

All book reviews by Mark Zimmerman.

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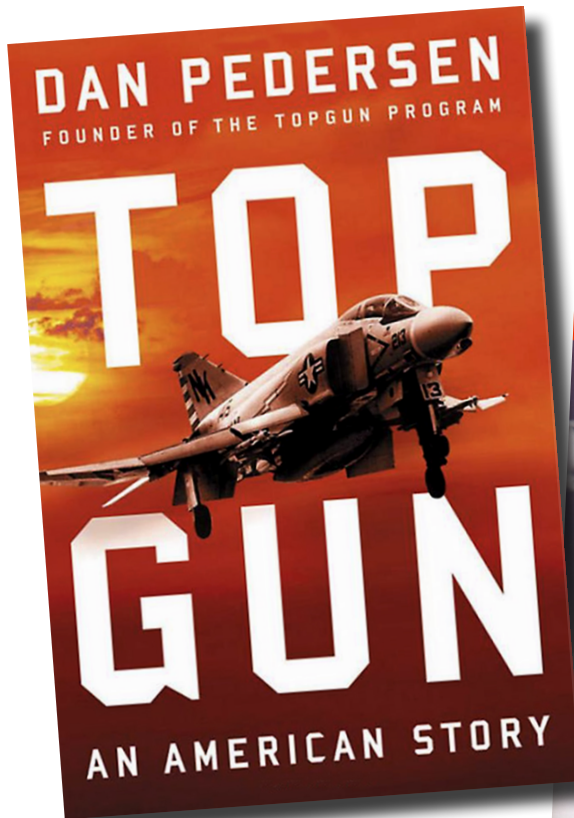
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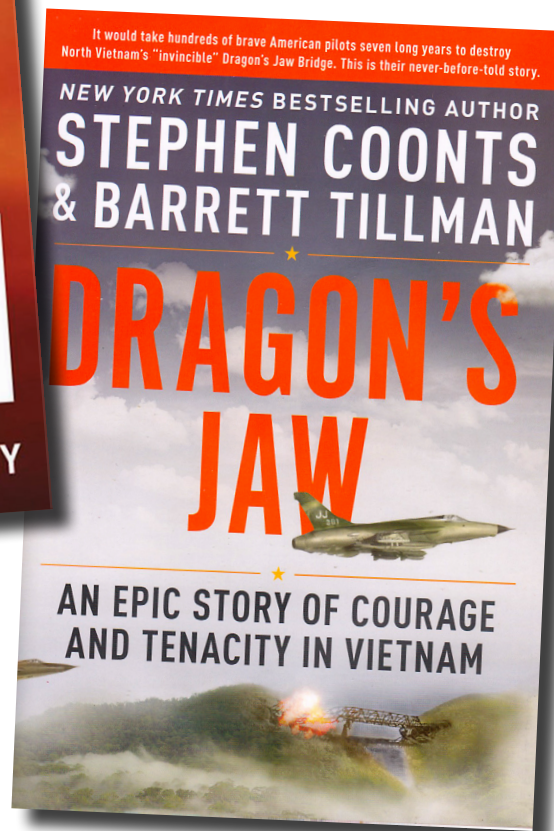
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# BOOK REVIEWS

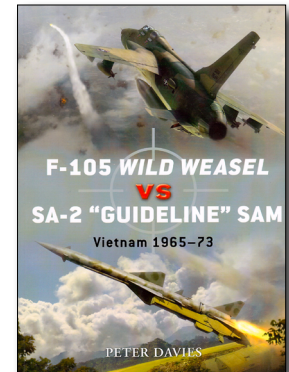
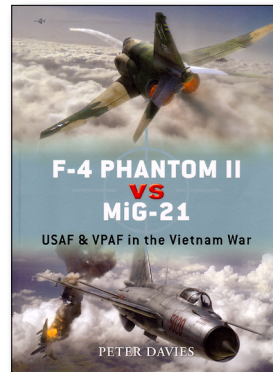
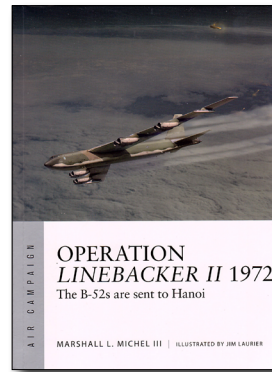
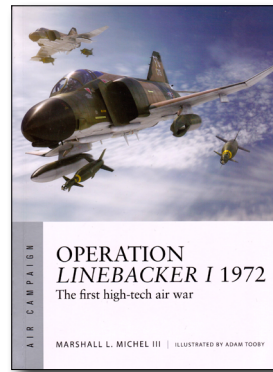
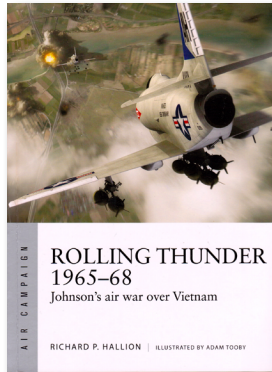
ZIMCO PUBLICATIONS



