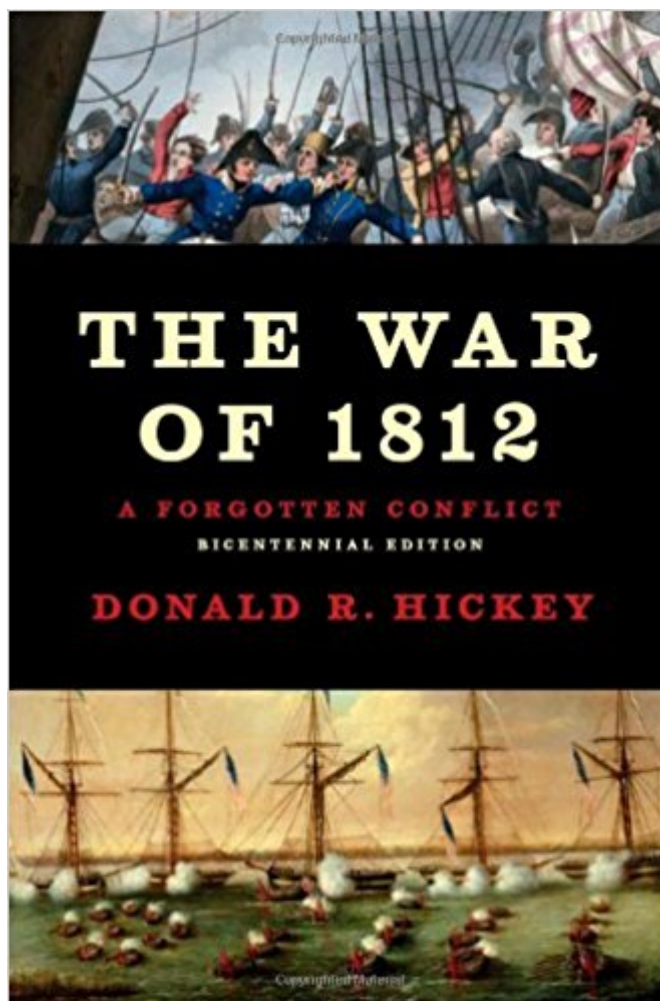


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# The War Of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict, Bicentennial Edition



## Synopsis

This comprehensive and authoritative history of the War of 1812, thoroughly revised for the 200th anniversary of the historic conflict, is a myth-shattering study that will inform and entertain students, historians, and general readers alike. Donald R. Hickey explores the military, diplomatic, and domestic history of our second war with Great Britain, bringing the study up to date with recent scholarship on all aspects of the war, from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada. The newly expanded *The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict, Bicentennial Edition* includes additional information on the British forces, American Indians, and military operations such as the importance of logistics and the use and capabilities of weaponry. Hickey explains how the war promoted American nationalism and manifest destiny, stimulated peacetime defense spending, and enhanced America's reputation abroad. He also shows that the war sparked bloody conflicts between pro-war Republican and anti-war Federalist neighbors, dealt a crippling blow to American Indians, and solidified the United States's antipathy toward the British.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The War of 1812 gave the United States some of its finest military moments: Admiral Perry's victory on Lake Erie, Andrew Jackson's lopsided triumph at the Battle of New Orleans, the immortal words "Don't give up the ship!," and Fort McHenry's defense of Baltimore (which inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner"). At the same time, the fighting didn't go especially well for the Americans. Their invasion of Canada failed and the British burned the White House to the ground. The conflict ended in a draw. With *The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict* Donald R. Hickey

offers what may be the most comprehensive treatment of the war, and includes many colorful anecdotes. For example, shortly after the mortally wounded James Lawrence uttered "Don't give up the ship!," his men did just that. Their vessel was hauled off to England, broken up, and its timbers used in the construction of a flour mill. The subtitle calls the War of 1812 a "forgotten conflict

"A well-researched and extensively documented overview of the causes and consequences of the War of 1812. In a penetrating analysis of prewar society, the author accumulates evidence suggesting that the war was ultimately unnecessary and unpopular. . . . Highly recommended as an inclusive political, military, and social treatment of a customarily neglected war."--American Library Association Booklist  
"Despite being forgotten and overlooked, the War of 1812 was a significant milestone in the development of the United States. [Hickey] was accurate when he wrote, 'Although looking to the past, the war was fraught with consequences for the future, and for this reason it is worth studying today.' And there is no better place to start than with *The War of 1812*."--Civil War News  
"The definitive study."--Journal of American History

This book was compiled based upon excellent research. It is, in my opinion, the most thorough coverage of the War of 1812. I first purchased the initial copy of this book back in the late 1980s. (In fact, that copy was purchased from the Chicago Historical Society bookstore and is a signed copy.) This book is a good update to that one. All the major events of the War of 1812 are covered, not just the military actions which have three chapters of coverage. Yes, the actions in Congress, the dissent of the Federalists, the Baltimore riots, the Hartford meeting (when the New England Federalists came together initially to discuss secession from the Union due to this war) are all covered. All the military actions are covered although some of them are given short shrift in my opinion. This is especially true of the military actions in the Old Northwest (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois) which are covered very quickly. For example, Zachary Taylor's and unit's defense of a fort in Indiana are given one sentence; Fort Sandusky defense is given a paragraph; and the Fort Meigs defense are given a couple of paragraphs. The author spends a lot more time on the naval actions, including the privateers, which are an interesting element of this book, and actions on Lake Erie, Lake Champlain and the frigate actions (e.g. USS Constitution). I guess arguably these are probably considered more important to the final result, but the author also spends chapters on the actions of the US Congress, and related events. It would have been good if more time was spent on the Old Northwest events - and maybe a new book should be written on this alone - a suggestion to this or other authors. In spite of this one criticism, I do recommend this book for anyone interested

in US History. After all, in spite of the fact that this is "a forgotten conflict", many important events came from this conflict including the creation of our national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner (the actual flag at Fort McHenry in Baltimore is housed in the Smithsonian's American History museum), and the only time that our capital was taken with the White House and Congress burned to a shell. This book, in my opinion, has the best overall coverage of the War of 1812 - it is most thorough and best researched book on this war.

The story of this war has been badly bruised by so many historians. At 80, with 7 years of university education under my belt, I cannot believe that I could know so little about something so significant. Hickey's book tells a true story at the pace of a riveting novel. If you find yourself yawning you might want to check your pulse!

Full of all kinds of information but such a dry read. Some authors make history come alive but this is not one of them.

I wanted to understand the War of 1812 so that I could explain it to my 5th grade class. This was a wonderful resource that allowed me to give my students more insight than I would have been able to without reading this book. The book was well written and easy to understand. Very enjoyable!

This book is wonderful. I was a certified "dummy" on the topic of the War of 1812. Now I know a little bit about it. This was a wonderful purchase and read.

A very interesting reading about a very little known war. Many events during the War of 1812 surprised me. I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 because there are too many facts and details for my personal taste and the story could have been shorter.

This book is well researched and easy to read. It spends a considerable amount of time on the politics of the day. It shows that even the people who wrote the Constitution (or at least lived through the time) argued about its meaning. I now understand more clearly why the invasion of Canada was considered so important. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves history and wants to know more about the war of 1812.

Excellent and in depth study about the causes and the political arena in which this confrontation

developed. The style is concise and an interesting narrative. Even the most tedious parts of the congress battles seem to be interesting.

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