapter. The volume is touchingly dedicated to Professor Polišíenský of the Charles University in Prague who died before the volume was published. The review would not be complete without mentioning the plate section, which includes an impressive 'Highlander on the march'. The editor and the publishers are to be congratulated on producing a volume which will draw attention to some impressive recent research on an important aspect of Scottish history in its wider context.

*Ewen A. Cameron*