

THE GAZETTE

"a news-sheet, a periodical publication giving an account of current events"

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends

JUNE 2021



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From Marge Piercy's "More Than Enough"

The first lily of June opens its red mouth.
All over the sand road where we walk
multiflora rose climbs trees cascading
white or pink blossoms, simple, intense
the scene drifting like colored mist.

The arrowhead is spreading its creamy
clumps of flower and the blackberries
are blooming in the thickets. Season of
joy for the bee. The green will never
again be so green, so purely and lushly
new, grass lifting its wheaty seedheads
into the wind. Rich fresh wine
of June, we stagger into you smeared
with pollen, overcome as the turtle
laying her eggs in roadside sand.

Marge Piercy, "More Than Enough" in *Colors Passing Through Us*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.



Officers

Fran Lightsom, clerk

(508-548-9186;

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Molly Cornell, recording clerk

Clyde Tyndale, treasurer

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Peace and Social Order

2nd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

Erica Adams, convener

Growth and Learning

3rd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

Sunny Davidson, convener

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Saturday 9:30–11:45

Brenda Nolan, convener

Restorative Circle Practice

Usually 1st Saturday 1:00-3:00

Brenda Nolan, convener

Ministry & Counsel

Cynthia Rankin, clerk

(508-360-7536)

Sunny Davidson, co-clerk

West Falmouth Meeting for

Worship with Attention to

Business

Usually 4th Sunday

(June 27, July 25, August 22)

Note: Due to COVID, many of these events are on hold. Check with committee conveners to be sure.

Upcoming Events

New England Yearly Meeting

Beacon Hill Friends House – Simple Morning Meditation Practice

– Held via Zoom **Monday through Friday** from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

The meditation is 15 minutes long, and begins and ends with a brief introduction to the practice. Orientation for newcomers begins at 8:00 a.m. and practice begins at 8:10. Join once or join regularly! The meditation is free and open to the public. See <https://bhfh.org/virtualprograms/simple-morning-meditation-practice-5/>.

Beacon Hill Friends House – Midweek Experiments in

Faithfulness – Held via Zoom Wednesdays from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Among the upcoming offerings are *How Can We See That of God in Those We Dislike?* (June 9) and *Finding Our Place in Movements for Social Change* (June 16). Learn more and register for particular programs at <https://bhfh.org/midweek/>.

Walking with the Bible – A monthly series of Bible hours on the first Sunday of the month cosponsored by Woolman Hill and Beacon Hill Friends House. On Sunday, **June 6** from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. the guest leader will be Lynette Davis, a member of Ujima Friends and in spiritual formation with an ecumenical monastic community. Open to all. Learn more and register at <https://donorbox.org/walking-with-the-bible-spring-2021-series>.

Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples – Sunday, **June 13**, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. In this two-hour participatory workshop, sponsored by Friends Peace Teams, we will hear the story of the colonization of this land in the words of Indigenous leaders, Euro-American leaders, and Western historians. We will take part in the story through experiential exercises and share our responses and reflections in small groups. Together, we will explore steps we can take to build relationships with Native peoples based on truth, respect, and justice. Register at <https://friendspeacetams.org/trr-2021-06-13-workshop/>.

Notable Friends of the 20th Century – Monday, **June 7** and **June 21** at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Join Wellesley Friends Meeting Ministry & Counsel for the remaining two evenings of a series on notable Friends of the 20th century. **June 7:** *Andrew Polk on Howard Thurman*, writer, civil rights leader, Baptist minister. **June 21:** *Anne Nash on Douglas Steere*, professor, writer, Quaker activist

and her father. Speakers will share for approximately 30 minutes, after which participants will break into small groups to reflect on how the life of each Friend speaks to our conditions. Participants will then rejoin the larger group for some broader discussion. All are welcome! For login information see <https://www.wellesleyfriendsmeeting.org/mfwzoom.html>.

New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions: August 7 to 12, 2021. The theme for this largely virtual gathering is *A Time for Healing: How Are You Called?* Plans for this year’s gathering are being finalized. Read *Sessions Update and Invitation to In-Person Gatherings* at <https://neym.org/sessions>.

