

Preparation for war, war itself, and the legacy of war are among the most important forces shaping American society and culture. Nevertheless, the study of war is often treated as if the only topics of importance were battles and campaigns, results measured in territory, and reputations gained or lost. This four-volume reference set, *Americans at War*, provides students with a different perspective by examining the profound effect of war upon American society, culture, and national identity. The 395 articles in this set, written by leading academic and independent scholars, cover a wide range of topics. We hope that these articles, focused on the effect of war upon society, will provide new insights into the nation's history and character, and will serve as a resource for further study of America's past and for charting the nation's future.

Volume 1 covers the longest period, 1500 to 1815, especially the era beginning in 1607 with the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown. Between 1607 and 1700, apart from frontier skirmishes, raids, and ambushes, colonists from South Carolina through New England were engaged in over a score of declared wars, rebellions, and insurrections. In the eighteenth century Americans were at war more than at peace. Between 1700 and 1800 Americans engaged in seventeen separate conflicts and rebellions, including the 1739 uprising of slaves at Stono, South Carolina, and the Revolutionary War, 1775–1783. Between 1798 and 1825 the United States was at war with Barbary pirates, Seminole Indians, and in the “Second War of Independence,” 1812–1815, with Great Britain and Canada.

The articles in this volume examine how those wars, especially the Revolutionary War, influenced American literature, art, and music; affected the role of women; shaped the economy; and challenged the institution of slavery. Articles also examine how dissent and rebellion contributed to America's creed of liberty and the formation of its Constitution. Some articles focus on the effects of war in forming and reinforcing American racial attitudes towards Indians and blacks. Others discuss the effect of war upon civil liberties, such as freedom of speech and politics. The memory of America's wars helped to define the nation's culture and identity through patriotic celebrations, monuments, and memorials, and by honoring Revolutionary war veterans. Wars also reinforced the religious view that the nation was a beacon to the world's suffering and repressed.

The articles in Volume 2, 1816 to 1900, examine how wars in the nineteenth century shaped American so-



PREFACE

ciety, culture, and identity while the United States changed from a small, nearly homogeneous, agricultural country into a continental, multicultural, industrial nation. American literature and art, the role of women, industry and technology, race relations, popular culture, political parties, and the Constitution were influenced by those wars, especially the Civil War (1861–1865). Protests against the institution of slavery and the spread of slavery affected the nation's expansion westward. The coming of the Civil War changed American politics through the formation of new parties.

In many ways, the Civil War was America's second revolution, fought to preserve and advance the founding principles of the nation. When Lincoln spoke of a "new birth of freedom" at Gettysburg, he addressed the meaning and vitality of America's most cherished ideals and values—values that were tested and refined by that war. Prior to the Civil War women sought equal rights and Abolitionists fought to end the institution of slavery. Whereas women did not secure their rights after the war, Constitutional amendments ended slavery and redefined the rights of citizenship that later generations struggled to achieve.

The Civil War also resolved the Constitutional issue of whether the states had the right to secede from the Union. The South clung to its image of the war as a "Lost Cause" that had impoverished the region and undermined its way of life. One legacy of defeat was the restoration of racial subjugation through "Black Codes," sharecropping, and the Ku Klux Klan. For both North and South, the Civil War became a source for literature, art, music, and public celebrations to memorialize their concepts of conflict and to honor their own veterans. Although the Civil War preserved the Union, society and culture remained divided.

The articles in Volume 3, 1901 to 1945, examine how America's rise as an imperial and then a world power shaped American society, culture, and identity. During this period the United States engaged in four significant overseas wars, the Spanish American War (1898), the Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902), the First World War (1917–1918), and the Second World War (1941–1945). American literature and art, the role of women, industry and technology, race and ethnic relations, popular culture, political parties, and the power of government were profoundly affected by those wars. The First World War produced a mass migration of blacks from the South to northern cities to work in defense industries. Hostility toward the enemy produced public discrimination against citizens with German ancestors. A "Red Scare," meaning the fear of Communist subversion and restriction of civil liberties by our government, followed the Russian Revolution in 1917. Americans be-

came increasingly suspicious of aliens and dissenters. While seeking world peace through treaties promoting disarmament and renouncing war in the 1930s, America turned its back on the League of Nations and aggression in Asia and Europe.