## AIR WAR OVER VIETNAM



# AIR WAR OVER VIETNAM



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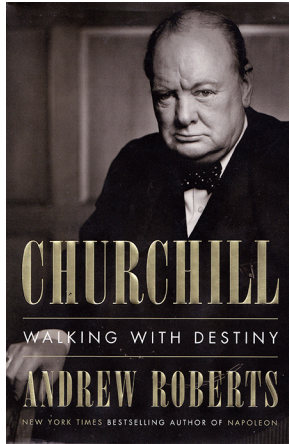
We all know about the air cavalry operations in Vietnam (1965-72) using helicopters, but US Air Force pilots and US Navy aviators in jet aircraft also waged a relentless war against targets on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and in North Vietnam, including Hanoi and Haiphong harbor. *Dragon's Jaw* by Stephen Coonts and Barrett Tillman chronicles the multi-service, multi-year campaign to drop the strategic Thanh Hoa (dragon's jaw) bridge. Dozens of dangerous sorties and hundreds of tons of bombs failed to significantly damage the structure, which was dropped only after laser-guided bombs were developed. *Top Gun* is the story of the elite fighter-pilots' school at Miramar, Calif., as told by its founder, Dan Pedersen. With the development of nuclear air power, the air force and navy had forgotten how to dogfight, but the North Vietnamese hadn't, flying MiG-17s and MiG-21s supplied by the Soviet Union. Tactics developed at Topgun turned the tables, giving American pilots, flying the powerful F-4 Phantom II, a decided edge. The success of Topgun, operated on a shoestring budget, derived from the fact that the instructors ran the show rather than the top brass or politicians.

Four of Osprey Publishing's Duel series dissect the dogfights between the Phantom, the F-105 Thunderchief, and the F-8 Crusader on the US side, and the MiGs flown by the Vietnamese. The F-105, known as the Thud, was modified as the Wild Weasel, an aircraft that would precede the bombing

sorties, scout out enemy surface-to-air (SAM) sites, and try to either neutralize them or destroy them. The battles between the aircraft and the missilemen were ones of radar, tracking, and electronic countermeasures. Although MiGs and SAMs were deadly threats, anti-aircraft artillery (AAA), again supplied by the Soviets, shot down more American jets than fighters or missiles. Rescue operations saved many downed pilots, but many were also captured over enemy territory.

The three Osprey Air Campaign books detail the Rolling Thunder and Linebacker campaigns, needlessly hindered by rules of engagement drawn up by Washington politicians. President L.B. Johnson and his top advisor, Robert McNamara, waged a limited war based not on obtaining victory but getting the North Vietnamese to the negotiating table without drawing the Red Chinese into the conflict. They were cowed by what had happened in Korea in 1950. What's revealed is that the all-out bombings of Hanoi and Haiphong in late 1972 by President Nixon and his advisor, Henry Kissinger, were the only reason that North Vietnam went back to the negotiating table. The main goal was to get back our POWs, who had been mercilessly tortured in captivity by the Communists.

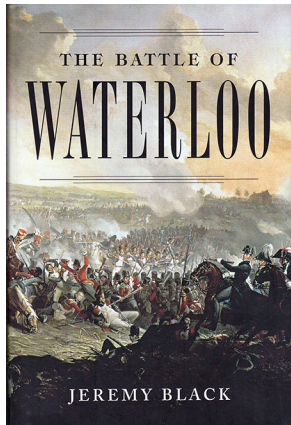
The pilots were returned, but in 1973, the newly elected US Congress withdrew all funding for the defense of South Vietnam and the rest is history.



## Churchill: Walking With Destiny

By Andrew Roberts, Viking, 2018, 982 pages, hardcover, 6 x 9, notes, bibliography, index

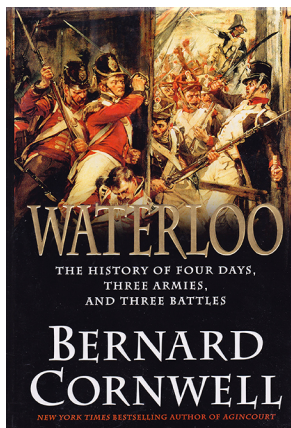
This is the definitive one-volume biography of Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, born of royalty and destined by his own reckoning to one day save the British Empire, which was to him his secular religion. A natural self-assured extrovert, he gained fame as a war correspondent in South Africa, adoration as leader of the Admiralty (Royal Navy), respect for personally fighting at the front in WWI, scorn for his many colossal failures and wrong predictions, acclaim for his magnificent speeches (which were meticulously rehearsed), and contempt for taking Herr Hitler seriously in the 1930s. He adored his aloof father, Sir Randolph Churchill, and grandfather, the Duke of Marlborough. He took to heart the advice of his father, to “trust the people.” During the war, it seemed the entire British establishment distrusted Churchill as prime minister, but the public loved him. He was a prolific writer and a decent painter and drank a lot of booze, which invigorated him (he also smoked an estimated 160,000 cigars). He nearly always lived beyond his means (at times friends had to help with finances). He was an avowed anti-Communist, but not averse to local socialist policies. He could tear political foes to pieces in public and then invite them to dinner. He switched political parties, twice. He loved the French; his hero was Napoleon. He had a complicated relationship with Franklin D. Roosevelt. He kept long, odd hours and feared dying at a young age, yet his energy was unlimited, his willpower indomitable. From youth, he had an amazing ability to memorize facts and literary works and recall them years later. After the war, he was tossed out of office, served another term as PM years later, and died of old age in 1965. Roberts states that the important point of Churchill in 1940 is not that he prevented a German invasion, but that he stopped the British government from making peace. A military colleague said of Churchill after Churchill’s death: “He was a child of nature. He venerated tradition, but ridiculed convention.”