Friends General Conference 2021 Gathering: Way Will Open -- Saturday, **June 26** through Saturday, **July 3**. Join Friends from across the U.S. and Canada in a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Learn about the programs and events associated with this virtual gathering and register at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/2021-schedule-glance>.

West Falmouth

Weekly Sunday Worship will continue to be held via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. **In June, two times for Sunday worship will be offered each week.** Beginning **June 6**, the meetinghouse will be also open for in-person worship at 8:30 a.m. This is a temporary plan offered to accommodate those who are ready to worship in the meetinghouse.

Quaker Women – We continue to meet weekly via Zoom on **Thursdays** at 7 p.m. Note, however, that on **Thursday, June 3**, we will gather *in person* at 5:30 p.m. for a 6:00 p.m. potluck dinner outside at Deborah Bradley’s. At 7:00 p.m., following dinner, our discussion topic will be “Finding the silver lining in the pandemic: What have you learned, gained, or found pleasure in this last year that you’ll carry into the future?” Please also bring your ideas on what you’d like the Women’s Group to look like in the coming year. Our hope is to meet in person for monthly potlucks outdoors during the summer months, with an additional Zoom meeting in between the dinners to allow us to see those Friends who have difficulty attending in person. Dates are not yet firm, so stay tuned! Contact is Abigail at asajyoung@gmail.com.



Peace and Social Order – Sunday, **June 13** at 12:00 noon via Zoom. The guest presenter will be Deanna Byrd, archeologist, author, and enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The program will be open to the public and registration is required. Learn more and register at <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2021/06/building-relationships-repatriation-choctaw-ancestors-and-sacred-objects>.

Outdoor Vespers – Tuesday, **June 1** at 4:00 p.m. behind the meetinghouse. Final vespers until further notice. Please wear a mask, practice distancing, and bring a chair and bug spray. Vespers will be canceled if the temperature is 55° or below, or if it is raining.



Also of Interest

Weekly Taizé service. Thursday evenings in **June** (3, 10, 17, 24) at 7:00 p.m. This is a style of worship that comes out of an ecumenical monastic order in central France with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The service will include recorded chants, spoken prayers and readings, and about twenty minutes of traditional Quaker silent waiting worship. See <https://neym.org/events-calendar/weekly-taize-service-online>.



FCNL Virtual Events –

Witness Wednesdays, Silent reflection, together, in community. 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Registration required.

June 2 - <https://act.fcnl.org/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2162>.

June 9 - <https://act.fcnl.org/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2163/>.

June 16 - <https://act.fcnl.org/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2164/>.

June 23 - <https://act.fcnl.org/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2165/>.

June 30 - <https://act.fcnl.org/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2166/>.

Thursdays with Friends, A discussion of current events and their impact.

June 10, 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. *Advocates Advancing Change* with Shoshona Abrams, FCNL’s Advocacy Teams Manager. Register at <https://www.fcnl.org/events/thursdays-friends-advocates-advancing-change>.

FCNL’s June Quaker Changemaker event: *Talking Through Political Disagreement: Is It Even Worth It?*

June 23, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Does talking to people who don’t agree with you feel like an exercise in futility? We’ll discuss the value of engaging with differing views and present some techniques to have those conversations faithfully and effectively. Learn more and register at <https://www.fcnl.org/events/talking-through-political-disagreement-it-even-worth-it>.

FCNL News and Updates –

Read Diane Randall’s May 11 statement *FCNL Denounces Israeli Violence Against East Jerusalem Palestinians*. See <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-05/fcni-denounces-israeli-violence-against-east-jerusalem-palestinians>.

Read a related May 26 update, *There is No Excuse for Antisemitism*, on the recent surge in violent attacks against members of the Jewish community. See <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-05/there-no-excuse-antisemitism>.



AFSC News and Updates –

Read **5 Ways You Can Support Palestinians in Gaza**. See <https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/5-ways-you-can-support-palestinians-gaza>.

