AMERICAN COLONIAL WARS
An Annotated Bibliography

THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS
IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Prepared by
John Leland Williams
1982

Prepared by
Strother E. Roberts
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2007
FOREWORD

This new bibliography of American Colonial Wars has been prepared for the Illinois Society by Strother E. Roberts, David Keenan and David A. Davidson. They were asked to update the collection of works compiled by John Leland Williams for the Illinois Society back in 1982 and to include the historiography of the past twenty-five years. As a consequence, very few titles published prior to 1982 have been added to this expanded annotated bibliography.

The exceptions occur where the scope of the original bibliography was expanded. To reflect the present emphasis on comparative studies within the field of history, it was chosen to broaden the horizons of colonial history to include demographic groups and geographical regions neglected in the previous list. This is not intended as a criticism of that first work. The 1982 annotated bibliography reflected almost a century of historical works more focused on the grand narrative of American society than on the varied experiences of its diverse members, or even on colonial America’s relationship with the broader world of which it was a part. The expanded annotated bibliography, likewise, is a reflection of its times and will likely seem incomplete and neglectful to a generation of scholars who may read it twenty-five years from now.

That being said, Messrs. Roberts, Keenan and Davidson made this current bibliography as complete as possible, while still maintaining its length to manageable limits. They have compiled a blend of historical works both narrowly academic and broadly popular. They have captured the present historical fascination with the "Atlantic World" by including works that firmly place the wars of colonial America within the international context of political and economic systems that stretched from Western Europe, to Western Africa, to the eastern coasts of North America. To balance out the previous work’s focus on British America, they have included sections devoted to works which deal primarily with the French in Canada, with the Spanish in the West, and with all of the major imperial powers in the Caribbean Sea. Likewise, they have included works on the short-lived and often overlooked American colonies of Sweden and of the Dutch. They have also placed a new emphasis upon the lives and the experiences of Native Americans and African-Americans, a facet of colonial history largely overlooked by the 1982 bibliography.

It is the hope of the Illinois Society that all of the works contained in the 2007 annotated bibliography “American Colonial Wars” will provide a broad context for understanding the lives of ordinary colonial Americans, whether they lived out their lives in war or in peace. Most importantly, it is the hope of the Illinois Society that this new bibliography will prove useful to our members and the general reader.

Robert Earl Allen
Governor, Illinois Society of Colonial Wars
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comparative and Comprehensive  Histories of the Atlantic World</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Accounts of British North America</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wars Prior to 1676</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Glorious Revolution, 1688-1691</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The French and Indian Wars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King William’s War (War of the Grand Alliance), 1689-1697</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s War (War of the Spanish Succession), 1702-1713</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George’s War (War of Jenkins’ Ear/War of the Austrian Succession), 1739-1748</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The French and Indian War (Seven Years’ War), 1754-1763</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Histories of the French and Indian Wars, 1689-1763</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontiac’s Rebellion, 1763-1766</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Military and Society: Tactics, Weapons, and Institutions</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dutch and Swedish in North America</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Studies</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-Americans in Colonial America</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Americans in the East</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Caribbean</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The West</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Throughout this bibliography:
* denotes an entry included in the original 1982 bibliography
† denotes an entry new updated and expanded 2007 bibliography
COMPARATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIES OF THE ATLANTIC WORLD


Uses sixteenth- and seventeenth-century religious works of art and literature to explore the similarity between Spanish and English attitudes towards the New World and its place within Christian cosmology.


Possibly the best synthetic work available on the history of European colonization of North America, from early European exploration to the American Revolution. Covers all of the major and minor European powers as well as the Native American peoples whom they encountered during their conquest of the continent.


GENERAL ACCOUNTS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA


Buck, Solon J.; and Buck, Elizabeth H. *The Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh, 1939.*


Presents a wide array of captivity narratives form ordinary Britons captured by foreign powers in conflicts that spanned the frontiers of the far-flung eighteenth-century British Empire.


This book traces the part played by Georgia in the triangular rivalry of France, England and Spain. It makes clear the role of the Indians in this conflict, both as friends in trade and allies or enemies in war.


An admirable study that stresses the importance of the Anglo-French rivalry for the control of the southeast and provides a detailed analytical study of Indian affairs on the southern frontier.