When World War II began in Europe in 1939, the United States remained neutral. Nevertheless, the nation began to prepare for war, which was declared after Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan. World War II reshaped American society. Massive defense spending and the mobilization of young men and women for military service ended the Great Depression, which had begun in 1929. As a result of defense orders, big business prospered and labor union membership soared during the war years. America achieved a full employment economy during this conflict and this required a large number of women to enter the work force to increase defense production. It also spurred the massive migration of many Americans, especially African Americans, to cities in the North and West. The war effort reinvigorated movements to end racial discrimination and gender inequity. Many of the articles examine the legacy of that war in a wide range of areas that include the expansion of the federal government over the economy and the life of the average citizen as well as fashion, sports, veterans' organizations, medicine, gender roles, race relations, movies, music, patriotic celebrations, veterans, civil liberties, and war widows and orphans.

Volume 4's articles cover 1946 to 2004 and examine how the Cold War (1946–1991) and the War on Terror have formed American society, culture, and identity. For nearly fifty years, United States and its allies contested the Communist Bloc led by the Soviet Union. The "cold" part of the Cold War involved an elaborate worldwide network of alliances and military bases, an arms race to produce nuclear weapons, and the means to deliver those weapons to destroy whole civilizations. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 left the United States as the only superpower on the globe. The years after 1991 appeared to begin a new era of peace as fear of a cataclysmic war began to fade. However, since September 11, 2001 a new threat, terrorism, has again led America to an unprecedented form of war that is both foreign and domestic. Homeland security has become a feature of war in the twenty-first century.

The articles in this volume reflect the new role of America after World War II. Unlike the generation following World War I, Americans could not return to isolationism. National Defense became the nation's priority. Safeguarding the nation against subversion and aggression affected all parts of American society, culture and identity. Anticommunism following World War II produced a second Red Scare that again tested the limits of

civil liberties and introduced a new term, “McCarthyism.” In 1954 Congress amended the Pledge of Allegiance, adding “under God” to the description of “one nation” to underscore the difference between “godless communism” and the religious foundation of American democracy.

An arms race with the Soviet Union contributed to the growth of the federal government, fueled spending on education, and created a significant defense industry. In his farewell address in 1961 President Eisenhower warned of a “military-industrial complex.” Films and novels about experiences in World War II, the Korean War, and especially the Vietnam War revealed the traumatic effects of combat on soldiers and their families. During the Vietnam War television brought the images of combat into American homes.

Defeating Fascism and Nazi racialism in World War II energized efforts to close the gap between American ideals of equality and opportunity and social practices that involved racial, gender, and sexual discrimination. During the late 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s, anti-war and anti-establishment protests as well as the civil rights, feminist, and black power movements, challenged cultural conventions and roiled American society. These conflicts changed American literature and art, gender and race relations, popular culture, the entertainment industry, political parties, and the Constitution. The articles in this volume examine those changes as legacies of the Cold War and America’s conflicts since World War II. They also explore the impact of the War on Terror on American citizens through the Homeland Security Act, the implications of the concepts of “just wars” and “preemptive war” on American society, culture, and identity as a nation.

All of the articles in these four volumes are written for the general reader and are supplemented with aids to make the material accessible. A Topic Outline assists readers who wish to focus on a particular issue, such as civil liberties, that appears in all volumes. Additional text appears as sidebars to further illustrate or elaborate portions of articles. A select bibliography follows each article for readers who wish to study the subject further. A general chronology of events from 1500 to 2004 will assist readers in placing the articles they are reading in a larger historical context. An Index will lead readers to

specific subjects. A Glossary defines key terms that might not be clear to younger readers. The editors hope that *Americans at War* will not only assist students and researchers in obtaining information, but will also encourage additional reading about the effect of war upon American society, culture, and identity.

Americans at War is the product of 234 authors and the editorial board. I thank all of the contributors for their fine work and outstanding scholarship. In particular, I wish to express gratitude and admiration to my associate editors for their thoughtful, timely, and untiring work on this project. Sally G. McMillen, Babcock Professor of History at Davidson College, edited Volume 2. Professor G. Kurt Piehler, Director, Center for the Study of War and Society, University of Tennessee, edited Volume 3. Professor D’Ann Campbell, Dean of Academics, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and Professor Richard Jensen, Independent Scholar, edited Volume 4. I wish to thank H el ene Potter, senior editor at Macmillan Library Reference. She brought this editorial team together early in the process and has provided support, guidance, and encouragement to transform a concept into reality.