Gaza Unlocked: Read firsthand accounts from Palestinians living in Gaza, information about the blockade, and learn about opportunities to make a difference. See <https://www.gazaunlocked.org/>.

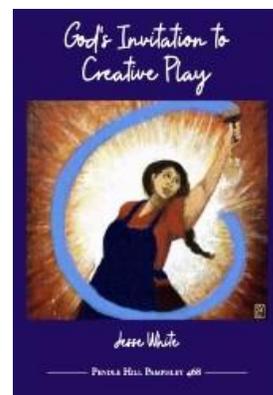
Read **What You Need to Know about the Bombings in Gaza**, a recent blog post by Mike Merryman-Lotze, AFSC's Palestine-Israel Program Director. See <https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/what-you-need-to-know-about-bombings-gaza>.

Pendle Hill Events –

Daily worship via Zoom from 8:30 – 9:10 a.m. See <https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/>.

A First Monday Lecture with Pendle Hill's 2020 Cadbury Scholar Windy Cooler: *Better Than Good: Seven Testimonies for Quaker Caregiving*, Monday, **June 7**, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. via Zoom. Free and open to the public, but registration required. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/better-than-good-seven-testimonies-for-quaker-caregiving/>.

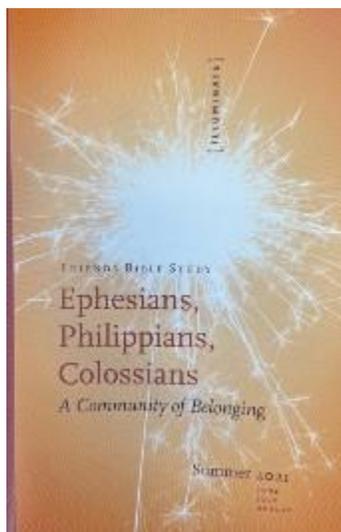
Online Reading Group – On **June 9**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom, the group will read *God's Invitation to Creative Play*, Jesse White's Pendle Hill Pamphlet #468 published in April 2021. Register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/pendle-hills-reading-group-june/>.



***Illuminate* Summer Speaker Series** -- **June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, August 9 and 23**, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Join us for a series of evening discussions with authors of the Barclay Press *Illuminate* Friends Bible study summer curriculum on Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. Speakers will share insights from their studies as they prepared this summer's lessons and "Friendly Perspectives." The *Illuminate* curriculum is used by Friends groups all over the country. From the *Illuminate* study guide:

"The letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians are considered Paul's prison letters, written while under arrest for preaching the good news of Jesus, a message that was good news to many who were marginalized within the Roman Empire. Written in a particular time and place, these letters also speak across the years, bringing to mind imprisonments experienced by early Friends in the 1600s and Civil Rights leaders in the twentieth century as they lived Jesus' message as good news for the poor, stood for equality, and rejected empty religious practices. How will the Spirit speak to Friends through these letters today?"

The full schedule follows. Note that **Friend Carlyne Jordan** will be part of the **August 9th** program to discuss her writing in *Friendly Perspectives*.



June 14 ~ *Ephesians 1*, with Cherice Bock and Sammy Sanders
June 28 ~ *Ephesians 4*, with Jennifer Higgins-Newman and Sara Beth Terrell
July 12 ~ *Ephesians 5*, with Jaimie Mudd and Melinda Wenner Bradley
July 26 ~ *Philippians 1*, with Cherice Bock and Dennis Edwards
August 9 ~ *Philippians 4*, with Dennis Edwards and Carlyne Jordan
August 23 ~ *Colossians 2*, with Brian Drayton and Rhiannon Grant
August 9 ~ *Philippians 4*, with Dennis Edwards and Carlyne Jordan
Basic fee \$125, individual sessions \$25. Learn more and register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/illuminate-summer-speaker-series/>.