## **The Battle of Waterloo**

By Jeremy Black, Random House, 2010, 217 pages, hardcover, 5 x 8, notes, bibliography, index

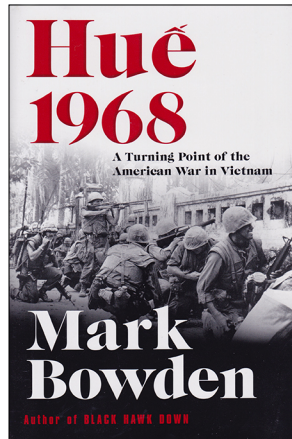
This book is a short, concise accounting of the battle in Belgium in 1815 between a resurgent Napoleon and the British forces under Wellington and Prussians under Blucher. Success or failure hinged on timing. Could Blucher march to the scene in time to repulse the French as they battled the British? Following the course of the battle reveals the advantages and disadvantages of conflict among the three types of armed forces—infantry, cavalry, and artillery. Most startling was the carnage, the vast numbers of killed and wounded, in the tens of thousands. The results of Waterloo reverberates today. This is a well-written book which suffers heavily from the lack of any maps or illustrations.



## **Waterloo: The History of Four Days, Three Armies, and Three Battles**

By Bernard Cornwell, Harper Collins, 2014, 342 pages, hardcover, 5.5 x 9.25, notes, bibliography, index

The bookslip actually tells the truth: “In his first work of non-fiction, Cornwell combines his storytelling skills with a meticulously researched history to give a riveting chronicle of every dramatic moment.” A popular history, for sure, this finely crafted book is a work of art, containing many beautiful color reproductions and simple-to-follow maps by Martin Brown in a chapter-by-chapter narrative that makes the battle easier to follow. Also notable is Cornwell’s extensive use of the participants’ own words and their reaction to the carnage. “Everyone was separated from his comrades and fought for his own life. Sabres and bayonets slashed at the shaking flesh for we were too close packed to use our firearms,” quoted one survivor of a cavalry-infantry clash. Decisions by the generals are analyzed as the fog of war set in: “The order is worth quoting at length because it is almost impenetrable nonsense.” Waterloo ended the long struggle between Great Britain and France, and ensured that the British would dominate the 19th Century. A most welcome popular history of one of the most fascinating battles of all time.

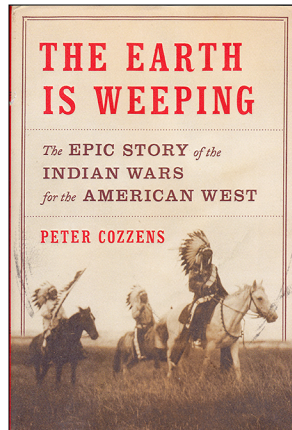


## Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam

By Mark Bowden, Atlantic Monthly Press, 2017, 539 pages, hardcover, 5.5 x 9, notes, bibliography, index

The battle for the ancient city of Hue (pronounced way) in the far north reaches of South Vietnam was the largest and bloodiest of that war, part of the Tet Offensive, and a turning point in the conflict. Planned for months, ten thousand North Vietnamese regulars plus infiltrators already inside the walled city attacked and gained possession of all but two locations—an ARVN (South Vietnamese army) compound and a small post for American advisors. It would take a month of intense, block-by-block fighting by US Marines to take back the city from its ferocious captors, with the unfortunate civilians caught in the middle, hunkered down or scurrying from building to building. The failure of the US commanders to realize or admit the extent of the damage (General Westmoreland refused to acknowledge that the city had been captured) and the tenacity of the enemy caused many senseless casualties. Utilizing American ingenuity and a lot of raw courage, the Marines slowly managed to retake the city, sector by sector, but at a terrible price. The city was nearly destroyed. Public support for the war began seriously to wane. Bowden, award-winning author of *Blackhawk Down*, goes to great lengths to tell the story of the battle from the viewpoint of both sides and the civilians. In talking to the American survivors of the battle, Bowden noted that most all displayed three traits: they had been proud to serve; they felt that their idealism had been betrayed by their superiors; and that they felt sorrow for those friends lost and the horrors of war especially because there had little point to the fighting. If you have interest in the subject matter, this is the book to read.





## **The Earth Is Weeping:**

### **The Epic Story of the Indian Wars in the American West**

By Peter Cozzens, Knopf, 2016, 467 pages, hardcover, 5.5 x 9, notes, bibliography, index, chronology

