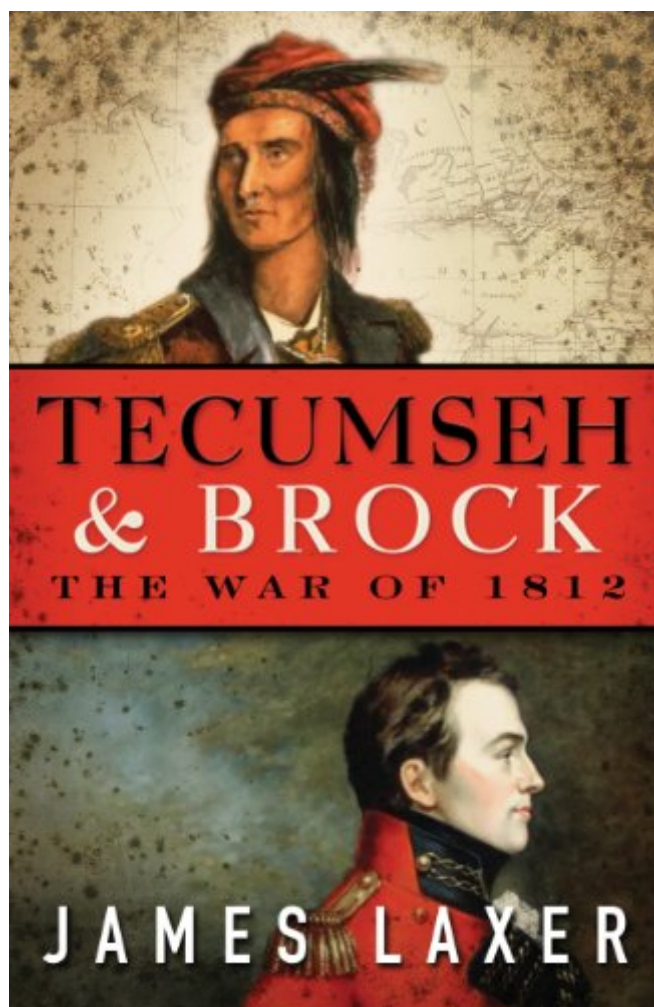


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Tecumseh And Brock: The War Of 1812



Synopsis

At the dawn of the nineteenth century, the British Empire is engaged in a titanic war with Napoleonic France for global supremacy. The American Republic is quickly expanding its territory along the western frontier, while native peoples struggle to protect their lands from the relentless wave of new settlers. Bestselling author and scholar James Laxer offers a fresh and compelling view of this decisive war, by bringing to life two major contests: the native peoples' Endless War to establish nationhood and sovereignty on their traditional territories and the American campaign to settle its grievances with Britain through the conquest of Canada. At the heart of this story is the unlikely friendship and political alliance of Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief and charismatic leader of the native confederacy, and Major-General Isaac Brock, defender and protector of the British Crown. Together, these two towering figures secured what would become the nation of Canada. Vividly rendered and passionately depicted, Tecumseh and Brock is a highly engaging, impeccably researched, and powerful work of history.

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Customer Reviews

This was a very readable and engaging account of the War of 1812. Laxer argues that this conflict is

really two overlapping wars: one between the Americans and British and one between the First Nations and Americans. As a result of his approach, Laxer gives quite a lot of attention to the activities of the First Nations before and during this conflict. In other accounts, the important role of the First Nations is certainly mentioned, but their motives and goals for joining either Britain/ Canada or the USA are unclear or seem arbitrary (at least to me). Not so in Laxer's book. I bought this book early in the summer and have been stretching it out to make it last. It is vivid, lively, readable, and engaging. One of the best new books on this too-often-forgotten war that captures its complexity. One note of warning: many historians approach this war as a second American revolution or, in Taylor's book, a kind of civil war. Laxer does not, so be prepared for a different perspective. In Laxer's view, the War of 1812 is a unique conflict and should be taken on its own terms: messy, at times irrational, at times tragic but always human.

After reading Tecumseh: A Life by John Sugden an excellent biography of a great Canadian leader who was instrumental, for the last time, uniting the First Nation Peoples of North America. I found the book by James Laxer disappointing because it didn't seem to go deep enough into the relationship between Tecumseh and Brock as the Sugden book did. It had its interesting parts but it seemed to me the two men are portrayed as hardly knowing each other. Sugden goes into detail how England and in particular America abused the indigenous people of Canada in spite of the fact they were very instrumental in helping Canada (England) win the War of 1812. I would suggest to anyone interested in Tecumseh and or Brock they should read Sugden's biography because more is made of the relationship between the two men than the Laxer book accomplishes.

I found the book quite good until towards the end when it stated that the British attacked Washington as retaliation for the burning of York (Toronto) and Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake). Sorry but that was not true. It was retaliation for the burning of Ft. Dover to Long Point. Toronto only had government building burned down and Newark's burning was retaliated by the British (Canadian) burning of the US side from Fort Niagara to Buffalo. Also, it stated that around 80 or so died on each side during the battle of Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls but all other history books stated it was about 800 - 900 per side with a total of around 1800 people. Other than that, pretty good book.

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