I also thank Oona Schmid at Macmillan, who recognized the need for a reference set on the effects of war upon American society and initiated the project. I hope that she, although no longer at Macmillan, feels the satisfaction of seeing her vision come true. The editors thank Anthony Aiello, who was our first project editor and who is also a contributor to the set. Finally, we wish to extend our deep appreciation and thanks to Kristin Hart, our project editor, who assisted us through the final stages of producing the set. Her attention to detail, responsiveness, clarity, and helpfulness were invaluable in the completion of the project. Finally, I thank the Humanities Center at the University of New Hampshire–Durham for its grant of a Senior Faculty Research Fellowship which helped to provide the time for me to devote to this project, and for support from the University of New Hampshire–Manchester.

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SETTLEMENT AND THE CREATION OF THE UNITED STATES, 1607–1825

This volume covers the period of American history from 1607 to 1825, an era of dramatic change. The events of that era were set against the sixteenth-century background of Indian civilizations in Central and South America decimated by disease and conquest at the hands of Spain, and Indian culture throughout the New World changed by European trade and Christian missionaries. Beginning in the early seventeenth century, the “European Invasion” (the term used by modern historians to describe colonization), expanded in North America with increased migration of French, Dutch, Spanish, and English settlers. The eighteenth century was a period of fundamental change as a result of the rapid expansion of English provinces, the War for Independence, and the creation of the United States. Between 1789 and 1825 the United States launched an experiment in republican government; began to develop its own culture; doubled in size; and developed a market economy that produced a division between the emerging industrial north, which relied on wage labor, and the plantation south, which relied on slavery.

From colonial settlement through the early years of the nation, war was a powerful force shaping American society and culture. Between 1607 and 1700, apart from frontier skirmishes, raids, and ambushes, colonists from South Carolina through New England were engaged in over a score of declared wars, rebellions, and insurrections. In the eighteenth century Americans were at war more than at peace. Between 1700 and 1800 Americans engaged in seventeen separate conflicts and rebellions, including the 1739 uprising of slaves at Stono, South Carolina, and the Revolutionary War, 1775–1783. Between 1800 and 1825, the United States was at war with Barbary pirates, Seminole Indians, Great Britain in the “Second War of Independence” (1812–1815), and even with its own citizens in the Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania.

The articles in this volume examine how colonial wars and especially the Revolutionary War shaped American society, culture, and identity. American literature and art, the role of women, the economy, race relations, popular culture, patriotic celebrations, national memory, political parties, and the Constitution were profoundly affected by those wars.

1607–1700

War fashioned the first permanent English settlement in North America. The English founders of Jamestown in



INTRODUCTION

1607, following the example of the Spanish and Portuguese, sought wealth through conquest. The English expected to dominate local inhabitants and to take what they needed. Having first established a military outpost, the “adventurers” at Jamestown believed that they could subjugate local tribes through force of arms. The expansion of settlements around Jamestown increased friction between English and Indians. Jamestown became a fortified village. In 1622 warriors attacked the settlers, inflicting 347 deaths out of a population of nearly 1,400. For the next twenty-four years skirmishes, raids, and ambushes were part of the fabric of life of the struggling colony of Jamestown. These conflicts reinforced the racial and religious identity of the settlers, who viewed themselves as civilized Christians at war with savage pagans.

Jamestown illustrated a pattern found in other English settlements—frontier conflicts, social organization for self-defense, and use of race and religion to explain and justify warfare. In New England, during the Pequot War, 1636–1637, Connecticut settlers aided by Indian allies killed nearly 700 Pequot men, women, and children in their village on the Mystic River. The destruction of the tribe opened the Connecticut Valley to English settlement. Even more devastating was King Philip’s War (also known as Metacom’s War), 1675–1676. During this war the New England frontier was in flames. A dozen towns were destroyed in Indian raids, about 600 colonists were killed, and hundreds more were captured. Mary Rowlandson’s account of her captivity became a benchmark in American romantic literature that portrayed divinely inspired feminine heroism overcoming satanic savagery. Nearly half of the 10,000 Indians in New England died in King Philip’s War, including women and children, as well as some Indians who had converted to Christianity. Some survivors were sold into East Indian slavery.