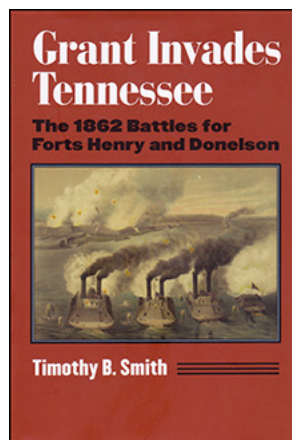
If you have ever wanted to read a comprehensive book about the Indian Wars “out west” in the latter half of the 19th Century, Cozzens’ thick volume is the book for you. Author of many Civil War histories, Cozzens turns his attention to the clashes between the US Army troopers and the Native-Indian tribes west of the Mississippi, as diverse and complicated as the terrain they defended. There was much intertribal conflict as to the strategies in combating the white settlers and soldiers. Life was squalid for US troopers on the frontier, and the forts were filled with many interesting characters, drunk and sober. At times, the brutality and the senselessness of the wars and punitive expeditions defy belief. It is Cozzens’ contention that the official policy of the US government was not extermination of the Native-Americans; the conflicts among the many tribes, the young and the old, the settlers and the government, the speculators, gold diggers, and farmer/ranchers was much more nuanced. Needless to say, the outcome for those Native-Americans who could not adapt or could not capitulate was unacceptable to them. But for most tribes, there was no choice other than to hold out as long as possible or live on the reservations. By the turn of the century, the process was over. The book benefits from many excellent maps and photos, but some readers may be overcome with the vast multitude of names, dates, characters, battles, and skirmishes. This is fascinating, if not light, reading.



## Messerschmitt Me 264 Amerika Bomber

By Robert Forsyth, Osprey Publishing, 2016, softcover, 7.25 x 9.75, 80 pages

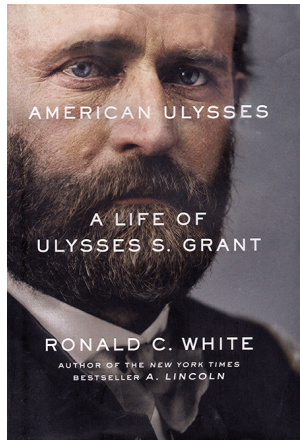
One of the biggest mysteries of World War Two was Nazi Germany's failure to develop a strategic four-engine heavy bomber similar to the Boeing B-17 or the British Lancaster. This concise illustrated book by Robert Forsyth, the second in Osprey's X-Plane series, provides much of the answer. Hitler pictured the Amerika bomber as a revenge weapon capable of dropping bombs on New York City (an artistic color spread in the book depicts just such a scenario) or even further inland. Other military planners proposed to use the bomber to provide aerial support for U-boat operations off the East Coast of the U.S. Ironically, much of the failure to develop such a behemoth owned to the growing scarcity of resources, much of which were devoted by the Third Reich to Hitler's vengeance weapons (cruise missiles and rockets) against England and the twin-engine Me262 jet fighter-bomber. The other factor was indecisiveness among the high command, particularly Erhard Milch's grudge against Willy Messerschmidt, who never gave up on the project. Only one prototype was ever built and test-flown. The bomber's glazed nose and circular cross-section resembled that of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress, but the Me264 sported a twin tail assembly and sat much lower to the ground. There were also significant problems with the powerplants, the original Junkers Jumos eventually replaced with BMWs. The most pronounced feature of the Ameika bomber was its 141-foot wingspan, twice its length, which gave the 50-ton aircraft an unlikely graceful look in the air. Karl Baur was the main test pilot, flying the Me264 on 30 occasions and rescuing the airframe on several occasions. He was a very talented flyer. By 1939, Baur had flown 54,000 miles in 2,855 flights in more than 60 different aircraft! After the war, he worked briefly for Chance Vought Aircraft in Dallas, Texas. By the time the multitude of problems with the Me264 were being tackled during test flights, the vastly superior B-29 Superfortresses were beginning bomb runs against Japan from bases in India. The B-29 would eventually deliver the atomic bomb to the Japanese homeland. Just as Germany's project to develop an atomic bomb faltered for lack of time and resources, so did the fate of the Me264 heavy bomber.



## **Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson**

By Timothy B. Smith, University Press of Kansas, 2016, hardcover, 6 x 9, 513 pages, maps, notes, orders of battle, bibliography and index

Dr. Smith is a lecturer at the University of Tennessee-Martin, a tour guide, and an author of many Civil War books, including several on the Battle of Shiloh. The effective beginning of military operations against the Confederacy in the Western Theater was the February 1862 capture of Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. Smith argues convincingly that the surrender of Fort Henry was the more important of the two, allowing Federal gunboats to roam unmolested upriver all the way to Florence, Alabama, deep into enemy territory. The Confederates were forced to abandon their stronghold on the Mississippi River at Columbus, Kentucky, and they would eventually lose Memphis, Tennessee that June. In making his case, Smith underplays to some extent the capture of Clarksville and Nashville, the capital of Tennessee, in order to make his point. The affair at Fort Henry on February 6 lasted about an hour and was totally a Federal naval victory for the newly constructed City-class ironclads in their first battle. The largest part of the book and the best maps are reserved for the infantry and artillery battle at Fort Donelson. For what it's worth, this book is the first treatment I have read that explains concisely not only all the lesser skirmishes that comprised the multi-day battle but the failures of the Confederate high command to take advantage of their attempts to break out of the Union siege and escape to Nashville (two Confederate commanders abdicated their duties and fled, and only Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest led his cavalry command out of the melee). The fall of the river forts was a staggering blow from which the Confederacy would never recover. It was also a victory that convinced the Federals that the war would soon be over—a notion that was thoroughly disavowed that spring at a place called Shiloh.