This study is divided into two parts. The first deals with the nature of war in early America. It endeavors to compare conflict in America with contemporary European warfare, to investigate native American fighting methods and compares them to those of the settlers and the European professional armies. The second part scrutinizes the colonial experience of warfare and attempts to show how the conflict that became endemic to the colonists affected their attitude toward war and warriors.

Fox, Dixon Ryan. *Yankees and Yorkers.* New York, 1940.


A detailed, scholarly study and one of the few to deal with the importance of naval warfare during the early colonial period. Graham’s argument that Britain’s triumph over France and Spain is ultimately attributable to British naval superiority is compelling.


This study is a response to the work of Alden Vaughan. Jennings stresses the incompatibility of Puritan and native cultures and is particularly critical of the Puritans' intolerance of Indian ways of life.


Though Leach's emphasis is on the nature of frontier settlement in early America, he devotes significant attention to the problem of war. He fails, however, to analyze adequately the effects of war on community development and civilian life.


The best general study of American military history prior to the Revolution. Broad in scope, yet detailed, this work analyzes the development of an American military tradition and seeks to interpret that development with the larger context of European colonization and the concerns of the nations contending for predominance in the New World.


McLennan, J.S. *Louisbourg from its Foundation to Its Fall*. London, 1918.*


Parkman has been justifiably, though perhaps too harshly, criticized by recent scholars for relying too heavily on French sources and for sacrificing historical accuracy for the sake of dramatic effect. Nevertheless, Parkman’s research did break new ground and all subsequent studies of the colonial wars grow out of his work. Moreover, no one has yet been able to match the excitement and color that flows from Parkman’s prose.


Peckham’s point of departure is the absence of a deep-rooted military tradition in colonial America and the consequent aversion to military discipline and authority. While he relies too heavily on Fredrick Jackson Turner’s thesis of the democratizing influence of the frontier, Peckham provides a succinct and readable account of the colonial wars. He stresses the demands of resourcefulness, repeated experience of self-government and the atmosphere of freedom in early America. He argues that the effect of these currents might have been fragmented had there been no colonial wars to call the colonies together in common effort.


A provocative and convincing analysis of the influence of war on eighteenth-century Massachusetts politics. Pencak argues that the wars of the colonial period intensified the impact of the central government on ordinary citizens and severely circumscribed a loyal opposition’s ability to reconcile patriotism and criticism. The social and economic disorder wrought by war, however, led to a resurgence of political criticism and ultimately ensured that the Revolution would be radical, not conservative.


Traces the development of Anglo-American identity and culture in the crucible of fratricidal violence from the English Civil War of the 1640s through the American Revolution and up to the American Civil War.


Ver Steeg, Clarence L. *The Formative Years, 1607-1763.* New York, Hill & Wang, 1964. †


**WARS PRIOR TO 1676**


Craven, Wesley Frank. “Indian Policy in Early Virginia,” *William and Mary Quarterly* Ser. 3 I # 1 (January 1944), 65-82.


MacDonald, M. A. *Fortune & La Tour: The Civil War in Acadia*. Toronto; New York: Methuen, 1983. †

Orr, Charles. *History of the Pequot War*. Cleveland, 1897. *


A thoroughly researched and vivid account of how Virginia’s first settlers responded to the ravages of war. Powell devotes particular attention to the development of permanent solutions to problems of defense encountered by the colonists. He focuses on the Privy Council, legislation, and organization.

Puglisi, Michael J. *Puritans Besieged: The Legacies of King Philip’s War in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1991. †


Vaughan questions the two prevailing interpretations of the Pequot War. Historians have viewed the hostilities as either a defensive war waged by Puritans against the savage Pequots or the result of aggressive land grabbing by the English. Vaughan sees the conflict as stemming from competing claims of authority in the region and takes “consolation that the blame lies somewhat more heavily upon the Pequots than the Puritans.” This analysis, though provocative, is far from convincing.


Vaughan’s main interest is Puritan culture. As a result he tends to accept uncritically Puritan accounts of Indians and emphasizes the colonists’ missionary efforts to the Indians. One should read the work of Francis Jennings for a different perspective on the same subject.