As a result of the war, New England reorganized its militia to improve security. Puritan ministers, who interpreted Indian devastation as punishment from God, instructed their congregations to end their sinful ways to prevent future wars. The gun and Bible were the foundations of this society that believed its divine mission was to establish a kingdom guided by God, who was perceived both as benefactor and as avenger. In the nineteenth century, James Fenimore Cooper used colonial wars as a source for his stories, but muted the viciousness of frontier warfare to celebrate the American spirit and character.

By contrast to colonists in Virginia and New England, Quakers settlers who began arriving in Pennsylvania and New Jersey in 1675 practiced pacifism. Quakers believed that people of different religions and races could coexist peacefully. Sustaining friendly relations with In-

dians, Pennsylvanians did not experience the bloody conflicts that characterized Virginia and New England. Pennsylvania had no organized militia until 1740. By the mid-eighteenth century, however, imperial wars, a changing mix of European settlers, westward expansion, and decline of Quaker authority changed Pennsylvania’s treatment of Indians to resemble that of its militant northern and southern neighbors.

1700–1791

A second period in American history began about 1700, after the English had taken the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam (now New York City) and the Hudson Valley and had consolidated their hold along the Atlantic seaboard from New England to Florida. Between 1700 and 1763 the American colonies were involved in a succession of imperial wars between England and its European rivals, Spain and France, as well as wars with Indian tribes. Queen Anne’s War (1702–1713), the Tuscarora War (1711–1713), The War of Jenkins Ear, King George’s War (1739–1748), and the French and Indian War, 1754–1763 affected the colonies’ economies, politics, and identities. England’s defeat of France in the French and Indian War brought to an end nearly fifty years of imperial wars, although conflict with Indians continued with Pontiac’s War (1763–1766). The year 1765 marked the height of English power in North America with the expansion of its rule to Canada, formerly a French territory, and of the Indian lands east of the Mississippi River. That year also marked the beginning of a twenty-five year period that included a constitutional struggle that led to American independence, the creation of a new nation, and the breakup of the English empire in North America.

These eighteenth-century wars, in particular the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War, contributed to a distinct American political culture and identity. The French and Indian War had a profound effect upon ordinary colonists who served under English officers and alongside British troops. Military service revealed a cultural gap between the English in America and those who resided in Great Britain. In 1765 that gap widened with the constitutional conflict over the right of Parliament to directly tax the colonists. The Stamp Act controversy (1765–1766) brought to the surface subtle, yet substantial differences in political philosophy that had evolved over nearly a century and half of colonial self-governance. It also united the colonies through committees of correspondence and the Stamp Act Congress. From 1765 to 1775, events leading to war against Britain forced the American colonists to assess their values, to clarify their identity, and to rethink the political principles that had guided them as English citizens in colonial America.

Rarely in history do people have an opportunity to remake their world by creating a new nation. The Revolutionary War, 1775–1783, and the creation of the Constitution and its Bill of Rights, 1787–1791, produced such an opportunity. During this period Americans established the principal features of their society, culture, and national identity. Most articles in this volume focus on this intense revolutionary period. Some examine the effect of war on American society. The war disrupted the institution of slavery. Thousands of blacks fled their masters to join the British who promised them freedom. Patriots responded by granting freedom to slaves who, with their master's permission, joined the Continental Army. The war affected the lives of women. Wives of soldiers and political leaders assumed new roles. The war exposed the vulnerability of loyalist families whose property had been confiscated, and of wives whose husbands had been forced to emigrate because they sided with Great Britain. The Revolution also created a legacy that affected the next generation of women through the concept of “Republican Motherhood,” the idea that only women were fit to teach children civic values.

The Revolutionary Era had a profound effect upon political thinking and governmental institutions. The American meaning of republicanism was derived from a blend of classical Greek and Roman teachings; Enlightenment philosophy, especially the work of John Locke; and principles learned from the experiences of political protest, rebellion, and the formation of state governments. The transformation of English colonies into independent states permitted political leaders to experiment with new ideas of government—separating the executive, legislative and judicial branches, separating church and state, and limiting government through a bill of rights and written constitution.

More than a war, the Revolution was an era of nation-building. Necessity forced independent states to unite to win the war and to perpetuate their victory over England. In doing so revolutionaries struggled to create a central government that could unite and protect a diverse people and promote their prosperity, and yet not become tyrannical. Failing to achieve these goals as a loose confederation under the Articles of Confederation, Americans launched a new national experiment with the adoption of the Constitution in 1788. The Constitution created a novel form of government that incorporated features of democracy and republicanism, that made people citizens both of their state and of the national government, and that established a republic of unprecedented size.

