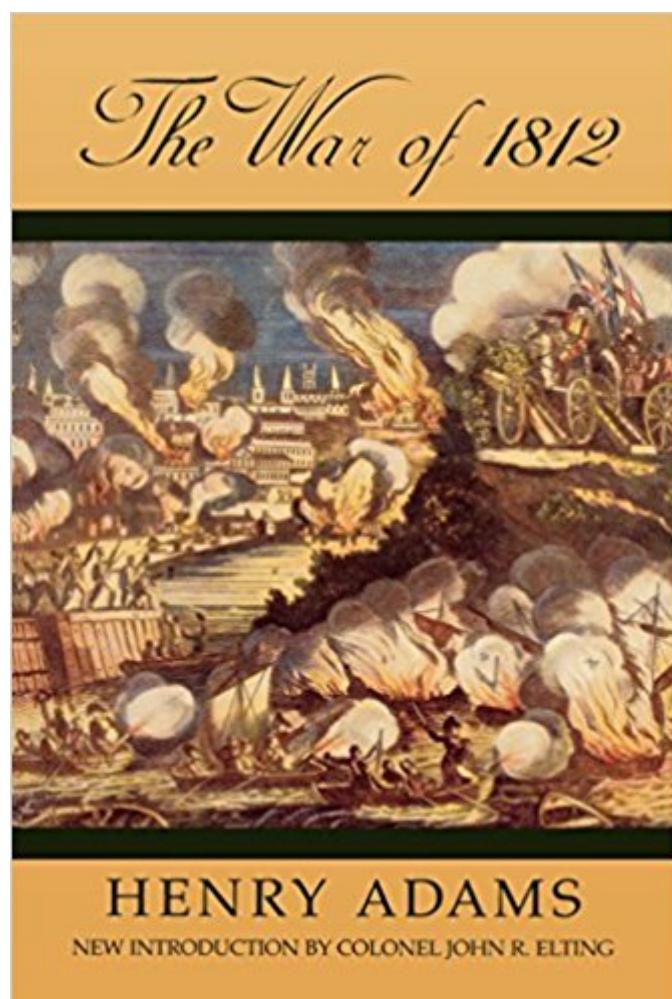


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The War Of 1812



Synopsis

This unsurpassed work illuminates the unpopular, blunder-filled War of 1812.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This volume consists of the chapters taken from Henry Adams lengthy History of the United States. Those chapters dealing with the War of 1812 have been excerpted from the multi-volume set and placed into single volume format here. This is a classic work of its kind, but it is not an easy read. Henry Adams goes into great detail, and often engages in rhetorical discussions, a common trait of 19th century historians. His wide ranging views of the war brings to light many aspects often not covered in standard histories. This can be a plus as well as minus. Often Adams will go on and on about organizational and political aspects of the conflict which can seem dry to the modern reader. Those looking for detailed descriptions of battles from the war will be somewhat disappointed. Adams does a lot to build up the background of each campaign or battle, but when it comes to the action itself he seems almost anti-climatic. Famous actions like Chippewa and Lundy's Lane are surprisingly short, even though the chapters are lengthy in discussing the administrative and political aspects of the decision making and troop movements involved. While Adams rightly excoriates pitiful American leadership and incompetence, he is always on the lookout for something positive to say as well. While Hull, Dearborn and Wilkinson are rightly seen as hopeless leaders, Adams also finds fault with Scott, Harrison and Jackson. The emphasis is naturally on the US perspective of the war, where insightful and often scathing observation is made on the inner workings of the Madison administration. British and Canadian strategy gets correspondingly less detail, although there is plenty of criticism of Proctor, Provost and Drummond among others.

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