

effective counter-measures before the mines could be fully deployed. When the Germans eventually developed an effective acoustic mine, they were so afraid of using it prematurely, that they never fully deployed it prior to D-Day. This paralysis deprived Germany of the opportunity to inflict potentially crippling losses on the Allied invasion fleet. According to the authors, another issue that delayed or hindered the introduction of new technical innovations is the inert conservatism that was a hallmark of most naval services, partially fueled by the budgetary restraints that are often placed on navies in times of peace. In general, they preferred to invest their limited funding on existing, rather than new, technologies. Finally, as the section on the pair of weapons platforms shows, both submarines and aircraft only came to the fore once they received better weapons.

Overall, the authors have succeeded in detailing how technological innovations dramatically improved the effectiveness of military weapons in these three conflicts.

They have provided a highly readable account of this process and their success is all the more remarkable given their non-technical background. Moreover, their observations can be easily applied to other weapons systems from all the military branches.

Consequently, this book is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in the process of applying new technology to meet military needs.

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Joshua M. Smith. *Making Maine: Statehood and the War of 1812*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, www.umasspress.com, 2022. xii+312 pp., map, notes, index. US \$34.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-62534-701-5.

For many secondary and undergraduate students and cable TV/armchair history enthusiasts, early American wars are understood as a series of temporally- and spatially-bound battles fought by the professional armies and navies of combatant countries, scattered across the North American landscape. For the War of 1812, fought between the United States and Great Britain between 1812 and 1815, relatively contained battles punctuate its beginning, such as the Battle of York (27 April 1813) and its end, the Battle of New Orleans (8 January 1815). Other famous War of 1812 battles include the Battle of Lake Erie (10 September 1813), the burning of Washington City [D.C.] (24 August 1814), and the Battle of Baltimore (13 September 1814) for which the Star-Spangled Banner was written. No early American war fought on the

home front, however, was experienced by its residents or combatants in such a discrete way. Nor was the war a uniform experience across individual regions or states. The outcome of the war had widely different impacts across the country – for Maine, it culminated in independence from Massachusetts and statehood.

In *Making Maine: Statehood and the War of 1812*, Joshua Smith explores the variable experiences of Maine's communities and citizens and their search for identity before, during, and immediately after the War of 1812, along with the enduring effects the war had on their lives in the following decades. The discussion is set within in the context of three explicit themes: the changing relationship between regional and national identities; the misery of war; and Maine's post-war statehood movement. Smith aims to remove the "rose-coloured glasses" and heroic hagiography so often applied to history and its participants. The interwar period in Maine included invasion and occupation, famine, high-taxation, loss of commerce, an ever-growing disabled veteran population, divided communities, destroyed families, and leadership motivated by public office and personal ambition.

The War of 1812 was instigated, ostensibly, by American opposition to Britain's illegal impressment of American sailors into the Royal Navy to serve in the Napoleonic Wars. Maine became an ideological battleground between President Madison's pro-war Republican administration and the strong opposition supported by Federalist-controlled Massachusetts. Maine was not uniform in its support of Massachusetts's leadership; pre-war, coastal communities tended to be pro-Boston and opposed to war, which significantly curtailed the state economy and established relationships with Canada, while the backcountry resisted Boston's control.

Smith demonstrates that support of, or opposition to, the war was highly partisan, but also practical. Many Maine coastal and border towns viewed their local issues as of greater import than regional or national concerns – British citizens lived within these communities, cross-border economic and social relationships were foundational, etc. Maine relied heavily on British markets, and the war brought stagnation. Smuggling and other illicit activities that ultimately stymied the war effort were crucial to meet the basics needs of the communities.

The American fighting force in the war was never uniform. In Maine, combatants included volunteer units and sanctioned privateers, state-supported militia, and regular army and navy federal military. The identity of volunteer and militia members as active participants was fluid. The relationships between the three groups were contentious at best; a lack of clear leadership and direction produced inefficiencies rife in fighting and the building, maintenance, and manning of defense infrastructure. Military action was rarely,

if ever, consigned to a “battlefield” or restricted to identified combatants, but was status quo within coastal communities and against private citizens. The fluidity of soldier/civilian identity blurred the lines between acceptable action as warfare, e.g., British soldiers raiding and looting coastal towns or privateers targeting military, commercial, or private vessels at will. The war in Maine was less a series of battles than a state of constant harassment. In occupied towns, treatment of the community by the British varied from peaceful occupation to physical destruction, but in all cases, the British endeavoured to strip communities of their resources to support their own war effort. Throughout the war, neither Maine residents nor the volunteer, militia, or military forces stationed or fighting there, ever felt that they were sufficiently supported in terms of leadership, materiel, pay, etc. by either the Madison Administration (who could not) or Boston (who would not).

With the signing of the Treaty of Ghent (24 December 1814), the war ended in what was generally considered a political draw; however, it had profound, lasting effects on Maine. The British continued to pursue payment for prizes and to legally enforce material capture held within Maine communities, and it took several decades to determine the final border between Maine and Canada. After the war, Maine Republicans actively pursued statehood, which Boston, for the most part, did not oppose. Maine became the 23rd state in the United States on 15 March 1820.

Smith’s meticulous research is evident through the sheer number of participants, ships, events, military and civilian actions, etc. he describe to support his analyses and argument. The prose shines best when it diverts from, at times, “laundry lists” of information and provides longer discussions of specific events and the recorded experiences of the people involved; for example, the Penobscot Invasion in late summer, 1814. There are so many affective individuals in the text that this reviewer kept a list of primary actors and their occupation(s), origin, places of residence, political affiliation, religion, etc. to keep them straight! One significant critique is not of the content, but the design of the book itself. Included figures, primarily maps, are well-drawn and contain detailed information pertinent to the discussion; however, they are rarely given more than half a page. The reader requires a magnifying glass to read the text and symbology. Otherwise, this book is highly recommended as an important, new contribution to our understanding of the War of 1812 in Maine and its impact on its communities and citizenry.

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