News on Social Justice -- In April we read the encouraging news that the state of Virginia had become the first southern state to abolish capital punishment. This month we learn that South Carolina, in response to the refusal of pharmaceutical firms to sell the drugs required for lethal injections, has legislated that death row prisoners will now need to choose between the electric chair and a new option, the firing squad (previously, lethal injection had been the default). South Carolina is one of only nine states still to use the electric chair and now joins Utah, Oklahoma, and Mississippi in the use of firing squads. Three South Carolina death row inmates, two of them Black, have run out of appeals in the last six months and may soon face this choice. One of them, Richard Moore, who has lived on death row for twenty years, is the last person to enter South Carolina's death row without having had a single person of his race on the jury (all potential African American jurors were struck by the state). Among those supporting Moore's plea for clemency is the former director of South Carolina's Department of Corrections, Jon Ozmint, who asserts that Moore is a reformed man "[whose] life in the Department of Corrections has been exemplary. He's a giver, not a taker," Ozmint said. See <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/20/998600135/south-carolina-reinstates-firing-squad-but-not-without-legal-challenges> and <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/jailer-seeks-clemency-death-row-inmate-77749084>.

FCNL on Gun Violence: "The gun violence epidemic is both a public health crisis and a troubling reflection on our country's spiritual state. As we seek policy solutions, we must also look critically at the culture that enables so many people to kill each other with guns. As Quakers, we believe that there is that of God in every person and that all creation has worth and dignity. We call on Congress to act immediately to protect each sacred life." See <https://www.fcnl.org/issues/gun-violence-prevention/gun-violence-prevention-principles>.

Wear Orange: National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend -- June 4 – 6.

Orange. Wear it for protection in the woods from hunters. Wear it for remembrance. The Wear Orange movement originated on June 2, 2015, on what would have been Hadiya Pendleton's 18th birthday. Hadiya, a Black girl from Chicago, was shot and killed at age fifteen in a case of mistaken identity a week after she performed with her school band at President Obama's second inauguration. Her parents and friends picked the color orange to honor her and to remind us that hunters wear orange to protect themselves.

Now the color orange reminds us that more than one hundred people are killed and hundreds more wounded daily by guns in our country. Friday, June 4 will kick off National Gun Violence Awareness Day and the Wear Orange Weekend of June 5th and 6th. Learn more about national virtual events at <https://act.everytown.org/event/wear-orange-2021/search/>. See also <https://everytownsupportfund.org/>.



