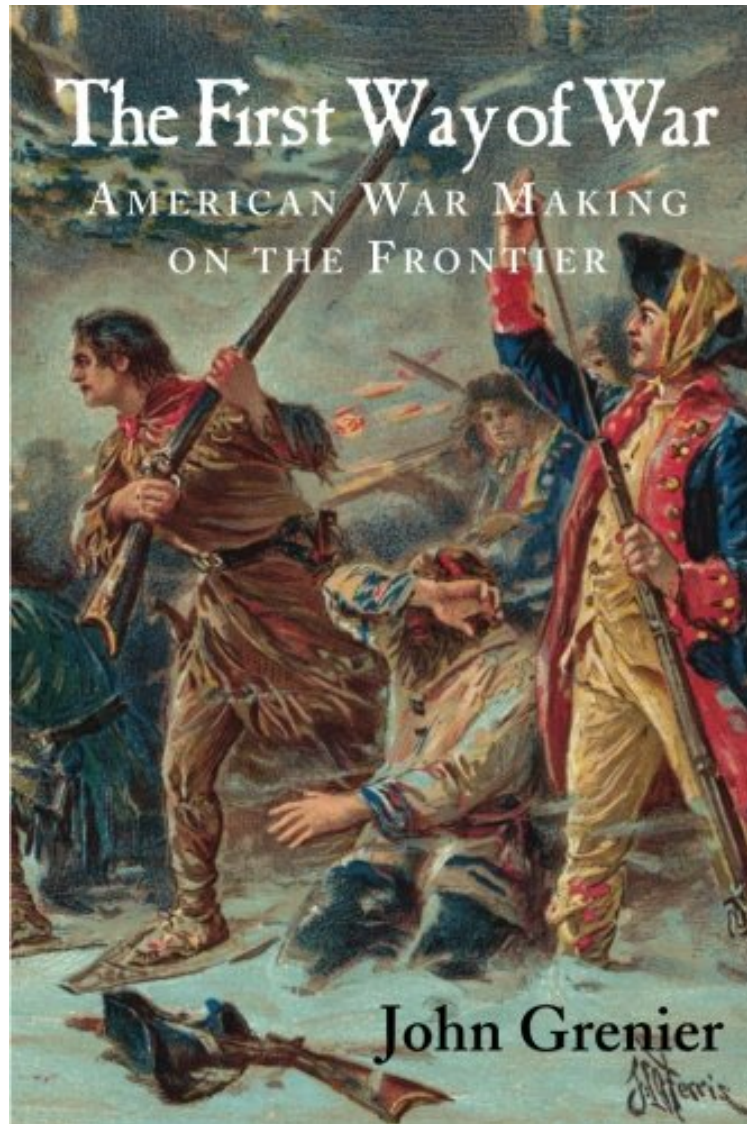


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The First Way of War: American War Making on the Frontier, 1607-1814

John Grenier

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#824614 in Books John Grenier 2008-09-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.98 x .71 x 5.981, .85 #File Name: 0521732638248 pages The First Way of War American War Making on the Frontier 1607 1814 | File size: 76.Mb

John Grenier : The First Way of War: American War Making on the Frontier, 1607-1814 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First Way of War: American War Making on the Frontier, 1607-1814:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Stephen Peter Rosen Excellent history of western small

war practice.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great history bookBy gade04Good book that explains why American warfare is so violent: enemy oriented instead of place oriented.10 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Misleading TitleBy J. BrattenWhile very excited that another historian had addressed the oft-overlooked Second Hundred Years' War period, I was somewhat disappointed to find that Grenier seemed to limit his thesis to Native-colonial confrontations. He falls into the trap of believing that light infantry tactics originated in America, whereas they could be found all over Eastern Europe in the groups of auxiliary soldiers hired by European armies. In addition, in his section on the French and Indian War, he fails to make note of the distinction that colonial forces made between French and Indian enemies. While Indian villages could be destroyed, it was rare that English colonists or ranger companies went on scalp hunts of French colonists. Much of this "first way of war" is tied to the beliefs that most colonists had about Native Americans, which was that it was an "eye for an eye." They responded to violence with violence. Colonial warfare with indigenous Indian nations, whether as their allies or enemies, was waged with a ferocity that resembled much racial warfare of the time, such as the English in Ireland. On the other hand, English colonists could also work alongside Indians as friendly allies, such as the way that the colony of Massachusetts did in the Pequot War of the 17th century. Overall, while Grenier's work is a good synthesis of Native-colonial warfare, he overlooks the intricacies of colonial-Native relations.