## American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant

By Ronald C. White, Random House, 2016, hard-cover, 6 x 9, 826 pages

American Ulysses is a readable, complete history of U.S. Grant which succeeds well in reclaiming the historical importance of its subject, the most revered man in the U.S. in the latter part of the 19th Century. Perhaps the author succeeds too well in his mission, as there is little in this book which finds Grant lacking. The reader will learn that Grant spent much of his time at West Point reading novels, and impressed everyone with his way with horses, both his ability to tame them without harming them and his ability to trick-ride almost like a circus performer. Grant loved the theater, and smoked a pipe before the press almost demanded that he switch to cigars (throat cancer eventually killed him long after the war). According to White, Grant's quiet thoughtfulness and directness, coupled with his lack of affectation and simple style of dress, won over many of his associates. Grant became famous in war for learning to make the enemy fear his intentions, instead of the other way around. Grant's stubbornness in pursuing the enemy in Virginia won him the label of "butcher," but such labels in wartime tend to be relative. Grant could not stand the sight and sound of suffering but he was capable of launching frontal attacks such as Cold Harbor. Thankfully, Grant was capable of learning from his mistakes. The relationship of Lincoln and Grant is covered well in this book, not surprising since the author is an expert on Lincoln, who trusted his commanding general explicitly. One of Grant's true friends was William Tecumseh Sherman; they formed a mutual admiration society. As President, Grant is commended for his efforts on behalf of not only former slaves and freedmen but also Native-Americans. As a leader, Grant was more effective and comfortable on the battlefield than in the Oval Office. In this book, White emphasizes the relationship of Grant and his wife Julia, whose father was a slaveowner and disapproved of the marriage. The Grants were totally devoted to each other; she was much more outgoing and social than he. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Grant unsuccessfully urged her husband to run for a third term because she enjoyed living in the White House so much! This is a fine biography, organized and edited well, with interesting illustrations and fine maps.



## Mozart: A Life

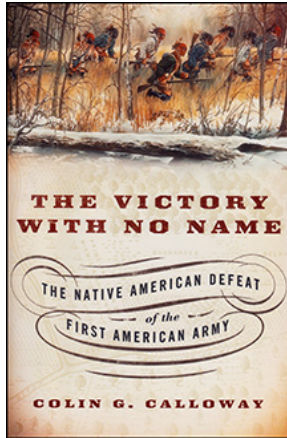
By Paul Johnson, Viking Penguin, 2013, 164 pages, hardcover, 6 x 9, index

Johnson has written many concise biographies of famous people (Socrates, Churchill, Eisenhower) and this accounting of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of his best. Of course, he has an extremely interesting character to write about. Mozart was a prodigy at an early age; his musician father carted him throughout Europe showing off his works. He had performed before kings and queens throughout the Continent before he was ten years old. A native of Salzburg, he learned to speak Latin and English and picked up mathematics easily. By his teens, he was considered the equal of any composer alive (or dead).

I am not a big fan of classical music and I do not know much about the great composers, but this compact book proved to be a fascinating account of a great genius. Some of Johnson's more esoteric observations flew over my head but for the most part I could follow his reasoning. Mozart died at the age of 35 of liver disease. I intended to list all of the musical compositions that Mozart produced, but the list on page 4 of the book is literally too lengthy to reproduce here.

Mozart was a prolific genius who mastered every instrument except the harp and produced operas, masses, songs, ballet music, arias, symphonies, concertos, dances, and many other works. "He played and composed as he breathed," writes Johnson, with fluidity, speed, and accuracy. Mozart was also a joker, incorporating many musical jokes into his works, some that probably still remain hidden and unmined even today. Mozart loved to dance and he wrote a lot of dance music. His one great passion, other than music, was billiards. He would compose while waiting his turn to play, fidgeting with billiard balls in hand. "Mozart had a fetish about smooth, rolling objects."

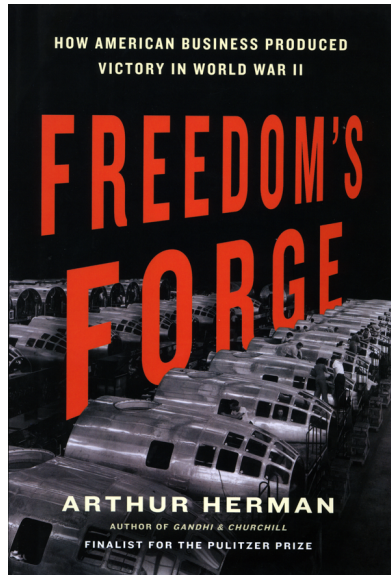
Mozart could be touchy and edgy, but people enjoyed him for his love of life. "Gay himself by nature," Johnson writes, "he saw no reason why people should not enjoy a little innocent pleasure, or not-so-innocent pleasure, for that matter." I was caught by one catch-phrase buried inside a chapter — "Mozart's beauty prevents one from appreciating his power."