An intriguing piece of work. Washburn demonstrates the similarity of Governor Berkeley’s impression of King Phillip’s War and Governor Winthrop’s impression of the Virginia Indian War of 1644. Both saw “the hand of God applied to hastise the pride of man.” One expects this kind of analysis from a pious New Englander like Winthrop, but that the royal governor of Virginia held similar beliefs is revealing of the common background of all early Americans.

Washburn challenges the traditional interpretation of Bacon’s Rebellion as exemplified by Wertenbaker (see below). Rather than view the rebellion as a precursor to the American Revolution – a struggle between oppressed and oppressor – Washburn argues that the conflict stemmed from conflicting Indian policies and the aggressiveness of frontier settlers.


Wertenbaker views the rebellion as a democratic reform movement and portrays Bacon as “a champion of the weak.”


A collection of primary sources consisting primarily of the Royal Privy Council’s official report to the English Crown relating the findings of its investigation into the causes and effects of the rebellion. This report provides a compelling narrative of the insurrection, but is often interrupted by legal and political minutiae that may prove distracting to the lay-reader.

**THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION, 1688-1691**


**KING WILLIAM’S WAR, 1689-1697**  
(WAR OF THE GRAND ALLIANCE)

Bennett, C. E. "The Burning of Schenectady," *New York History,* XIII (October 1932), 413-429.*


A reevaluation of the Canadian hero of King William's War. Eccles argues that Frontenac was a mediocre military commander and that throughout the war his vanity and interests in the fur trade influenced his policies.


**QUEEN ANNE'S WAR, 1702-1713**

*(WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION)*


The life story of Eunice Williams, the daughter of Puritan minister John Williams, who was taken captive and adopted by Mohawk Indians as a child. Throughout her life Williams refused attempts by her father to bring her back to Massachusetts; converting to Catholicism and embracing her life among the Mohawks.


McCully, Bruce T. "Catastrophe in the Wilderness: New Light on the Canada Expedition of 1709," *William and Mary Quarterly* Ser. 3 XI #3 (July 1954), 440-456.*

McCully revises Parkman's and others' interpretations of the failure of Robert Livingston's Canadian expedition. Most historians have attributed the disaster to the spread of disease among soldiers resulting from unhygenic camp conditions. Using new sources, McCully argues that defects in personnel, morale and supply were more important causes.


Waller, G. M. "New York's Role in Queen Anne's War, 1702-1713," *New York History,* XXXIII (January 1952), 40-53.*

New York has been generally criticized for its failure to aid the New England colonies in Queen Anne's War. Waller attempts to refute this view by demonstrating both New York's importance as a buffer for the southern colonies and the impracticality of sending men to the north.

**KING GEORGE’S WAR, 1739-1748**

(WAR OF JENKINS’ EAR/WAR OF THE AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION)


Caldwell, Norman W. "The Southern Frontier during King George's War," *Journal of Southern History*, VII (February 1941), 37-54. This article emphasizes the rivalry of the English and French in the southern region during King George's War and brings out the role of the several Indian nations in this struggle. Caldwell concludes that by the end of the war the English had discredited themselves and the French were more strongly entrenched in the South than ever before.

Chapin, Howard M. *Privateering in King George's War, 1739-1748*. Providence, 1928.


Downey, Fairfax. *Louisbourg: Key to a Continent*. Englewood Cliffs, 1965. A traditional military history of the French fort at Louisbourg and the two British attacks upon it. While Downey is correct in his assessment of the hindrance of trade caused by the fort's strategic location, he fails to place it in the context of the larger struggle between France and England for control of North America.


Ivers, Larry E. *British Drums on the Southern Frontier: The Military Colonization of Georgia, 1733-1749*. Chapel Hill, 1974. A military study of the southern colonial frontier during the colonization of Georgia and the War of Jenkins' Ear. The emphasis is on southern frontier politics, Indian diplomacy and military campaigns from the British colonial viewpoint. A large part of the study is concerned with soldiers' personalities, assigned tasks, efficiency and life on campaign and in garrison.


Reese, Trevor R. "British Military Support of Georgia in the War of 1739-1748," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* XLIII (March 1959), 1-10.


Sosin, Jack M. "Louisbourg and the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle," *William and Mary Quarterly* Ser. 3 XIV # 4 (October 1957), 516-535.

Sosin assesses the importance of Louisbourg in determining the balance of power in Europe. He concludes that England, by its capture of the American fortress, gained the means of temporarily offsetting French military supremacy.


