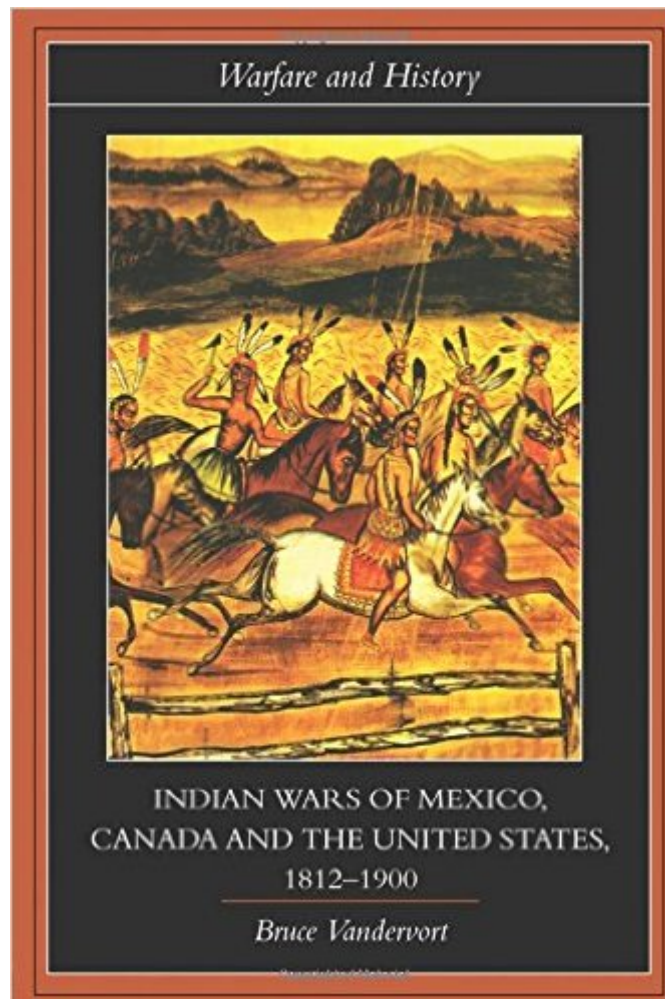


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Indian Wars Of Canada, Mexico And The United States, 1812-1900 (Warfare And History)



Synopsis

Drawing on anthropology and ethnohistory as well as the "new military history"™ Indian Wars of Mexico, Canada and the United States, 1812-1900 interprets and compares the way Indians and European Americans waged wars in Canada, Mexico, the USA and Yucatán during the nineteenth century. Fully illustrated with sixteen maps, detailing key Indian settlements and crucial battles, Bruce Vandervort rescues the New World Indian Wars from their exclusion from mainstream military history, and reveals how they are an integral part of global history. Indian Wars of Mexico, Canada and the United States: * provides a thorough examination of the strategies and tactics of resistance employed by Indian peoples of the USA which contrasts practices of warfare with the Métis (the French Canadian-Indian peoples), their Canadian-Indian allies, and the Yaqui and Mayan Indians of Mexico and Yucatán* presents a comparison of the experience of Indian tribes with concurrent resistance movements against European expansion in Africa, exposing how aspects of resistance that seem unique to the New World differ from those with broader implications* draws upon concepts used in recent rewritings of the history of imperial warfare in Africa and Asia, Vandervort also analyzes the conduct of the US Army in comparison with military practices and tactics adopted by colonialist conquests worldwide. This unique and fascinating study is a vital contribution to the study of military history but is also a valuable addition to the understanding of colonialism and attempts to resist it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The comparison is a great idea for a book, carried out fairly well. The focus is mostly the 1810-1890 and in the US, almost entirely the West. This is a bit misleading because the Indian wars in the East ran from the early 1600s through the early 1800s, and included quite high casualties on both sides, as in the disaster Indians inflicted on St Clair's army in the 1790s. This is an issue because for all their epic quality, the wars in the West were smaller in scale and cost fewer soldier's lives. Such events in Canada are described as smaller in scale and much less violent--again the time frame alters perceptions, because French Canada used Indian allies in warring with the British colonies, and the scope of those wars included chunks of Canada. The book is a narrative of campaigns and contexts, and has fewer of the character sketches and subplots that are typical in current history writing. By far the bloodiest were in Mexico. The Caste War in the Yucatan (1848-1900) may have consumed 200,000 lives, and the era of Comanche raids deep into Mexico reduced large areas to something like chaos. I found the accounts of the US-Apache wars to be the most interesting. Overall the book is a good read, the prose fairly good. Maps are adequate. If you are Canadian, you may be a bit smug. Still, comparing violence and history this way is I think a very useful endeavor for historians.

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