**The Victory with No Name:  
The Native American Defeat of the First American Army**

By Colin G. Calloway, Oxford University Press, 2015, 214 pages, hardcover, 6 x 9, notes, bibliography, index

This book is the story of one of the most significant battles on American soil that nobody knows about — the largest victory of Indian tribes against the U.S. Army. It happened at the headwaters of the Wabash River in Ohio near the modern Indiana border on Nov. 4, 1791. About one thousand warriors from nine Indian tribes organized into three divisions attacked the encampment of Major General Arthur St. Clair's 1,400-man expedition into the frontier Northwest Territory. In a bloody three-hour fight at dawn, the Indians maneuvered brilliantly against first the Kentucky riflemen and then the large encampment, encircling it. One thousand of the expedition, which included women and children, were either killed or captured; it is a miracle that anyone at all escaped the bloodbath. Many victims were scalped. One survivor reached the Ohio River settlements with an Indian tomahawk still buried in his skull. The debacle produced the first congressional investigation in American history and proved to the European settlers that the Native Americans could fight in an organized manner. Calloway's well-researched account of the battle emphasizes the successful battle plan of the confederated Indians rather than dwelling on the deficiencies of the expedition, which were many. The book spends more than 100 pages setting the scene and includes many well-drawn maps and illustrations of the principals. For many more details about the expedition and the battle, consult John F. Winkler's *Wabash 1791*. Three years after Wabash, the army was avenged at the Battle of Fallen Timbers and the Treaty of Greenville, which opened Ohio to rapid settlement. St. Clair, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, survived the battle but was discredited and died in abject poverty in 1818. I must take exception to the title of this book, as the battle has many names-- St. Clair's Defeat, St. Clair's Massacre, Wabash River or simply Wabash, and, I would imagine, numerous Native American names. Whatever the name, this is a significant battle which has largely been forgotten by Americans.



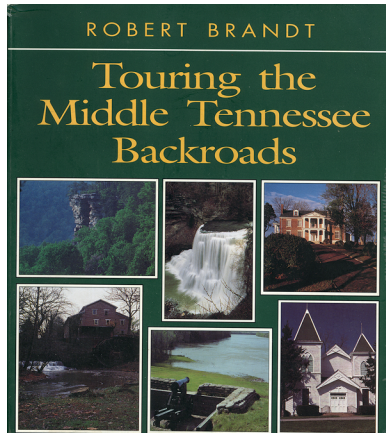
## **Freedom's Forge:**

### **How American Business Produced Victory in World War II**

By Arthur Herman

Random House 2012, 413 pages, ISBN 978-1-4000-6964-4

This is the pro-business story of how American industry geared up for war, supplying both the domestic and foreign need for munitions, beginning well before Pearl Harbor. The book focuses on industrial titans Bill Knudsen and Henry Kaiser (plus a supporting cast) and their struggles to produce warplanes and warships, especially cargo ships, in record numbers. The development and production of Liberty ships and the massive B-29 bomber are highlighted; barely mentioned is the Manhattan Project. The author contends, convincingly, that it was the free enterprise system and newly designed mass production that won the war despite governmental leanings toward centralization and the demands of labor unions. Herman does not forget the little man, the worker on the line, and the role of small businesses. A very readable book, virtually a page turner, that turns some historical assumptions on their heads.



## **Touring the Middle Tennessee Backroads**

By Robert Brandt

John F. Blair Publisher 1995, 412 pages, ISBN 0-89587-129-7

This is the book that got me started. This guidebook of 15 driving tours in Middle Tennessee (excluding Nashville itself), is chock full of interesting and readable history and should be required reading in all of our schools. The directions are easy to follow and the tour stops are both historic sites and natural scenic sights. The only disappointment in this well-researched, well-written, and well-organized book is the small size of the photos. Still, a must purchase for Middle Tennessee history buffs. Get out of that overstuffed chair and hit the road!



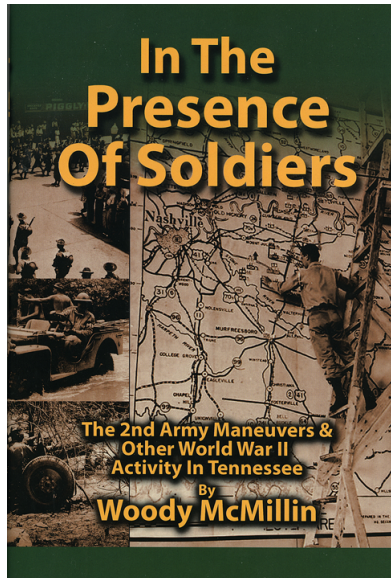


## **A Grand Old Flag**

By Kevin Keim and Peter Keim

DK Publishing 2007, 192 pages, ISBN 978-0-7566-2847-5

This gorgeous coffee table book written by a father-and-son team of flag collectors succeeds in the theme of its subtitle—A History of the United States Through Its Flags. Showcasing the variety of U.S. flags, which changed as new states were admitted to the Union, this well-illustrated book not only tells of flag history but also of flag design, manufacture, and nomenclature. In addition, the authors write authoritatively about every aspect of American patriotism in all of its manifestations. You will learn something new reading this graphic history book. Highly recommended.

