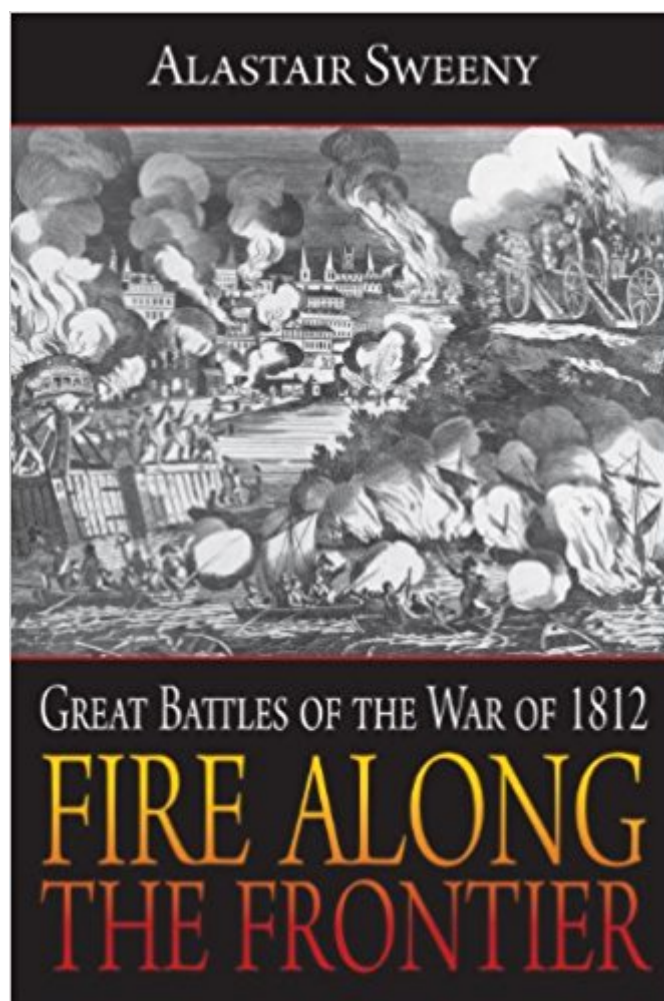


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Fire Along The Frontier: Great Battles Of The War Of 1812



Synopsis

A view of the War of 1812 from a social perspective. This book provides a fresh new view of the battles of the war and goes behind the scenes to explore wartime trading activity, particularly American dealings with Napoleon and cross-border commerce, as well as the activities of John Jacob Astor, America's richest man and war financier, and his fur-trading partners in Montreal. There was a wealth of military screw-ups. What did the generals do before each battle to lose it, and what could they have done to win? And did the incompetence and mixed loyalties of Military Governor Sir George Prevost, grandson of a financier of the American Revolution and nephew by marriage of Vice President Aaron Burr, nearly lose Canada for the British? The book also provides glimpses of some of the fascinating behind-the-scenes players, such as legendary but flawed President Thomas Jefferson, and President Madison's wife, Dolley, who could have won the war single-handedly had she been able to get all the generals together in the same drawing room.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...an engaging synthesis of leading figures, strategies and battles"

Alastair Sweeny is the author of a biography of George-Etienne Cartier, as well as two recent business books, BlackBerry Planet, on RIM's smartphone, and Black Bonanza, on Canada's oilsands. He is also co-author and producer of History of Canada Online. He lives in Ottawa.

The War of 1812 is the most overlooked war in US history. It barely is covered in the US history courses in high schools and universities. And when it is covered it is from very peculiar viewpoints. Not so this book! I thought it might have a Canadian slant since the author is Canadian, but he covers both sides with equal attention. This is a book written by a historian that I could barely put down until I finished it. Rare! Most historians write with footnotes interrupting every other sentence, thus breaking concentration. This man knows how to footnote, and to place full quotations of interest in the midst of the related topic. I was able to read this book as if it were a novel, yet check on footnotes with ease at a break in topic. What a rarity! And I learned more in this one book about what led up to the War of 1812, and the men who fought it than I had in all the bits and pieces I had studied over my long years in school. What a delight to learn the details of this mysterious war! Alastair Sweeny deserves an A++ or 100% on this.

A great account of a two hundred year old event. Very detailed and entertaining as well as informative. A fine book written by a former university classmate!

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