

Naylor, Thomas. *Secession: How Vermont and All the Other States Can Save Themselves from the Empire*. Port Townsend, WA: Feral House, 2008. Pp. 114. \$12.00 (paper). ISBN 978-1-932595307

Reviewer: Dianne Dentice¹

[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2010 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

Is secession a viable political alternative for states such as Vermont, Hawaii, and Texas? Can secession restore a balanced budget, peace, and environmental justice for states willing to reject the existing system of government? These are just a few of the questions that Thomas Naylor raises in his manifesto of support for an independent Vermont. As the war in Afghanistan rages on and mega-corporations such as Wal-Mart devastate small family-owned businesses across the nation, proponents of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness may reinvent themselves as modern day Ethan Allen(s) under the tutelage of radical intellectual activists such as Thomas Naylor and Kirkpatrick Sale.²

The first section of the book eulogizes the First Vermont Republic and introduces the reader to the idea of dissolution of the United States beginning with secession of the nation's smallest state – Vermont. Naylor follows with a brief outline of the eight most compelling reasons for secession from the American Empire. He concludes with a call for Vermont to reclaim its soul as an independent republic.

The book is written in pamphlet style with short, concise chapters and plenty of reminiscences about the First Vermont Republic. Naylor never deviates from the goals of the Vermont independence movement to downsize, localize, demilitarize, simplify, and humanize while providing a model for other states that may decide secession is the one and only

¹ **Dianne Dentice**, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Her research interests include extremist social movements, southern cultural movements, and gender inequality. Address correspondence to: Dianne Dentice, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Gerontology, and Geography, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas 75965-3047; e-mail: denticede@sfasu.edu.

² Kirkpatrick Sale is author of *Rebels Against the Future* and director of the Middlebury Institute that supports nonviolent secessionist organizations throughout the United States.