

Biddle's Ally Mathew Carey: 'The Harmony of Interests'

Mathew Carey was a protégé of Benjamin Franklin, who emigrated to America from Ireland, under British threat because of his republican writings. In 1814, toward the end of the War of 1812, Carey published *The Olive Branch*, an appeal to patriots in both the Federalist and Democratic parties to rally to the development of the nation, and to crush the British-allied Boston Brahmins' efforts to recolonize the country for the British Empire.

The book's impact was extraordinary. Sold out soon after it hit the bookstores, by 1818, it had gone through ten editions, and became the bestselling book, other than the Bible, for decades. Federalists and Democrats used it to work together to save the country from ruin. Carey exposed not only

the intent of the British invaders, but their American collaborators, such as the Lowells, the Cabots, the Pickerings, and the Peabodys.

The Olive Branch consolidated the principle of "the harmony of interests" between labor and capital, which was the focus of Carey's American System economic theory, itself based on the economics of Alexander Hamilton. He called for a political alliance of farmers, laborers, industrialists, and merchants, with their representatives in government, saying that by joining forces they could "raise profits and wages at the same time," through development of technology and the productivity of labor.

Carey's son, Henry Carey, wrote many books, including *Harmony of Interests*, and became President Abraham Lincoln's chief economic advisor.

For more information, see Roger Maduro, "The Olive Branch: How a Book Saved the Nation," [EIR](#), Nov. 9, 2007 (originally published in *New Solidarity*, Aug. 26, 1983).



Mathew Carey (1760-1839); painting by John Neagle, 1825.