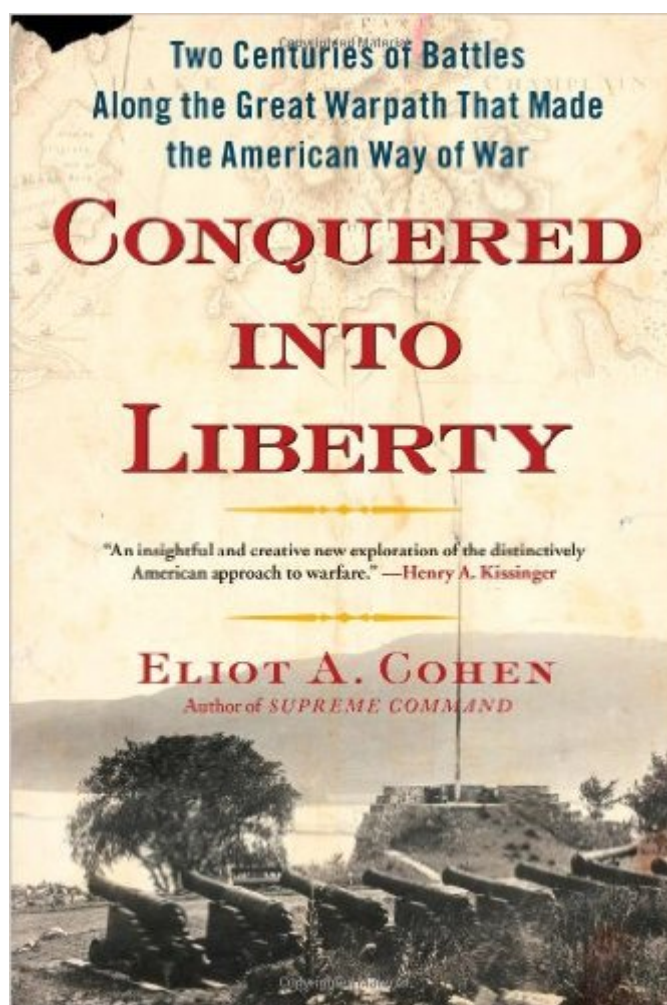


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Conquered Into Liberty: Two Centuries Of Battles Along The Great Warpath That Made The American Way Of War



Synopsis

Americans often think of the Civil War as the conflict that consolidated the United States, including its military values and practices. But there was another, earlier, and more protracted struggle between "North" and "South," beginning in the 1600s and lasting for more than two centuries, that shaped American geopolitics and military culture. Here, Eliot A. Cohen explains how the American way of war emerged from a lengthy struggle with an unlikely enemy: Canada. In *Conquered into Liberty*, Cohen describes how five peoples—the British, French, Americans, Canadians, and Indians—fought over the key to the North American continent: the corridor running from Albany to Montreal dominated by the Champlain valley and known to Native Americans as the "Great Warpath." He reveals how conflict along these two hundred miles of lake, river, and woodland shaped the country's military values, practices, and institutions. Through a vivid narration of a series of fights—woodland skirmishes and massacres, bloody frontal assaults and fleet actions, rear-guard battles and shadowy covert actions—Cohen explores how a distinctively American approach to war developed along the Great Warpath. He weaves together tactics and strategy, battle narratives, and statecraft, introducing readers to such fascinating but little-known figures as Justus Sherwood, loyalist spy; Jeduthan Baldwin, self-taught engineer; and La Corne St. Luc, ruthless partisan leader. And he reintroduces characters we thought we knew—an admirable Benedict Arnold, a traitorous Ethan Allen, and a devious George Washington. A gripping read grounded in serious scholarship, *Conquered into Liberty* will enchant and inform readers for decades to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like all successful histories, Eliot Cohen's *Conquered into Liberty* is a serious book that entertains while it enriches our lives. Its topic, the two centuries of conflict that dominated life along "the Great Warpath" in the Champlain Valley corridor between Albany and Montreal, turns out to be central to the American story, no less important for being lesser known. To read *Conquered into Liberty* is to discover how insecurity, friction, and even terror characterized relations among the British, French, Indians, Canadians, and Americans on this early frontier of what today is the familiar and friendly space between the United States and Canada. As with his previous portrayal of four great wartime leaders in *Supreme Command*, Eliot Cohen weaves into the chronology of battles, individual stories of heroism and cowardice, competence and incompetence to show how "personalities often dictate [the] outcomes" that become our histories. He gives us in detail the campaigns in the North Country that made Benedict Arnold into George Washington's most courageous and capable commander in the first part of the Revolutionary War, and explains the provocations that turned Arnold into our leitmotif for treachery. It was in these wars on the frontier too that Robert Rogers of New Hampshire commanded Robert's Rangers on scouting and raiding missions that became the legacy of special operations and the Army Rangers that are such prominent elements of U.S. warfare today.

Was it Daniel Day-Lewis in "The Last of the Mohicans" that sparked your interest in the French and Indian Wars? Henry Fonda in "Drums Along the Mohawk"? Was it the novels of Kenneth Roberts, or the bracing histories of Francis Parkman? Or perhaps a visit to Ticonderoga? Whatever awakened your interest in the century of conflict on the "Great Warpath" between Albany and Montreal, you'll want to read this superb book. Here's why:-- Military histories are usually organized by wars, campaigns, generals, or weapons. This is something rarer, focused on decades of struggle across one area. Lake George and Lake Champlain are now easily visited and hiked, but in the 1700s the strategically important area was remote and difficult wilderness. -- Cohen does a good job describing campaigns from bottom to top -- by soldiers and commanders at Lake George and Lake Champlain, to commanders and council halls in Quebec, New York and Philadelphia, Paris, and London.-- There's a consistent fine focus on the enormous difficulties of supply -- and shipbuilding -- in the wilderness. Modern logisticians will appreciate what was accomplished.-- There are many profiles of leaders on both sides -- men as diverse as Ethan Allen, Robert Rogers, Montcalm, Frontenac, Bougainville, Stark, Lord Jeffrey Amherst, Burgoyne, McDonough, and many more. The author's looks at their strengths and weaknesses are candid and fresh. There's a fine short essay on Benedict Arnold. This book adds to the reputation of one man who was not there, George

Washington, as he wrestled with threats and priorities during the Revolution, and it also brought home to me how many veterans of the French and Indian War led the Continental Army.

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