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Flames Across The Border 1813-1814



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Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

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a phenominal book. Written as if it was a thriller/novel but yet it was history. Would be a great book to introduce students to the thrills and details of history. Both Berton’s books about this war were beyond outstanding, in readability, details and conveying what a hell these soldiers went through because someone thought this was good strategy. Another example of the common man being sacrificed for nothing.

The War of 1812 is often rated as obscure, and inconsequential, but the frequent qualifying remarks about Pierre Berton’s Canadian nationality reveal that quite a few people are indeed sensitive about that war, and its outcome. While one of my ancestors tried but failed to join General Hull’s army at Detroit, therefore missing capture (or worse), I have no particular bias concerning the War of 1812 as opposed to the Civil War where numerous ancestors on both sides of my family proudly wore the blue. By chance, I picked up the first volume of Berton’s history at a local used book shop, was totally blown away by it, and ordered the complete set on . Reading these books really incited in me a desire of invade Canada! (Kidding.) I developed a really profound interest in this fascinating conflict.Berton’s history is admittedly light on some facets of the war, but it has an immediacy of

tone owing partly to having been written in the present tense. Not every writer can manage this is any literary genre: Albert Castel wrote his history of the Civil War 1864 Georgia Campaign that way, and it worked well, but the practice requires much detailed research in order to avoid appearing superficial. Berton's bibliography is exhaustive, particularly in primary sources.One point he makes, a point aimed more particularly at Canadians, is that the participation of Native Americans was largely responsible for defeating the US invasion. Canada owes its independence to Tecumseh, and other Indian leaders. The War of 1812 was a turning point in the history of Indian resistance: the Indians were the real losers.Ineptitude, and malice characterized both parties in this conflict. These books deflate patriotic myths of all involved. This is the way history should be done, and I can't understand why Berton's history isn't better known.

This book was highly recommended by a NPS interpreter at River Raisin National Battlefield. It looks like it will be a great read about the War of 1812.

Great book on War of 1812. It's a shame so few of us in the U.S. Really understand what happened Our invasion of Canada reminds me of our invasion of Iraq

An excellent description of the War 0f 1812 - 1814 between the United States and Canada. Pierre Berton is an engaging writer. He brings the history to life. I had difficulty putting it down.

I feel a little petty saying I was disappointed in Pierre Berton's Flames Across the Border, the second volume in his opus about the vastly underrated (and misnamed) War of 1812. It's just that the first book, The Invasion of Canada, was one of the most interesting and insightful histories I've ever read. Flames, while a well-written and thorough survey of the war in 1813-14, just isn't as thought-provoking or compelling as Invasion.Together the two books focus on the border war between the United States and Canada (leaving out other large topics such as the naval war in the Atlantic and the Battle of New Orleans). To the British, the war was an annoying sideshow in the larger picture of the Napoleonic Wars. To the Americans, the war was a matter of national honor, a Second American Revolution to determine who would dominate North America. To the Canadians, it was the beginning of their own national identity.And to the people who lived along the U.S.-Canadian border, it was three years of misery and terror, culminating in a series of incendiary raids that climaxed when the British burned Washington, D.C. in August 1814. With some notable exceptions, the military and political leadership on both sides was stunningly incompetent, and the

two sides slugged to a standstill without accomplishing much of anything.While the historical consequences of the war were enormous, reading the detailed accounts of the battles was depressing rather than edifying. Each battle was different yet mind-numbingly the same. As Berton sums it up: "The two forces resemble equally matched prize fighters, staggering about the ring in the last round, scarcely able to raise their arms in combat."

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