Historians have long considered Louisbourg the strongest and most formidable North American fortress of the eighteenth century. Consequently the capture of Louisbourg by a small group of unorganized colonial militia in 1745 is held up as one of the great events in American military history. Wall separates legend from fact. He demonstrates that the fort at Louisbourg was, in reality, weakly constructed, poorly located and virtually indefensible. He concludes, therefore, that the American victory there in 1745 was no great feat.

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR, 1754-1763
( THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR )


Amherst, Jeffrey. The Journal of Jeffrey Amherst, Recording the Military Career of General Amherst in America from 1758 to 1763. ed. J. Clarence Webster, Chicago, 1931.


Charland, Thomas M. "The Lake Champlain Army and the Fall of Montreal," *Vermont History*, New Series, XXVIII (October 1960), 293-301.†


Connell, Brian. *The Savage Years.* New York, 1959. †


Dull, Jonathan R. *The French Navy and the Seven Years' War.* France Overseas. Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. †


Eyre, William. "Colonel Eyre's Journal of his Trip from New York to Pittsburgh, 1762": *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, XXVII (March-June 1944), 37-50. †


Gipson, Lawrence Henry. *The Great War For the Empire, The Years of Defeat 1754-1757.* (vol. 6 of The British Empire Before the American Revolution.) New York, 1946. †

Gipson, Lawrence Henry. *The Great War For the Empire, The Victorious Years 1758-1760.* (vol. 7 of The British Empire Before the American Revolution) New York, 1949. †

Gipson's monumental study is narrative history at its best; written in a grand literary style and exhaustively researched. Nevertheless, Gipson's analysis of the Seven Years' War is not immune to criticism. He maintains that England fought France to save the American colonies from French encroachments and not to gain a new empire. The conquests England made were for the sake of trade and for a strong bargaining position in peace negotiations. The fact is that this was an imperialistic war for room to expand all around the world, and the empire that was expanding most rapidly and most powerfully at the moment was that of England.


Greene, Jack P. "The South Carolina Quartering Dispute, 1757-1758," *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, LX (October 1959), 193-204.


Hamer, P. M. "Fort Loudon in the Cherokee War 1758-1761," *North Carolina Historical Review*, II (October 1925) 442-458.


Includes the journals of two British officers and the orderly book from this ill-fated encounter.


Kepperman, Paul E. *Braddock at the Monogahela*. Pittsburgh, 1977. *

Relying heavily on eyewitness accounts, Kepperman’s study of "Braddock's Defeat," though perhaps less engaging than Parkman and others, is the most scholarly and persuasive analysis of this event yet written.

Kerr, Wilfred B. "Fort Niagara, 1759-1763," *New York History*, XV (July 1934), 281-301. *


This account was written by an unheralded British captain who participated in the French and Indian War. There is a marvelous immediacy in his description of battle scenes, the country through which the army passed and the life of the settled communities. Both the dangers and boredom of garrison life and the excitement of active campaigning bring out the best in his terse and authentic account.


This is a fascinating study of a little known aspect of Franklin's career. Labaree provides a sensitive analysis of Franklin's struggle to resolve his Quaker leanings with the needs for defense.


MacLeod, D. Peter. *The Canadian Iroquois and the Seven Year's War*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1996. †

McCormac. E. I. *Colonial Opposition to Imperial Authority during the French and Indian War*. Berkeley, 1914. *


Norkus, Nellie. "Virginia's Role in the Capture of Fort Duquesne, 1758," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, XLV (December 1962), 291-308. *


Pargellis revises the standard view of Braddock's defeat as a conflict between Old World and New World ways of waging war with the outcome justifying the New. To the contrary, he argues that it was the failure to follow fundamental rules of war laid down in European manuals which prevented Braddock's men from demonstrating that Old World methods, properly applied, could be successful.


Consider the history and the myths surrounding the battle and “massacre” that provide the backdrop for the climactic scenes of James Fennimore Cooper’s *Last of the Mohicans*.


**COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIES OF THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS, 1689-1763**


Hamilton’s thoroughly readable account is indispensable for an understanding of how geography and cultural differences between the French and English led to and determined the outcome of the wars.


**PONTIAC’S UPRISING, 1763-1766**


This is the most important document in existence concerning the conspiracy of the Ottawa chief. Parkman's history of the events of 1763 is built upon this account.

