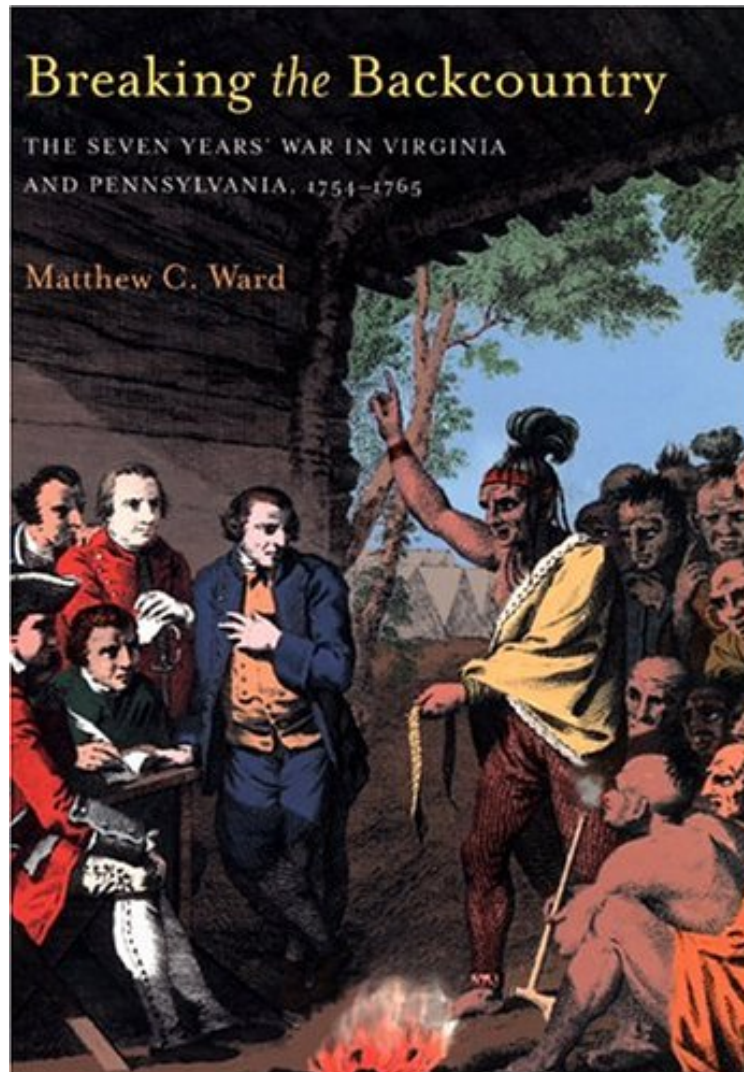


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## Breaking The Backcountry: The Seven Years' War In Virginia And Pennsylvania 1754-1765

*Matthew C. Ward*

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#1206434 in Books University of Pittsburgh Press 2004-10-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x .90 x 6.13l, 1.11 #File Name: 0822958651360 pages | File size: 71.Mb

**Matthew C. Ward : Breaking The Backcountry: The Seven Years' War In Virginia And Pennsylvania 1754-1765** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breaking The Backcountry: The Seven Years' War In Virginia And Pennsylvania 1754-1765:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A generally careful book marred by one understandable errorBy John HarrisonBreaking The Backcountry: The Seven Years' War In Virginia And Pennsylvania 1754-1765 by

Matthew C. Ward is a well written, but still scholarly approach to a little known part of American history in the fullest sense of both words. Ward is a professor at the University of Dundee in Scotland so he did not come by his knowledge naturally; he had to work for it. The book covers the Seven Years War and its aftermath in the backcountry, which at this point includes much of western Pennsylvania and Virginia. This is the very root of the soon to be United States of America and Ward does an admirable job of weaving military, social and Native American history of the era into a fascinating story. His portrait of the Native American actors, and he identifies many by name, is persuasive, as are his descriptions of the main British players. Jeffrey Amherst does not, at least in Ward's telling, deserve his place as recorded in more general histories of the era. Unfortunately, there is one problem with the book. It appears that Ward was among those historians taken in by Michael Bellesiles' book, *Arming America: The origin of a National Gun Culture*. For those not aware of the scandal, Bellesiles' Bancroft Prize for his book *Arming America* was revoked. This was the first time that has ever occurred. Fortunately, this forms only a very small part of this otherwise excellent work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A New Frontier By richard m rocon This volume is actually an impressive work. Much of the information contained is geographically unique to the Virginia/ Pennsylvania frontier, which is not to say this is a bad thing. In fact, quite the opposite is true. Few scholars have concentrated on the peripheral implications of colonial American military conflict. The book does however get into some pretty detailed verbiage which can begin to take a toll on the reader after a while. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ok Rad By Robert H. Cline While the topic was thoroughly covered, I found the organization confusing. Some topics were lightly covered while others were examined extensively. Some questionable generalizations were made that conflict with newer studies. Because of the organization difficulties, some of the information was repeated at different points in the text. Generally an easy enough read .

Even as the 250th anniversary of its outbreak approaches, the Seven Years' War (otherwise known as the French and Indian War) is still not wholly understood. Most accounts tell the story as a military struggle between British and French forces, with shifting alliances of Indians, culminating in the British conquest of Canada. Scholarly and popular works alike, including James Fenimore Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans*, focus on the action in the Hudson River Valley and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Matthew C. Ward tells the compelling story of the war from the point of view of the region where it actually began, and whose people felt the devastating effects of war most keenly—the backcountry communities of Virginia and Pennsylvania. Previous wars in North America had been fought largely on the New England and New York frontiers. But on May 28, 1754, when a young George Washington commanded the first shot fired in western Pennsylvania, fighting spread for the first time to Virginia and Pennsylvania. Ward's original research reveals that on the eve of the Seven Years' War the communities of these colonies were isolated, economically weak, and culturally diverse. He shows in riveting detail how, despite the British empire's triumph, the war brought social chaos, sickness, hunger, punishment, and violence, to the backcountry, much of it at the hands of Indian warriors. Ward's fresh analysis reveals that Indian raids were not random skirmishes, but part of an organized strategy that included psychological warfare designed to make settlers flee Indian territories. It was the awesome effectiveness of this guerilla warfare, Ward argues, that led to the most enduring legacies of the war: Indian-hating and an armed population of colonial settlers, distrustful of the British empire that couldn't protect them. Understanding the horrors of the Seven Years' War as experienced in the backwoods thus provides unique insights into the origins of the American republic.

In gripping detail, [Ward] tells the story of a decade of devastation and settler-refugee flight produced by the war and its aftermath. . . . His engrossing writing style and crisp analysis should appeal to general readers as well as advanced history students and college professors. . . . Brings to life all the protagonists on Americas western frontier.--History: s of New Books