The Revolutionary era produced symbols of national identity in art, music, and popular culture that celebrated American victories and heroes. “Yankee Doodle,” Fourth of July celebrations, the national flag, Valley Forge, and

portraits of military and political leaders helped to define American identity at a time when the nation's English heritage remained strong. Revolutionary leaders such as Washington, Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, Franklin, and James and Dolley Madison became icons of American values and patriotism for later generations. The war also produced one of the most famous symbols of betrayal, Benedict Arnold.

The Revolution was a source of ideals that Americans used to define themselves then and now. They spoke eloquently of liberty; they fought the war so as not to be enslaved by British tyranny. Embodied in documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federalist Papers, the concepts of equality, human rights, and the rule of law were expressed by Americans even though they treated Indians as savages, owned slaves, and denied equal rights to women. These concepts had deep consequences for American society as the nation confronted the gap between its ideals and practices.

The Revolution began slavery's demise. Prior to the war slavery existed in all of the colonies. After the war, slavery was gradually abolished in the northern states and indentured servitude ended. By 1791, the nation had rejected the European world of kings, royalty, and rigid class structure. A new world of democracy, republican self-governance, individual liberty, and equality—although not enjoyed by all—emerged. The American experiment had begun.

1791–1825

During this early national period the United States pursued its republican experiment. A two-party system evolved—the Federalists led by Washington and Alexander Hamilton, and the Jeffersonian Republicans. The authors of the Constitution had not anticipated the formation of political parties, but the party system proved necessary to the peaceful transfer of power between opposing groups. The Supreme Court under Chief Justice John Marshall affirmed that the Constitution was the supreme law of the land and that laws must conform to it in order to be legitimate. The Supreme Court also ensured that the nation's economy would be built along capitalist principles and would extend beyond Jefferson's ideal of an agrarian nation to include industry and commerce.

America engaged in minor conflicts during this period, as well as a major war with England from 1812 to 1815. War tested the unity of the nation and helped to define its political culture. The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, passed to protect the nation against internal subversion during America's “quasi war” with France, suppressed the freedoms of speech and press. The acts first

tested the authority of the federal government to curtail civil rights during war. That controversy reoccurred in subsequent wars and continues today in the “war against terror.” War also tested the meaning of patriotism when New England threatened to secede from the Union as a result of Congress’s declaration of war against England in 1812 and the economic disruption that followed.

The War of 1812 produced new heroes and patriots, such as Andrew Jackson, reinforcing the myth of American military prowess following his victory in New Orleans in 1815. An outburst of American nationalism followed. A new generation of Americans used past wars as a source in building the nation’s identity and culture to unite a diverse people. Americans celebrated the idea that United States had a special, even divine, mission to play in the world. Histories of the Revolution and America’s struggle of independence elevated its leaders as “Founding Fathers” who possessed both genius and virtue. Revolutionary War veterans who had been largely ignored after that war became national heroes who were rewarded with pensions approved in 1818. The nation held up men of the Revolutionary generation as models for later generations to follow. American writers, such as James Fenimore Cooper, captured the frontier spirit in his novels. Popular celebrations such as the Fourth of July, national tours of President James Monroe (1817) and Lafayette (1824–1825), efforts to save Revolutionary War sites, and the construction of monuments to im-

mortalize the war helped to build a common culture. Artists such as Benjamin West idealized the Revolution’s leaders and America in their paintings.

By 1825 the first era of American history was drawing to a close. The nation had doubled in size with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The number of states had increased from eleven to twenty-four. The population had doubled between 1790 and 1825 to about ten million. Slavery had been expanded in the South. Indians had been either subdued or forced to move west of the Mississippi. White migration had expanded into the new western territories, including Spanish lands in the southwest. The beginning of a transportation revolution with the construction of the Erie Canal and the introduction of manufacturing had increased commerce and created new wealth in the North and South. The nation had secured its revolution in the War of 1812. It had become more democratic by extending the right to vote to males without property.

After 1825 war would be a major means both of fulfilling the nation’s “manifest destiny” to rule the continent, and of fulfilling what Lincoln called the “last best hope of freedom” by destroying slavery. Then and now, Americans have returned to their Colonial and Revolutionary eras for guidance in shaping their society, culture, and identity as a nation.

John P. Resch

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