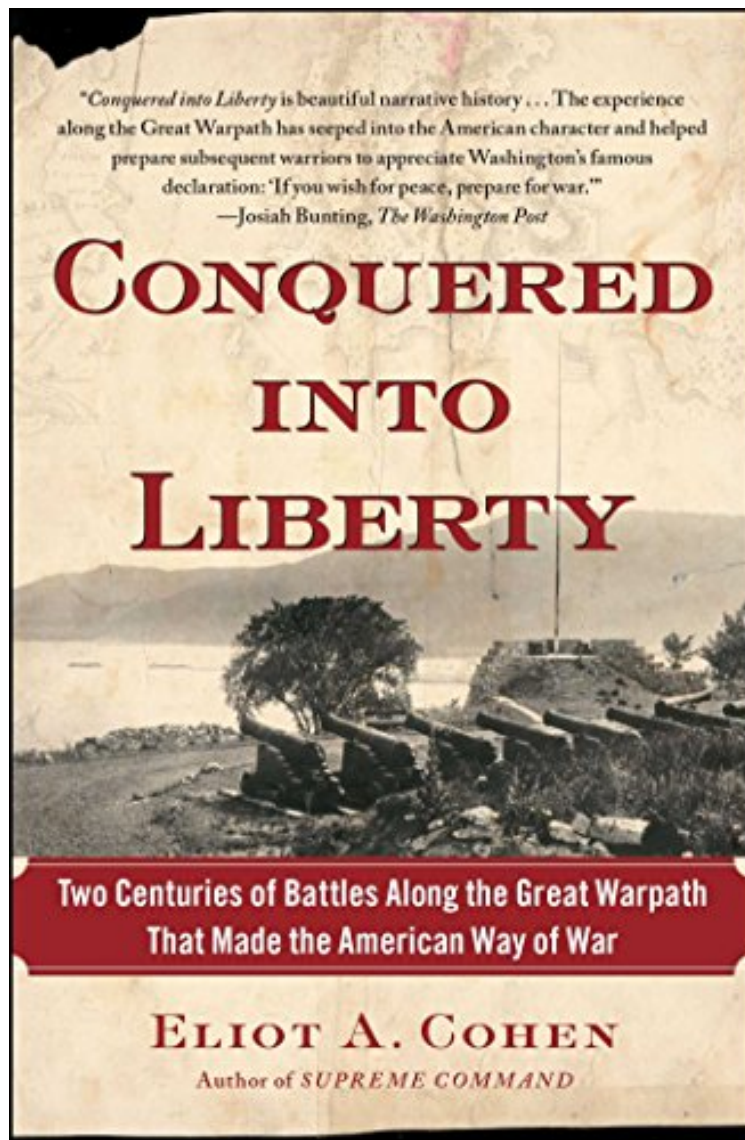


[Get free] Conquered into Liberty: Two Centuries of Battles along the Great Warpath that Made the American Way of War

## Conquered into Liberty: Two Centuries of Battles along the Great Warpath that Made the American Way of War

*Eliot A. Cohen*

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**Eliot A. Cohen : Conquered into Liberty: Two Centuries of Battles along the Great Warpath that Made the American Way of War** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conquered into Liberty: Two Centuries of Battles along the Great Warpath that Made the American Way of War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Introduction to Fascinating Subjects By Thomas M. Sullivan As with many "survey" histories, what you get out of "Conquered into Liberty" depends almost entirely on what you bring to it. In other words, if you have read extensively on the events of the French and Indian War (e.g., the fall of Fort William Henry to the French in 1757 in, for example, Ben Hughes's "The Siege of Fort William Henry: A Year on the Northeastern Frontier") and the American Revolution as fought in New York State (e.g., the Battle of Saratoga in 1777 in, for example, Richard Ketchum's "Saratoga, Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War"), there is not much here you don't already know. If, on the other hand, you are relatively new to these subjects and wish a well-researched and very capably written overview of these events to use as a guide to more extensive exploration, this work is for you. As with Richard Berleth's excellent "Bloody Mohawk," Cohen assiduously sticks to his geographical knitting; he undertakes to tell his story in the context of the "Great Warpath" and he does so without wandering off into events, however intriguing, in adjacent locales, constantly reinforcing the context of his narrative. Additionally, Cohen adds as a coda a brief but very finely wrought account of events in the region during the War of 1812 focusing on the pivotal Battle of Plattsburgh and the long-forgotten but fascinating story of how geopolitical dreamers among both the British and American former combatants conjured visions of more territory while the passage of time eventually allowed Canadians to savor the results of what they regarded as their own "war of independence." In sum, Cohen's work, while not an exhaustive account of any of these events, nor intended to be, is a wonderful introduction to them, and as any student of them knows, will open a door to a remarkably rich and rewarding catalog of additional reading.

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Early wars that shaped America -- readable, fresh, candid By Donald M. Bishop 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.-- Cohen gives readers a lot to chew on when he discusses how these conflicts shaped the American military character and the American Way of War. The author's public life has placed him among America's most senior military leaders, so he is alert to the echoes of these early wars even today. The book's final chapter must now be required reading for history majors and all who wish to understand the American past.

30-22 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Becoming a Nation along the Great Warpath By Todd Greentree 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. Less stirring but equally significant features of the American way of war also came into being along the Great Warpath, through the energy, talent, and innovation of people like Philip Schuyler who kept the Continental Army clothed and fed during the long winters of the Revolution, and the engineers who later built fortifications across the wilderness and the shipbuilders who conjured a fleet on Lake Champlain, leading the British to realize they would have to accommodate the U.S. in the New World, thus setting the stage for the rise of the United States as a global power. Conquered into Liberty is also an evident labor of love. Through richness of narrative and depth of interpretation, Eliot Cohen sets a standard for history by turning the mirror he shines on this distant part of our past

into a clear reflection of our nearer selves.

