

(Free) Battle Of New Orleans: Andrew Jackson and America's First Military Victory

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Von Robert Remini

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #1624449 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2014-08-31Erscheinungsdatum: 2014-08-31File Name: B00MPMWSM4 | File size: 20.Mb

Von Robert Remini : Battle Of New Orleans: Andrew Jackson and America's First Military Victory before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Battle Of New Orleans: Andrew Jackson and America's First Military Victory:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well

Written, Concise, Stiring Account of Battle Von Wayne A. Smith Remini has filled a gap for lovers of American history. The War of 1812, which the Battle of New Orleans ended convincingly (allowing the previously negotiated Treaty of Ghent to be accepted by both the British and our side as negotiated), has had too few treatments in recent years. Yet the Battle of New Orleans, as the author argues, perhaps was the event that convinced hostile Europeans that America was here to stay as a free nation. I would not completely agree with Remini's contention that the Battle of New Orleans was America's first major victory over European arms (he dismisses Yorktown and Saratoga as mere surrenders doing in my opinion a disservice to the aggressive American commanders and troops who did fight and convincingly beat the British at Saratoga). The author makes a case that this neglected Battle of a forgotten war earned our country the grudging respect it would need to grow unmolested over the next few decades. That having been said, the book is a very well written account of a stirring and fascinating story. General Andrew Jackson, after defeating the Creek Indians and punishing Spanish Florida for aiding that foe as well as the British, leads his American volunteers to Louisiana to defend against the expected British move on New Orleans. The British proceed to the bayous of the Mississippi delta and engage in another European style campaign against wiley American back country fighters. One wonders why the English high command did not learn the lessons of Gen. Braddock's defeat in the French and Indian War or numerous defeats during the American Revolution. Doctrinaire plans and rigid troop handling along the lines of European war were not very successful against citizen soldiers who know how to use their weapons with skill and fight from behind cover. Using first person sources to illustrate the events in December 1814 to January of 1815, Remini gives voice to the events and people who helped make New Orleans a stirring American victory. Unsurprisingly, this biographer of Jackson paints a good portrait of the man whose talents and traits were sorely needed by our side in facing British regiments who had recently faced down Napoleon's best troops. The hodge-podge of defenders are given colorful treatment. The pirate Laffite brothers and their outlaw band who manned our artillery, backwoodsmen in buckskin (giving the name the British used for our troops -- 'dirty shirts'), freed blacks, Creols and New Orleans first citizens all manned the barricades to await the onslaught. The British, with their straight ahead determination, poor avenue of attack and lack of planning aided the American cause. But Jackson earned much of the glory that surrounded his victory. He cajoled troops and supplies, built a well fortified line, attacked before the British were all up and ready and worked to keep together an army that in reality was more like today's UN peacekeeping forces than a coherent American corps. The battle scenes are well told, particularly the Jan. 8th main assault in front of New Orleans. Remini's writing is good enough that the unfamiliar (to most) details of an unknown battlefield come alive in the reader's mind. So do the personalities on both sides. His descriptions are aided by three very good maps that allow one to fully picture the terrain. This book is a quick read. The author tells just enough of the main characters to separate them from one another in the story without bogging it down with a lot of background. The battles themselves come alive and are given a full description and dramatic rendering. You'll enjoy this book. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Stiring Account Of A Great Battle Von Aussie Reader I tend to agree with all the previous reviews of this book, both the good and the bad. That may sound a bit strange, as this is a well told historical account of the Battle for New Orleans. The book's narrative is fast and snappy, the story is well told and presented in a way that it reads like a novel. The author, Robert V. Remini certainly loves this period of history and has a deep respect for Andrew Jackson, which shows throughout the book, maybe too much so. One of the previous reviewers mentioned the fact that the story was a bit too much like "good versus evil". I found on occasions that the American forces could do no wrong while the British were blunderers. For example, the chapter 'The Night Attack' shows Jackson throwing his troops, inferior in numbers and without full knowledge of the British forces in a spoiling attack against the advance guard of the British forces. Certainly the spoiling attack is a sound military move and paid good dividends in this instance. Jackson is shown as a daring commander however when the British forces do something very similar against the American positions they are made to sound like bumbling fools. Why is one commander a daring master and the other an idiot? On a similar note, when Jackson showed caution on a number of occasions throughout this battle he was commended but when the British leadership showed this same caution they were castigated. I agree with the author that the British leadership was ineffectual at times but that is making a judgement in hindsight. The author made mention of Jackson's burning hatred of the British and their contempt for the American forces, maybe a little of this has rubbed off on the author? Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed this book, it's a great story and my own country's history has no love of the British but I don't like it to show so one sided in any book I read. Beside that, the maps supplied (3) were of a high quality and a pleasant change but once again even the maps seemed to be one sided. The map showing the positions of the opposing forces for the attack on January 8, 1815 (page 135) show in great detail the American positions with the units indicated but nothing as detailed for the attacking British forces. Having said all that, it was pleasing to note that the author paid tribute to the brave soldiers on both sides of this terrible battle. Overall this is an excellent story, told with verve and passion and it's a great book to read. I hope that the remarks above do not offend anyone, they are not made with that intention. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys history and would like to learn about this turning point in America's history. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The soul of America Von Theodore A. Rushton This is a wonderful book for anyone interested in the real "soul" of the United States and its military future; it's not just a history of the Battle of

