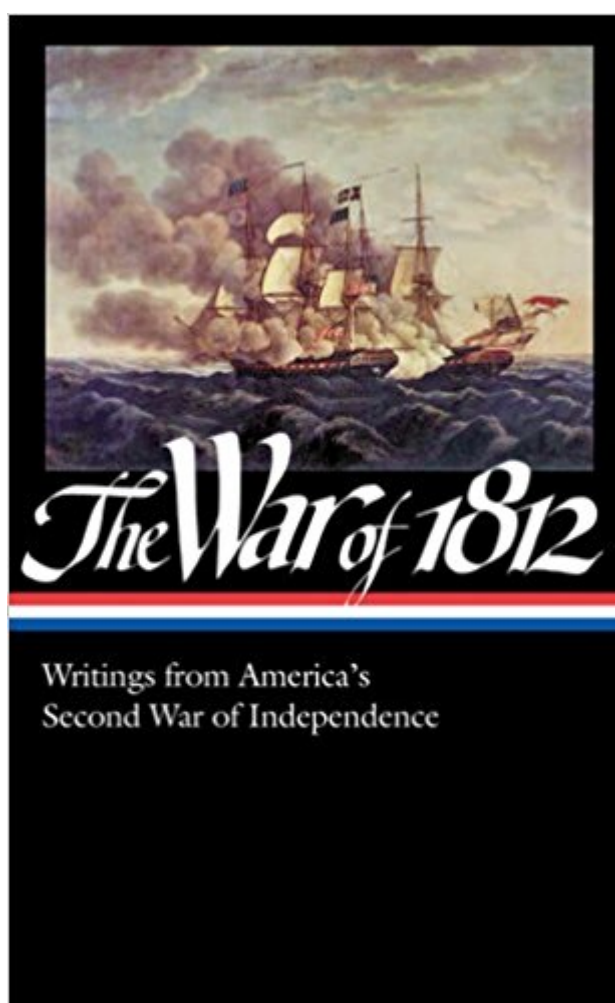


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The War Of 1812: Writings From America's Second War Of Independence: (Library Of America #232)



Synopsis

On June 18, 1812, the United States formally declared war for the first time. President James Madison's call to arms against Great Britain provoked outpourings of patriotic fervor and vigorous "some said treasonous" domestic opposition. Over the next three years the War of 1812 would prove as divisive as it was rich in nationalist myth-making: We have met the enemy, and he is ours . . . Don't give up the ship! . . . Oh, say can you see . . . Now, on the bicentennial of a conflict that shaped the future of a continent, here is the first comprehensive collection of eyewitness accounts in over a century. Reflecting several generations of scholarly discoveries, it covers all the theaters of war, from frontier battles in Canada, Michigan, and New York to naval confrontations on the high seas and Great Lakes, from the burning of Washington to the defense of New Orleans. Here are 140 letters, memoirs, poems, songs, editorials, journal entries, and proclamations by more than 100 participants, both famous "Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Tecumseh, Dolley Madison, and the Duke of Wellington, among others" and less well known, such as Laura Secord, the Canadian Paul Revere, and William B. Northcutt, whose remarkable diary provides a common soldier's view. Features helpful notes, a chronology of the war, and full color endpaper maps.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Library of America has published this new extensive volume of source material to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 -- a conflict that remains little known to

most Americans. The book is part of a series of LOA volumes that document the early history of the United States. Donald Hickey, professor of history of Wayne State College and an author of several books on the War of 1812 edited the volume. Most LOA books include only brief editorial commentary. With the War of 1812, many readers would find themselves lost, in the absence of guidance, in a collection of historical source material. This book thus includes ample explanatory material provided by the volume's editor, Donald Hickey, professor of history at Wayne State College, Nebraska, who has written extensively about the War of 1812. Hickey's lengthy Introduction to the LOA volume offers a good overview of the origins of the conflict, its confusing military actions, and its ambiguous conclusion. The endnotes, ordinarily sparse in the LOA, are full and informative in this book. The book includes over 65 pages of biographical sketches of the many individuals whose writings appear in the collection. Hickey offers as well a 15 page chronology of the events surrounding the War from 1811 through 1815. And each individual entry of the book is prefaced by a heading and an explanatory paragraph describing the author, recipient and background of the document. Hickey's editorial materials are clear and useful and help in the navigation of a complex history. A good way to approach the book is to begin with the Introduction followed by an overview of the Chronology before working through the detailed text. The 720 page text consists of 140 entries by more than 100 participants in the War of 1812.

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