A brilliant history of our least-known wars on our most-ignored frontier our northern border with Canada (Los Angeles Times). Redirecting our attention from the Civil War to the real conflict that consolidated the United States, Cohen describes how five groups the British, French, Americans, Canadians, and Indians fought over the key to the North American continent: the corridor running from Albany to Montreal, known to Native Americans as the Great Warpath. He explores how a distinctly American approach to war developed along these 200 miles, reintroducing 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 readers for decades to come.

"Cohen, among America's leading defense analysts and military historians combines his skills in this comprehensively researched, well-written analysis of the international conflict that more than any other shaped the U.S. way of war. . . . Even issues of contemporary concern, the problems of conventional forces facing irregular opponents and the belief that an adversary can be 'conquered into liberty,' were first confronted in these battles, as Cohen demonstrates in this original and illuminating study." --"Publishers Weekly" "A delightful-to-read piece of American history." --"Kirkus" "Impressive. . . . "Conquered into Liberty" excels in its demonstration of the ways in which important components of the American military tradition emerged. . . . The stories that Cohen recounts are valuable not only instrumentally--as keys to the origins of the American way of war--but also intrinsically. Simply put, the book contains much interesting. . . history that is likely to be unfamiliar to most readers. . . . "Conquered into Liberty" deserves a wide readership that should certainly include anyone interested in American history or military history." --"The Weekly Standard" "Conquered Into Liberty" provides an innovative approach to the telling of military history that helps the reader better understand the present. [The book] has a valued place in the library of anyone who wishes to understand the development of the United States and its approach to war." - "New York Journal of Books" "Conquered Into Liberty" is beautiful narrative history: The author is a poetic and evocative storyteller. But the book is also valuable for the lessons it imparts and the heritage it conveys. The experience along the Great Warpath has seeped into the American character and helped prepare subsequent warriors to appreciate Washington's famous declaration: 'If you wish for peace, prepare for war.' The Great Warpath's legacy helps our soldiers know that one of the obligations of citizenship is to understand the character of war." -Josiah Bunting, "The Washington Post" "Mr. Cohen has thus produced the opposite of a dry-as-dust academic tome, and it is full of surprises. . . . As "Conquered Into Liberty" memorably shows, one territory of the country knew little peace for more than a century." --Wall Street Journal "Broad in scope and gripping in its narrative, "Conquered into Liberty" is as informative as it is captivating." --"ARMY Magazine" "A brilliant history of our least-known wars on our most-ignored frontier -- our northern border with Canada." -Doyle McManus "A fine, thoughtful treatment of a period of American history that rarely receives much attention." --"Seattle Times" "Conquered into Liberty" is a labor of love. Yet Cohen brings to this project far more than a history buff's enthusiasm. He has spent lifetime writing about military affairs, and the results of his research and reflection are evident on every page of a narrative that does not hesitate to invoke modern comparisons to put the struggles of the past into perspective. ["Conquered into Liberty"] will serve to acquaint a new generation with some of the lesser-known battles that did so much to shape the early Republic." --Max Boot, "Commentary Magazine" "There has been no dearth of books that have analyzed America's wars, primarily from a military and political viewpoint. Yet Eliot Cohen has mined an unexplored third vein of influence, stemming from its pre-colonial and frontier past, which still echo today. "Conquered Into Liberty" is an insightful and creative new exploration of the distinctively American approach to warfare." --Henry A. Kissinger "Eliot Cohen's "Conquered into Liberty" provides an illuminating account of America's early struggles in the northeast border region from one of our nation's foremost experts on military affairs. Insightful and penetrating in its analysis, this is not just a remarkable work of history; it traces the roots of the institutions and culture that continue to shape America's armed forces in our own time." --Condoleezza Rice, Professor of Political Economy, Stanford University and Sixty-Sixth Secretary of State of the United States "Eliot Cohen has written a brilliant account of a little known, but important, period in our country's history. It is a riveting work that masterfully describes how pre-Revolutionary War events shaped our nation's approach to war. It is a must read for all Americans." --General Anthony C. Zinni USMC (Ret.) "Eliot Cohen is the David McCullough of the American frontier. He has written a fascinating history of heroes, rogues and rugged individualists who almost united Canada and America. Cohen captivates the reader by recounting the battles and dissecting the 'what if's?' of history that determined the courses both of America and Canada. A rich, page-turning tale of war and survival, of ambition and empire, of men who sought adventure and refused defeat." --Bing West, bestselling author of "The Village, The Strongest Tribe" and "The Wrong War" "Conquered into Liberty" is a powerful and ingenious history--a story of prolonged, tribal war set within ideological conflict and superpower competition; of intense battles of regulars, militias, indigenous forces, and proxies including savage terror, kidnapping, and worse; and of coalition operations where strategic aims often did not match resources allocated and actual war requirements were not understood in distant capitals. Cohen's account at once explains an important period of

American history and puts today's wars in proper context." --LTG (Retired) Jim Dubik, Senior Fellow, the Institute for the Study of War and former Commanding General of Multi-National Security and Transition Command and NATO Training Mission, Iraq 2007-2008  
About the Author  
Eliot A. Cohen is Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strategic Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University and founding director of the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies. From 2007 to 2009 he was Counselor of the Department of State, serving as Secretary Condoleezza Rice's senior advisor on strategic issues.