New Orleans, it's also a primer for the debate about the future of the American military. The United States was thoroughly defeated in the War of 1812. By 1814, the New England economy had been destroyed and several states were talking of secession to join Canada, Washington was in smoldering ruins, the Navy cowering in ports and the British were conducting search and destroy missions at will along the seacoasts. At Ghent, American negotiators threw in the towel and accepted the British terms to restore everything as it had been before the war. Out of this, Americans invented their nation. Until then, European nations often regarded the War of Independence as an accident. After 1815, no one doubted the United States. Without the Battle of New Orleans, the United States might have dissolved in confusion or dissension. For the British, it was a minor skirmish in a dismal far off swamp. Only 291 British soldiers were killed in the final attack, compared to 240 British soldiers killed in the charge up Bunker Hill. After New Orleans, the British created the greatest empire the world has ever seen. After New Orleans, the Americans created democracy as the world knows it today. This nation is a product of the resourcefulness, courage and ability shown by Gen. Andrew Jackson at New Orleans. Remini puts his focus on Jackson; without him, the Battle of New Orleans would have been a sorry repeat of the burning of Washington. New Orleans didn't teach the British anything. They used the same stupid "charge the cannons" tactics in the Crimean War, celebrated in The Charge of the Light Brigade. In World War I, British generals updated their New Orleans tactics to "charge the machine guns." New Orleans taught the British nothing; the War of 1812 taught Americans never to make the same mistake twice. Instead of fat generals who were heroes of an earlier war, Americans learned the value of military competence and professionalism. Thirty years later, officers trained in the War of 1812 needed less than one quarter of the troops used in the War of 1812 to rout the Mexicans. War is the harshest test of any nation, and by 1815 the United States learned it could survive against the world's finest military. New Orleans showed they could also win smashing victories. After the War of 1812, the United States became the de facto partner of Great Britain in blocking further European interference in the Americas. Remini's descriptions of events relating to the battle are vital; it emphasizes the core values that made the United States what it is today -- and Great Britain what it is today. It gave Americans their wonderful confidence to always overcome any disaster and come back stronger. This is a wonderful book that explains the nature of the soul of this country. Take away that self-assurance, and the United States would have become "the first Balkans" with Serbian troops needed to keep the peace among fractious states. Hopefully, Professor Remini will now expand his last four and one-half pages into another book of this length to illustrate the lessons and myths learned from the Battle of New Orleans -- as relevant today as they were in 1815 - 45. The United States is now in the position that Britain was in 1815; in another century, the US may be in the same position that Britain was in 1915. That is the implicit meaning of this book. Perhaps the finest assessment of the War of 1812 came from Thomas Jefferson when he wrote, "We owe to their [Britain's] past follies and wrongs the incalculable advantage of being made independent of them in every material manufacture. These have taken such root, in our private families especially, that nothing can now extirpate them." This book outlines the mood that made it so. The decisions of the next decade, in terms of military and civilian attitudes, will be as significant as those made after Gen. Jackson's triumph over "the evil empire" of his era.

Kurzbeschreibung In 1815 Britain's crack troops, fresh from the victories against Napoleon, were stunningly defeated near New Orleans by a ragtag army of citizen-soldiers under the commander they dubbed 'Old Hickory', Andrew Jackson. It was this battle that defined the United States as a military power to be reckoned with and an independent democracy here to stay. A happenstance coalition of militiamen, regulars, untrained frontiersmen, free blacks, pirates, Indians and townspeople - marching to 'Yankee Doodle' and 'La Marseillaise' - inhabit The Battle of New Orleans in a rich array of colourful scenes. Swashbuckling Jean Lafitte and his privateers. The proud, reckless British General Pakenham and his miserable men ferried across a Louisiana lake in a Gulf storm. The agile Choctaw and Tennessee 'dirty shirt' sharpshooters who made a sport of picking off redcoat sentries by night. And Jackson himself - tall, gaunt, shrewd, by turns gentle and furious, declaring 'I will smash them, so help me God!' Robert Remini's vivid evocation of this glorious, improbable victory is more than a masterful military history. It proves that only after the Battle of New Orleans could Americans say with confidence that they were Americans, not subjects of a foreign power. It was the triumph that catapulted a once-poor, uneducated orphan boy into the White House and forged a collection of ex-colonies and dissenters into a nation..deThe United States and Britain had already negotiated an end to the War of 1812 when their troops met on the Plains of Chalmette near New Orleans in 1815. Word of the peace had not yet reached that far west, so a group of professional British soldiers clashed with a rag-tag band of about 4,000 "frontiersmen, militiamen, regular soldiers, free men of color, Indians, pirates, and townspeople" along the banks of the Mississippi River. These were "citizen-soldiers" in the finest sense, writes Robert V. Remini, the acclaimed biographer of Andrew Jackson, and they were commanded by a man whose military experience had commenced only two years earlier. Yet the battle "was one of the great turning points in American history" because it "produced a President and an enduring belief in the military ability of free people to protect and preserve their society and their way of life." Remini may oversell the battle's importance, but not by much. His enthusiasm is the mark of a historian

in love with his subject. The Battle of New Orleans (and the War of 1812 in general) has tended to suffer more from neglect than from too much attention. This concise book, full of workmanlike prose, is a fine introduction to what Remini calls "America's first military victory" (he downplays Saratoga and Yorktown as "simply surrenders, nothing more"). Military history buffs won't want to miss it. --John J. Miller.com

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