metaphor. Thermidorians thought religion should "be kept quiet, dull, and indoors." Royalists and chouans were like oil and vinegar, producing a "rich savor" when properly mixed, but with a "natural tendency to separate" (240). This combination of information, interpretation, and individual case studies will be useful to specialists and nonspecialists. The sections on the National Guard, the Gendarmerie Nationale, and the Chouannerie are particularly helpful. The fascinating example of a protracted southern family feud illustrates the complex mix of local rivalries, criminal activity, judicial proceedings, and military intervention that constituted the dilemma of law and order under the Directory. In such circumstances, Brown argues, only a Hobbesian solution could end the French Revolution.

*Armstrong Atlantic State University*  
Janet D. Stone


The first National Socialist killing program consumed Germany's long-term institutionalized mentally ill and handicapped. After the war, perpetrators of the euthanasia program were tried in American military tribunals and in reconstituted West German courts. Using trial transcripts and verdicts, Michael S. Bryant tells how judicial values and perspectives changed dramatically over eight years, initially producing convictions followed by stiff sentences, then convictions with lighter penalties in the late 1940s, and finally acquittals in the early 1950s.

Bryant's discussion is divided into an introduction, five chapters, and a conclusion. The introduction outlines Bryant's argument followed by a concise and thorough review of the euthanasia program in chapter one. Subsequent chapters focus on the United States euthanasia trials, 1945–1947, and on German trials, 1946–1953. In the case of the former, Bryant argues that long-standing American opposition to the establishment of supranational institutions that could undercut American sovereignty led to the decision to categorize all Nazi crimes as facets of the Nazi war of aggression, drawing little distinction between the grand conspirators and functionaries. This American concern was at the heart of judicial proceedings that blurred the distinctions between war crimes and crimes against humanity. "The effect was not only to obscure the origins of Nazi euthanasia by over-identifying it with military conquest but, in some cases, to invert the usual presumption of innocence in U.S. criminal trials" (3).

Bryant then argues that German weariness with continual references to Nazi atrocities, the emergence of the Cold War, and the drive to regain sovereignty in the late 1940s weakened the will to punish accused war criminals and to
presume "the innocence of euthanasia defendants, despite voluminous evidence against them" (3). From the very start, the dilemma of ex post facto laws troubled the Germans more than the Americans. A solution was to emphasize natural law, assuming that all people should know that these actions violated universal morality. In capital cases, German law distinguishes between accomplices and perpetrators by assessing intent and authority. As time passed, German courts increasingly ruled that defendants could not have known that their actions were illegal and accepted arguments that defendants remained in their posts in order to subvert the euthanasia program, thereby preventing even worse crimes. After 1950, courts acquitted defendants in cases very similar to those where defendants were convicted and sentenced to death a few years earlier.

Bryant’s study is clearly organized, cogently argued, and crisply phrased. His regular introductions and summaries render his arguments accessible to virtually any reader. One might wonder whether the return to the bench of former officials from the Third Reich after the 1949 amnesty affected the trend toward leniency, but such an avenue of inquiry is clearly beyond Bryant’s parameters. Beyond Bryant’s central story, though, this study also gives the reader another way to view Germany emerging from the ruins of the Third Reich and Germans grappling with their immediate past. At the end of this fine book, the reader is amazed and appalled by the acquittals of men and women who obviously killed their charges.

*Hanover College*  
Larry Thornton


After the flood of new biographies and other types of books in 1991, the two-hundredth anniversary of Mozart’s death, one may have thought the tide would abate. It has not. They have continued to be published at a rate of about a dozen per year, and in the next Mozart year, 2006, a staggering one hundred new books appeared. With this tidal wave, is there anything new to be said about Mozart?

Another book on Mozart’s operas, particularly those of his last ten years, will surprise us, especially as no phase of Mozart’s life and work has been more thoroughly scrutinized. Throughout the book, David Cairns liberally quotes some of the notable Mozart specialists, especially Daniel Heartz, H. C. Robbins Landon, Charles Rosen, Julian Rushton, and Nicholas Till. He even gives us a list