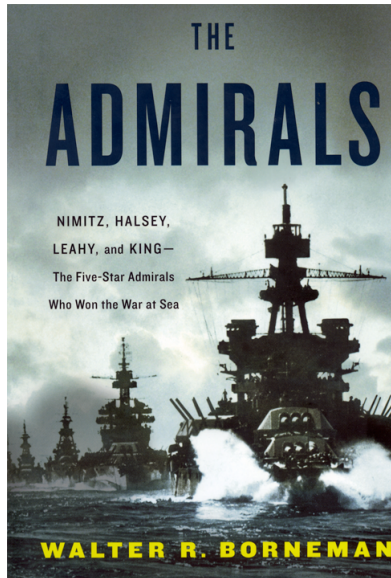


## **In the Presence of Soldiers**

By Woody McMillin

Horton Heights Press 2010, 488 pages, Hardcover, ISBN 978-0-9827770-0-8

This highly researched reference book lives up to its subtitle: *The 2nd Army Maneuvers & Other World War II Activity in Tennessee* with detailed descriptions of all the war “games” conducted in Middle Tennessee in preparation for the invasion of Nazi Europe, and the variety of war industries here. Every detail is covered in this indispensable resource for researchers. But there are a multitude of fascinating stories and warm-hearted anecdotes about the clash between the young green soldiers and the farmers and homefolk over whose property they were “fighting.” Tragically, there were significant fatalities and injuries even in training exercises. But the lessons learned here resulted in success overseas and the saving of lives. Fantastic reference resource.



## **The Admirals: The Five-Star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea**

By Walter R. Borneman

Little, Brown & Co. 2012, 559 pages, Hardcover, ISBN 978-0-316-09784-0

The five-star admirals who won the War in the Pacific, 1941-45—Ernest King, William Leahy, Chester Nimitz, and William “Bull” Halsey—are profiled from their days at Annapolis through the world wars. All different men, but all four displayed the talent that was required following Pearl Harbor—leadership. As the naval warfare changed from battleships to submarines and aircraft carriers, these four men adapted and persevered in beating the Japanese. Fights among the services, amongst themselves, with General MacArthur and their British counterparts, are all described. The unheralded contributions of Leahy and King are duly noted, as are the questionable tactics of Halsey, especially his confrontation with two South Pacific typhoons. This is not light reading and the beginning of the book seems tedious but the payoff comes when the fighting begins.

FROM PHILADELPHIA TO THE SOUTH

## THE GREAT WAGON ROAD

BY PARKE ROUSE, JR.



How Scotch-Irish and Germanics Settled the Uplands

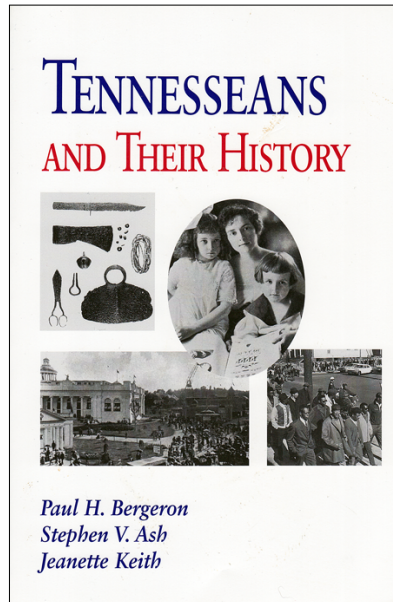
### The Great Wagon Road:

#### How the Scots-Irish and Germanics Settled the Uplands

By Parke Rouse Jr.

The Dietz Press 2004, 292 pages, Softcover, ISBN 0-87517-065-X

The Great Wagon Road stretched from Philadelphia down the Shenandoah Valley to the Scots-Irish settlements in the backcountry of the Carolinas and overmountain into what would become Tennessee and Kentucky. The Kentucky rifle and the Conestoga wagon originated in Pennsylvania, wrought by German craftsmen. Up until that time, colonial America consisted of coastal settlements; the uprooted proud but poverty-stricken Scots-Irish were in search of their own lands and were willing to fight the elements and the Indians to stake their claim. This is a readable book, somewhat disorganized, but full of interesting history, a good map, and helpful photos.

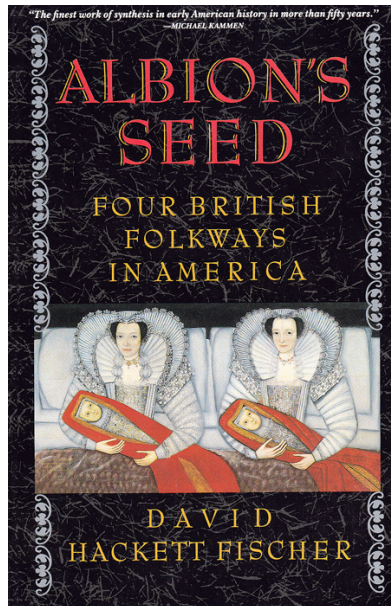


## **Tennesseans and Their History**

By Paul H. Bergeron, Stephen V. Ashe, and Jeanette Keith

The University of Tennessee Press 1999, 357 pages, Softcover, ISBN 1-57233-055-4

Inhabited for the past 12,000 years, consisting of nine distinct geographic regions and three grand political divisions, plunged asunder by a great war with divided loyalties, Tennessee has a fascinating history. This book is a broad overview of the history of the 16th state and the struggles among all the various ethnic, political, and social factions. The fascinating personalities—Sevier, Jackson, Crockett, Houston—are here, along with the more common folk. Each chapter concludes with a list of suggested readings. Sidebars highlight interesting episodes and events. This book reads like a textbook, but it also is of interest to those citizens eager to read a more up-to-date history of the Volunteer State. As the authors state in the introduction, “Tennessee’s history is anything but dull.”

