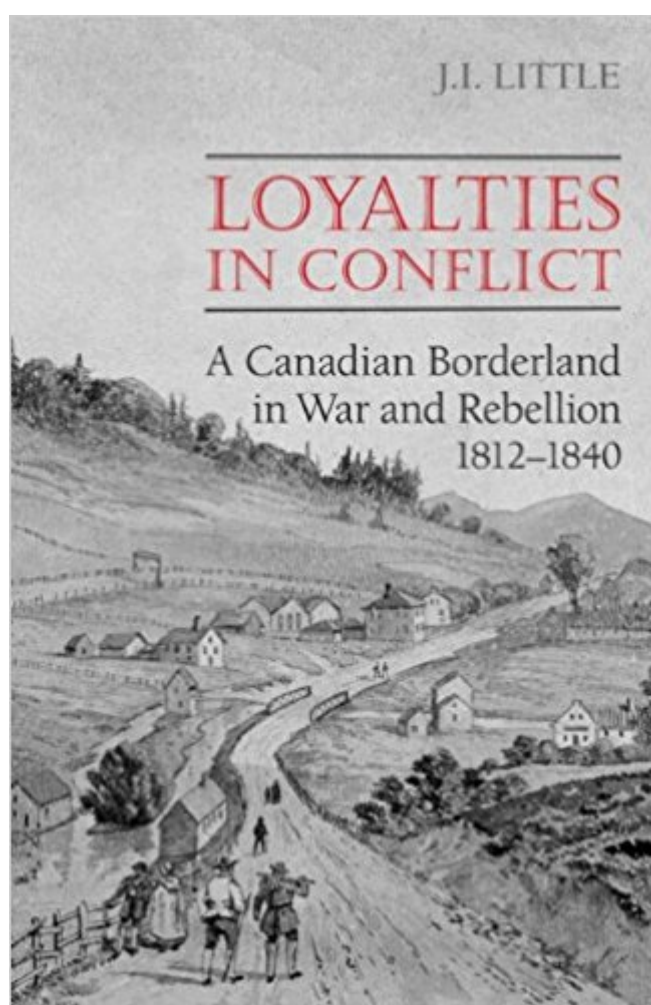


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Loyalties In Conflict: A Canadian Borderland In War And Rebellion, 1812-1840 (Canadian Social History)



Synopsis

Despite their strategic location on the American border, the townships of Lower Canada have been largely ignored in studies of the War of 1812 and the Rebellions of 1837-38. Originally settled by Loyalists from New York, and followed by much larger numbers of land seekers from New England, this was a potentially volatile borderland during British-American conflicts. J.I. Little's *Loyalties in Conflict* examines how the allegiance to British authority of the American-origin population within the borders of Lower Canada was tested by the War of 1812 and the Rebellions of 1837-1838. Little argues that while loyalties were highly localized, American border raids during the war caused a defensive reaction north of the 45th parallel. The resulting sense of distinction from neighbouring Vermont, with its radical religious and political culture, did not prevent a strong regional reform movement from emerging in the eastern townships during the 1820s and 1830s. This movement undermines the argument of Quebec's nationalist historians that the political contest in Lower Canada was essentially a French-English one, but the dual threat of French-Canadian and American nationalism did ensure the border townships's loyalty to the government during the rebellions. The following years would witness the development of an increasingly conservative and distinctly Canadian cultural identity in the region. A rigorous study of a pivotal period in North American history, *Loyalties in Conflict* is a fascinating account of conflicting forces in one region that, like the rest of Canada, has been largely shaped by the interaction of American and British influences, as well as French-language and English-language ones.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Loyalties in Conflict' tells a complex story of interweaving local, imperial, and ethnic identities as well as the development of socio-political and cultural processes in Quebec's Eastern Townships, and becomes another impressive publication from Canada's most productive historians. (Darren Ferry Labour/Le Travail vol66: Fall2010)

J.I. Little is a professor emeritus in the Department of History at Simon Fraser University.

Eastern Townships is not a very large place, but it has played its role in history. "Loyalties in Conflict: A Canadian Borderland in War and Rebellion 1812-1840" takes a look at the region of the Eastern Townships during the war of 1812 and the Canadian rebellions of 1837. This book looks at the reactions of this small area, giving a look of the people at these two major crises. "Loyalties in Conflict" is an intriguing read, and a fine piece of Canadian history.

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