

Sacramento Book Review



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The United States of Atlantis

By Harry Turtledove

Roc, \$25.95, 448 pages

Harry Turtledove loves alternate history books. World War II, the Civil War, and now the Revolutionary War. But not content with just creating a new version of the historical events, Turtledove creates an entire new continent, Atlantis, and creates new versions of historical personages, along with some of the actual people involved. Some of the characters are cleaned up versions of the original—Victor Radcliff is the George Washington analog, but not a slave owner and more PC than our Washington was when fighting in the French and Indian Wars. In this volume, the English have chased



the French out of Atlantis, and increased the troop levels to keep control of Atlantis. The Atlantians have been limited in the places they can sell their goods, and, like the Americans in our history, upset over their lack of official representation in Parliament. Much of the events that happen mirror those of American history, making it fun for students of that era to see how Turtledove uses them. For those unfamiliar with American history, this may be a good incentive to read a couple of books about it.