Grant, Charles S. "Pontiac's Rebellion and the British Troop Moves of 1763," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, XL (June 1953), 75-88.*


The only reliable and detailed biography of Pontiac, leader of a massive Indian revolt in 1763.

**THE MILITARY AND SOCIETY:**
**TACTICS, WEAPONS, AND INSTITUTIONS**


Anderson analyzes the source of the conflict between British regulars and provincial soldiers. For the colonial soldier, the locus of authority was the annually negotiated contract of enlistment that tied him to his government, specifying the service he would render and the compensation he would receive in return. Anderson argues that these ingrained notions of contractualism caused the colonists to resist the demands of traditional British military authority.


Breen explores the impact of the English military system on those who emigrated to Massachusetts. He focuses on the problem of defining the limits of popular participation in the election of officers once the colonists had developed the concept of a "covenanted militia."


An insightful analysis of the Puritans' views of war and the changing notions of just and unjust war. Buffinton, however, does not investigate the relationship between these ideas and practices. Moreover, he ignores one of the major components of Puritan views of war; that of punishment.


A brief, but informative summary of English military training and arms during the period of the "Great Migration," 1629-1642.*


Hamilton provides a rather general description of the methods and weapons of colonial warfare. While his claim that expeditions into the wilderness were essentially for the transport of artillery is overstated, Hamilton does present illuminating information on the problems of diet and disease among colonial warriors.

Hill, James Michael. *Celtic Warfare, 1595-1763*. Edinburgh; Atlantic Highlands, N.J: J. Donald; Distributed in the U.S.A. by Humanities Press, 1986.†


Leach traces the development of the Plymouth Colony militia from an unorganized "pick-up team" of volunteers to a complex military pyramid of companies controlled by a series of rigid regulations. He argues that this growth in complexity led to a decline of group spirit and weakened the bonds which the need for common defense had earlier created.


Mahon emphasizes the role of organized, disciplined troops and the use of Old World military strategy in the development of effective methods of Indian warfare. In so doing, Mahon questions the veneration of individualistic, unorganized frontiersmen.

A brief narrative of the major engagements which occurred in the Connecticut Valley from 1675 through 1760. McCorison stresses the development of military tactics, concluding that the colonists success in defeating the Indians was ultimately dependent upon the united efforts of all the New England colonies.


Peterson argues that the unique conditions of America made European arms inadequate. As a result, Americans developed new techniques and rapidly achieved superiority over Europeans in manufacture and use of weapons.


Quarles assesses the role of blacks in the militia system of colonial America. As a general rule Negroes were excluded from military service except in emergencies. Quarles argues that this policy of exclusion was so prevalent that it became a basic tenet of American military tradition. Two reasons for this policy are cited. First, most Negroes were slaves and slaveowners feared an armed uprising. Second, the concept that a servant's duty was to his master superseded any notions of obligation to the community.


Russell, Peter E. "Redcoats in the Wilderness: British Officers and Irregular Warfare in Europe and America, 1740 to 1760," *William and Mary Quarterly* Ser. 3 XXXV # 4 (October 1978), 629-652.

Russell takes to task those historians who claim that British regulars were ill-adapted and ineffective on the American frontier. He argues that they brought with them experience in guerilla tactics which were successfully applied on the frontier from 1755 to 1760.


Shy questions the validity of the conventional view of the colonial militia. He suggests that the early American militia was neither static nor simply organized. Rather, he claims that militias were complex institutions that varied from province to province and changed as the military demands upon them changed.


**THE DUTCH AND SWEDISH IN NORTH AMERICA**


Rink, Oliver A. *Holland on the Hudson: An Economic and Social History of Dutch New York.* Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1986. †


**BIOGRAPHICAL STUDIES**


More than biography, this book is a masterfully written and detailed study of the southern frontier during the Seven Years’ War. Alden emphasizes the political importance of Indian trade and the use of skillful diplomacy as deterrents to major confrontation in the southern colonies.


The most scholarly and balanced treatment of the conqueror of Canada.


Whitton, F. E. *Wolfe and North America.* Boston, 1929.


**AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN COLONIAL AMERICA**


This generation’s definitive volume on American slavery. Berlin traces the transformation of the southern mainland British colonies from “a society with slaves” to a “slave society,” highlighting all of the violence and racial hatred this shift entailed and exploring the many ways in which African Americans resisted their oppressors.


Morgan explores the relationship between the development of American ideals of freedom and the simultaneous growth of the American system of slavery in colonial Virginia, stressing that the two developments were inextricably linked.

Morgan, Philip D. *Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry.* Chapel Hill: Published for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia, by the University of North Carolina Press, 1998.†


### NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE EAST


One of the pioneers of ethnohistory - an approach to the past which combines ethnography with the analytical tools of the historian - traces the different strategies pursued by the British and French in their dealings with North America’s native peoples and evaluates what role those strategies played in each Empires’ success, or failure, on the continent.

Barr, Daniel P. *Unconquered: The Iroquois League at War in Colonial America.* Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2006.†


Downes, Randolph C. *Council Fires on the Upper Ohio: A Narrative of Indian Affairs in the Upper Ohio Valley until 1795*. Pittsburgh, 1940. *

A narrative of the coming of the Indians to the Upper Ohio Valley and of their struggle with white men from 1755 to 1795 for control of that region. Downes attempts to give a balanced presentation of the two sets of conflicting values involved, but it is clear that his sympathies lie with the Indians.


A comprehensive look at the wars and shifting alliances that defined the Carolinian backcountry from the first English settlers to the second decade of the eighteenth century. Gallay makes clear that only through the strategic pursuit of trade and diplomacy with a changing cast of Indian allies were colonial officials able to secure the survival of English settlement in the region.


Hunt, George T. *The Wars of the Iroquois: A Study in Intertribal Trade Relations.* Madison, 1940. *

Jacobs, Wilbur R. "British-Colonial Attitudes and Policies toward the Indian in the American Colonies," in Howard Peckham and Charles Gibson, eds., *Attitudes of Colonial Powers toward the American Indian* (Salt Lake City, 1969), 81-106. *


Smoyer, Stanley C. "Indians as Allies in the Intercolonial Wars," *New York History*, XVLI (October 1936) 411-422. *


Trelease traces the changing relationships of the Indians with the Dutch and the English colonists in New York. At first the Indians were valuable for economic reasons since they controlled the peltry supply. By the 1680's, as the English developed political aspirations in the west and an imperial rivalry with the French, the economic importance of the Indians was subordinated to their political and military value as buffers and allies.


**CANADA**


A highly readable and surprisingly complete history of the Hudson’s Bay Company, the oldest corporation still in business today. Tells the story of the businessmen, explorers and traders who opened the Canadian west to European influence from the Company’s founding in the 1670 through to the 1870s.


Reid, John G. *Acadia, Maine, and New Scotland: Marginal Colonies in the Seventeenth Century*. Toronto: Published in association with Huronia Historical Parks Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation by University of Toronto Press, 1981.†

Trigger, Bruce G. *Natives and Newcomers: Canada's "Heroic Age" Reconsidered*. Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1985.†


Vachon, André, Victorin Chabot, and André Desrosiers. *Dreams of Empire: Canada before 1700*. Ottawa: Public Archives Canada, 1982.†

**THE CARIBBEAN**


The English translation of the 17th-century accounts of a retired Dutch buccaneer. Includes accounts of his own experiences as well as tales of other famous pirates of the period.


Lane, Kris E. *Pillaging the Empire: Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750*. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 1998.†


**THE WEST**


Binnema takes a “long” view of the history of the Northwestern Plains, explaining how the region’s physical environment, along with the far-reaching impacts of the arrival of horses and guns in the eighteenth-century, set the stage for the shifting system of alliances that defined the area by the time the Lewis and Clark Expedition reached it in 1804.


An exhaustive – and sometimes tedious – look at the relationship between Native Americans and Euro-American settlers in the Southwestern Borderlands from the sixteenth century through to the second half of the nineteenth. Brooks explores how a system of slavery unique from that in other areas of the Americas intersected with the intricate webs of kinship and trade that undergirded both peace and war in the volatile region.


An impressively comprehensive history of the Comanche nation in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries – though narrative is almost completely absent and readability is often sacrificed for the author’s desire to be as inclusive as possible. Presents the picture of a Comanche Empire, the Comanchería, as a regional power in competition with first Spanish and later Anglo-American rivals.