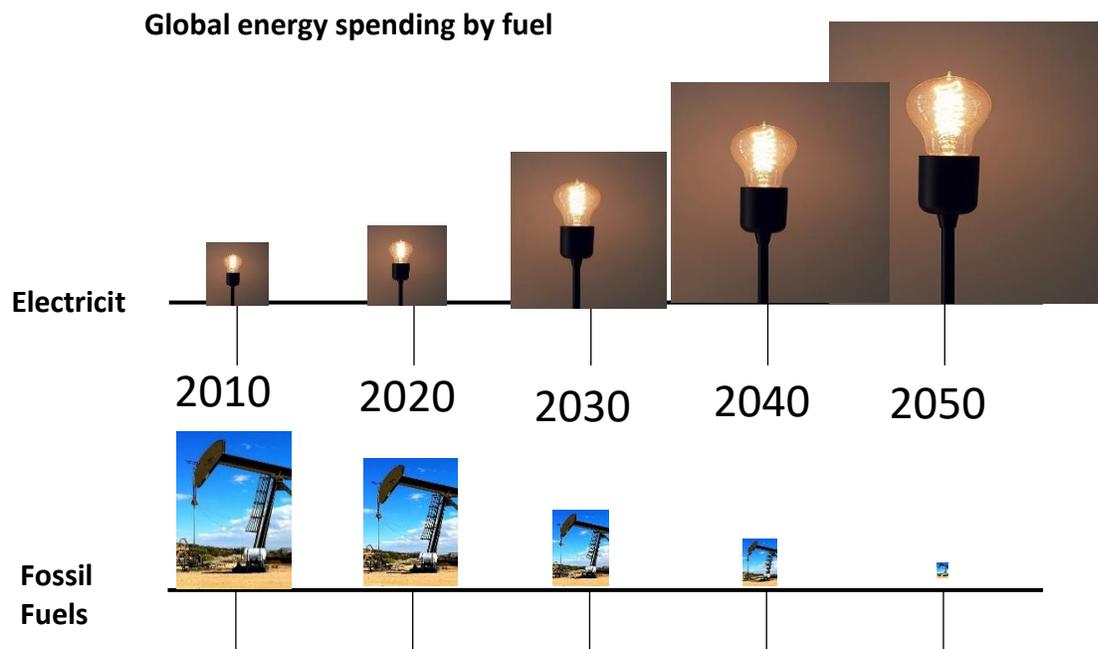
Readers Write

Roadmap for Our Actions on Climate

Steve Gates

The New York Times recently published a nice summary¹ of a very long report entitled **NetZero by 2050**² from the International Energy Agency. This 223-page report lays out a clear scenario for keeping our temperature rise below the 1.5° C threshold that would, in the opinion of climate scientists, avoid the most catastrophic affects of climate change. The report is interesting in two respects: first, the IEA is normally concerned more about energy usage predictions than climate change; and second, it lays out a clear timetable for the sorts of changes we'll need to make at the global level to leave a planet that future generations can inhabit.

Since you probably don't want to read the entire NYT article, much less the full report, I'd like to share two graphics I've created that address the key issues.³ First, as shown below, energy usage overall will continue to grow substantially, but the mix will need to shift radically, from fossil fuels to green electricity (wind, solar, etc.). By 2050, we need to have almost completely weaned ourselves from coal, natural gas, and oil products such as gasoline and diesel fuel.



¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/18/climate/climate-change-emissions-IEA.html?referringSource=articleShare>

² Summary: <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050> and full report: <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/4482cac7-edd6-4c03-b6a2-8e79792d16d9/NetZeroby2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector.pdf>

³ The graphics are based on pages 170-173 of the full report.

Second, as shown in the next figure, most (75% or so) of the reduction in greenhouse gas production from fossil fuels, agriculture, etc. will need to come from public policy. That is, efforts by individual citizens and by companies will not accomplish the desired reductions without direct or indirect pushes from government policies. And, I believe, we have a limited-time window to achieve those policy changes – perhaps as little as a year. The message is clear, I believe – we all need to push for our legislatures at all levels of government to implement the policies that follow the IEA’s road map. Now.

What will these emissions reductions come from?

Government policies (75%)



Discretionary behavior

Citizens
(12%)

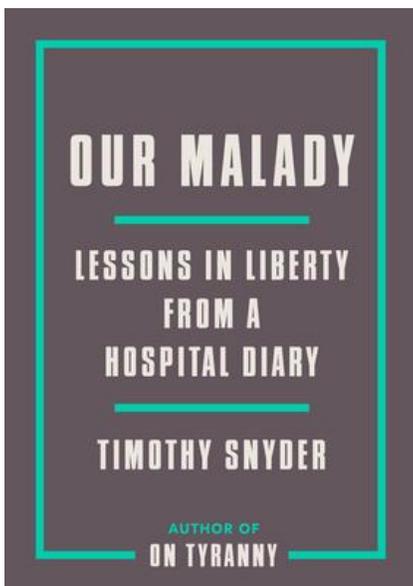
Companies
(12%)



What We're Reading

Len Kreidermacher: *Our Malady: Lessons in Liberty from a Hospital Diary* by Timothy Snyder.

Timothy Snyder and his wife, Marci Shore, are history professors at Yale. Snyder focuses his research and writing on eastern Europe and travels to eastern Europe frequently. He was in Munich on December 3, 2019 when he got sick and was admitted to the hospital with abdominal pain. He was released the next day and returned to New Haven where he was admitted to the hospital for an appendectomy. However, his appendix had burst which led to a lesion in his liver and sepsis. Meanwhile, he had traveled to Florida with his wife and two small children for a family vacation; and then back to the emergency room in New Haven by New Year's day, 2020.