This book explores the evolution of Americans' first way of war, to show how war waged against Indian noncombatant population and agricultural resources became the method early Americans employed and, ultimately, defined their military heritage. The sanguinary story of the American conquest of the Indian peoples east of the Mississippi River helps demonstrate how early Americans embraced warfare shaped by extravagant violence and focused on conquest. Grenier provides a major revision in understanding the place of warfare directed on noncombatants in the American military tradition, and his conclusions are relevant to understand US "special operations" in the War on Terror.

"Read it as a clear, informed survey of the lesser-known wars of early American history, or as a strongly argued reinterpretation of the pattern and relevance of early American military experience, John Grenier's excellent book earns a place on the short shelf of essential books in U.S. military history." -John Shy, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor"John Grenier demonstrates convincingly that there was an American way of war in the colonial and revolutionary eras, which was before the time when previous historians have acknowledged the beginnings of an American pattern of conflict. This earlier form of warfare was in some respects far more brutal and devastating than what came later; but the tendency to blur the differences between civilians and combatants has remained a troubling part of our martial heritage. Grenier's impressive volume will require us to rethink the contours of American military history." -Don Higginbotham, Dowd Professor of History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill"The First Way of War offers an important reminder that early Americans fought their wars in a variety of ways. One way was largely designed for Indians, depended on unconventional methods, and could be terrifyingly violent. Based on wide and deep research, Grenier surveys a variety of wars between American colonists and Indians, covering both familiar and rarely-tread ground, and details the different techniques tried, adopted, and sometimes discarded as the colonists struggled to find a way to defeat a resilient and resourceful enemy. This is a significant contribution to the increasingly complex and subtle field of early American military history." -Professor Wayne E. Lee, Department of History, The University of Louisville"Grenier makes a strong case that a distinctive method of American warfare emerged during the colonial era. The author has the rare facility of combining an exciting narrative with thought-provoking analysis. A well-researched and well-written book that deserves serious consideration." -Brian McAllister Linn, Texas AM University"The First Way of War is a well-crafted and exhaustively documented piece of scholarship, with each footnote an authoritative mini-bibliographical essay." -Thomas W. Cutrer, Arizona State University, Military History"...Grenier's study reveals North America's four-hundred-year continuum of irregular warfare and challenges Americans to confront the stark realities of their 'martial culture'." -Kevin T. Barksdale, Marshall University, The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography"The book works well as an overview of warfare in eastern North America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Grenier's long perspective usefully conflates a multitude of little wars into a long-term struggle between Europeans and native peoples for survival and dominance in North America, a struggle that climaxed in the British triumph in the French and Indian War." -Andrew Cayton, Miami University, The International History "well-written monograph...thanks in part to Grenier's lucid prose, we have an excellent analysis of how Americans waged unlimited war from the early colonial period to the beginning of the Republic." -John Richard Mass, Ohio State University, The North Carolina Historical "The book's strength lies in its recognition and treatment of the asymmetrical dimension of war as it relates to societies and cultures in general...Grenier's book is lucid and well-written" -MAJ Joseph P. Alessi, USA, Military "[Grenier] has addressed the arguments of would-be critics like myself with a sound analytical framework and a well-researched and well-presented narrative. Scholars of American history and of military history will find this book thoughtful and highly provocative." -Guy Chet, University of North Texas, American Historical "...a richly insightful contribution to the literature on American ways of war." -Adam Jones, Journal of Genocide Research"The First Way of Ware is a well-researched and

thought-provoking work overall. In addition, the historiographical magnitude of Grenier's arguments alone should make it required reading for serious students of early American military history." *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Wesley T. Joyner, University of Southern Mississippi

About the Author John Grenier is a prize-winning author and historian of early America. Dr. Grenier is the author of *The First Way of War: American War Making on the Frontier, 1607-1814* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), which won the Society of Military History's Outstanding Book Award in American History in 2007. He is also the author of *The Far Reaches of Empire: War in Nova Scotia, 1710-1760* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2008), which won the Wilson Award as the Outstanding Contribution to National Defense in the Field of Arts and Letters. Dr. Grenier took his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1999. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2009 after a twenty year career in which he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel and served two tours as a professor at the Air Force Academy. He currently serves as the senior professor in American military history for Norwich University's on-line Masters of Art in Military History (MMH) program. He is also MMH's Capstone Director and administers all students' end-of-course capstone papers. Dr. Grenier lives in Colorado with his family.