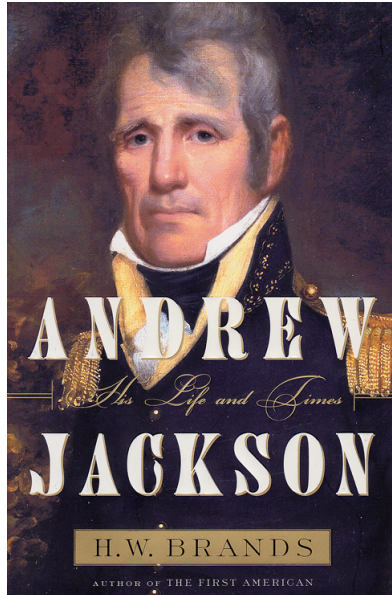


## **Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America**

By David Hackett Fischer

Oxford University Press 1989, 946 pages, Softcover, ISBN 978-0-19-506905-1

This lengthy, well-researched reference book describes the four distinct migrations of British groups to America in colonial times (Albion is a historic name for Britain.) First there was the exodus of East Anglican Puritans to Massachusetts in 1629-1641; then the Cavaliers and indentured servants of southern England to Virginia in 1642-1675; the Quakers of the Midlands to the Delaware valley in 1675-1725; and finally the Scots-Irish and Borderlands to the backcountry in 1717-1775. Each migration is examined in relation to 24 folkways (styles of living) with an abundance of footnotes, drawings, diagrams, maps, and charts. Although less than 20 percent of Americans today have no British ancestors, these four folkways, well established by 1775, determined how society in the United States would play out.

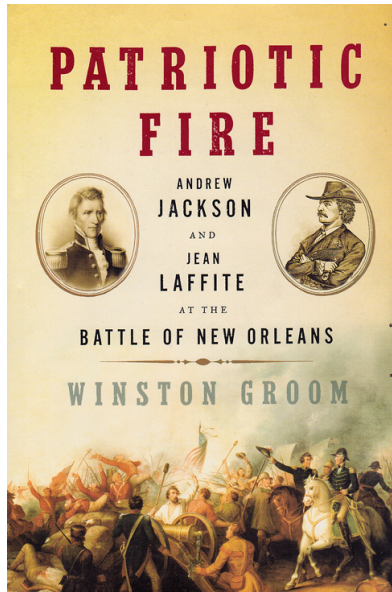


## Andrew Jackson: His Life and Times

By H.W. Brands

Doubleday 2005, 620 pages, Hardcover, ISBN 0-385-50738-0

During a lecture in Nashville, author Brands said Andrew Jackson was a man of his times and should be judged as so. If one acknowledges his Scots-Irish background, the early death of most of his relatives, and his intense hatred of the British, his actions in his adult life, especially his relations with the Indians, become more understandable if not totally justifiable. Love him or hate him, Jackson was a force to be reckoned with, a man of immeasurable will and determination. His was the first Presidency that did not emerge from aristocracy; he was the first Westerner to occupy the White House. He lost the love of his life, wife Rachel, between the 1828 election and his inauguration; he blamed his political rivals for causing her death. He was, like many great men, a man of many contradictions. The era he lived in is now called the Age of Jackson.



## **Patriotic Fire:**

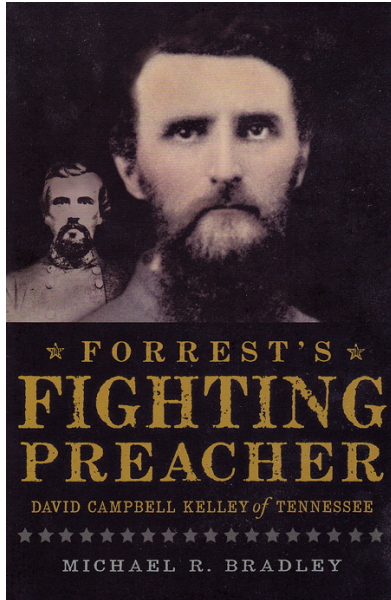
**Andrew Jackson and Jean Laffite at the Battle of New Orleans**

By Winston Groom

Alfred A. Knopf 2006, 292 pages, Hardcover, ISBN 1-4000-4436-7

While January 8th is not a national holiday or day of wide celebration, the anniversary of the 1814 Battle of New Orleans should remind us of that glorious victory of an American stew of warriors (today, one would say diverse) that defeated the greatest army in the world, the one that had just defeated Napoleon. Most indicative of this unlikely confederation was the relationship between Andrew Jackson (the only man who could have commanded such a legion) and the pirate Jean Laffite, whose cannoneers wrecked havoc on the attacking British redcoats. A great storyteller, Groom (author of several bestselling popular history books and *Forest Gump*) informs and entertains us with his narrative of the Gulf Coast campaign. As 40 years before, the British underestimated the courage and skills of their American cousins and paid dearly for it.





## **Forrest's Fighting Preacher: David Campbell Kelley of Tennessee**

By Michael R. Bradley

The History Press 2011, 142 pages, Softcover, ISBN 978-1-60949-383-7

Middle Tennessee historian and professor Bradley tells the fascinating story of General Nathan Bedford Forrest's second-in-command, David C. Kelley, who served as a Methodist preacher and missionary to China before the war. After the war, Kelley was instrumental in establishing Vanderbilt University in Nashville and even running (unsuccessfully) as governor of Tennessee on the Prohibition ticket.