Timothy grew up in Ohio where his two grandfathers had been farmers. He had suffered several injuries and illnesses including cracked ribs which taught him to endure pain. He acknowledges that this can be bad because pain is frequently a symptom of a serious illness such as appendicitis. His son had been born in Vienna in 2009, so he was familiar with the various health care systems in Europe. His wife stayed in the hospital for four days, so the nurses could instruct her on how to care for a newborn. The purpose of the health care systems in European countries is the health care of the clients. In the United States the focus of the health care system is the financial benefit of the providers, hospitals and insurance companies. Healthcare providers and insurance companies compete over the financial benefits and patients sometimes receive unneeded tests and misdiagnoses.

The Declaration of Independence has the phrase, "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." This phrase means that health care is a right.

Electronic Medical Records provide improved communication about a patient between hospitals and doctors. The author believes that this sometimes does not happen and did not in his case because the emphasis is on using electronic medical records for financial billing. This results in the medical providers being mistrained and putting the emphasis on finances instead of the health of the patient.

The author points out that our elected representatives have a good health care system and convince the voters that making changes would allow less worthy, i.e., lower caste people,* to take advantage of it using taxpayer dollars. Most of Snyder's books and articles are about eastern Europe. His near death experience motivated him to write this short book as a memoir of his traumatic experience in the healthcare system. Since both he and his wife are Yale professors, some of his colleague asked him why he did not make use of his connections to get better results. His response was how about the average person without connections.

I could relate to many of his statements. There is a shortage of primary care doctors on Cape Cod and Snyder states that this is a widespread phenomenon because specialists do better financially. He notes that doctors with a single practice are disappearing and that groups of doctors and hospital groups are

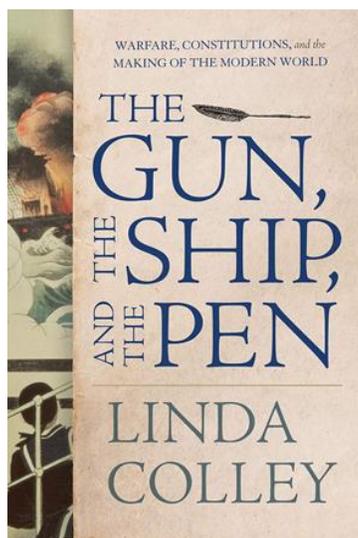
becoming the norm for financial reasons. How extensive is Cape Cod Healthcare? Does its large size provide improved health care?

* I recommend Isabelle Wilkerson's book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. New York, NY: Random House, 2020.

Snyder, T. *Our Malady: Lessons in Liberty from a Hospital Diary*. New York, NY: Crown Publishing, 2020.

John Davidson: *The Gun, the Ship and the Pen: Warfare Constitutions and the Making of the Modern World* by Linda Colley.

I found interesting the discussions in **The Gun, the Ship and the Pen** of the way in which the various wars of the 18th and 19th centuries across the globe gave impetus to the drafting of constitutions in places ranging from Hawaii to Tunisia. Having never much thought about the connection between military history and constitutional-legal history, and having studied these as separate topics, I assumed that constitutions emerged naturally from peaceful processes, such as the gradual development of legal structures. In fact, as Princeton University History Professor Linda Colley argues in her book published this year, frequently constitutions were hastily drafted and issued by conquerors such as Napoleon, or were



generated in response to the threat of foreign invasion, which in her view was a major factor in the drafting of the Meiji Constitution of Japan, promulgated in 1889. She argues that generally women were denied the right to vote in the various 19th century constitutions because men were thought of as soldiers, and therefore essential to the state, while the role of women in wars was not then discussed.

Linda Colley's book contains a fascinating wealth of illustrations and anecdotes ranging from South America and Africa to the Arab world, in which she draws the connections and influences between numerous different constitutional drafting exercises. My only complaint is that she does not sufficiently analyze the reasons why so many constitutions failed, or were not seriously implemented in terms of freedom of speech or freedom of assembly. Of course, it would take a different and sadder book to discuss at length why constitutionalism did not take hold in places such as

Egypt or Venezuela in the long run.

In the first chapter of the book, Colley discusses the career of Pasquale Paoli, the drafter in 1755 of a famous constitution for his home island of Corsica (where he had been elected *Capo Generale politico e economico*) which sought to create an armed citizenry and therefore granted basic legal rights (p.17). Not surprisingly given its strategic location, Corsica was conquered shortly thereafter by the French and this constitution ceased to function, but Napoleon (who was from Corsica, the son of a lawyer, and was well aware of Paoli) played a major role in the story of constitutionalism, spreading self-serving versions of the French constitution which established his family members as kings across Holland, Italy and Germany.

Colley discusses in some detail the *Nakaz* of Catherine the Great, which was a massive collective law-discussing exercise, even if it was not a constitution in the Western sense, in that (as Denis Diderot pointed out) it did not legally bind the sovereign (p.75). This document was innovative and influential, as the Legislative Commission that met in Moscow in August 1767 to discuss the *Nakaz* brought together 564 elected Russian deputies from across the Russian Empire. To be sure, they did not have the legal

authority which the founding fathers possessed in Philadelphia a few years later, but their work was more than a propaganda exercise.

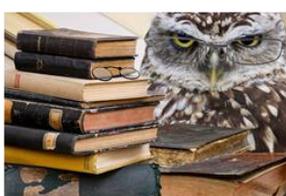
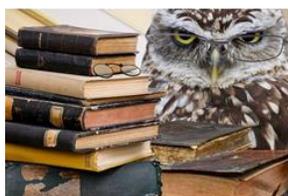
Colley explains the importance of the constitution of Cádiz, which was proclaimed in 1812 by advocates of democracy but was disavowed by the returning Bourbon monarch in 1814, and never put into effect except fleetingly in 1836-37 (p.191). However, it was hugely influential across Latin America as a political blueprint and as an assertion of democracy within the Roman Catholic world, disproving the then widespread belief that only Protestant countries could create democracies.

By 1914 a written constitution (enumerating the rights and duties of citizens) had come to be widely regarded as a trademark of a modern state. Colley argues that this global transformation was connected to shifting patterns of war and violence. Certainly she has a point in that Western people advocated constitutionalism and the European Powers (Britain, France, Russia and Germany) in the 19th century were the colonial aggressors across Asia and Africa. However, the sequencing between events was often complex, as for example the British Empire did not promote constitutionalism in India or their African colonies, and it only arose in those places as the Empire disintegrated.

Certainly drafting and publishing a written constitution supplied governments with a means of legitimizing their systems of government. In the 19th century, the new, more mass-produced constitutions functioned in effect and in part as bargains on paper. Male inhabitants of a state might be offered certain rights, including admission to the franchise, as a quid pro quo for accepting higher taxes and/or military conscription. As the great sociologist and jurist Max Weber recognized, this is increasingly what happened in 19th century Europe. But if the “triumph of democracy” was closely tied to the need to expand military discipline, then this could dangerously lead to the kind of tragedy Weber experienced during the First World War, in which electorates appeared to endorse mass slaughter.

I would recommend this book to any Quaker who might be interested in the development of constitutionalism in the modern world, as well as the broader issues of armed conflict and its effect on history. Contemporary war is tragic and unnecessary, but in fact war over the past three centuries did at times serve as a catalyst for major change, as for example the great improvement in the American constitution (the passage of the 13th and 14th Amendments) which followed the Civil War.

Colley, L. *The Gun, the Ship, and the Pen: Warfare, Constitutions, and the Making of the Modern World*. New York, NY: Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2021.



A Note from the Editor: *Dear Friends, The Gazette will be on hiatus for July and August. The deadline for the next issue, September 2020, is Tuesday, August 24. Please consider contributing to the next issue -- share a favorite inspirational quotation, a photograph, an article, a poem, a book review, a drawing, or something else. Until then, have a good summer!*

Rita



**Next Gazette Deadline
Tuesday, August 24**

Endpage: Irises, May 2021
Photo credit: Steve Gates.

*The Gazette is a publication of
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