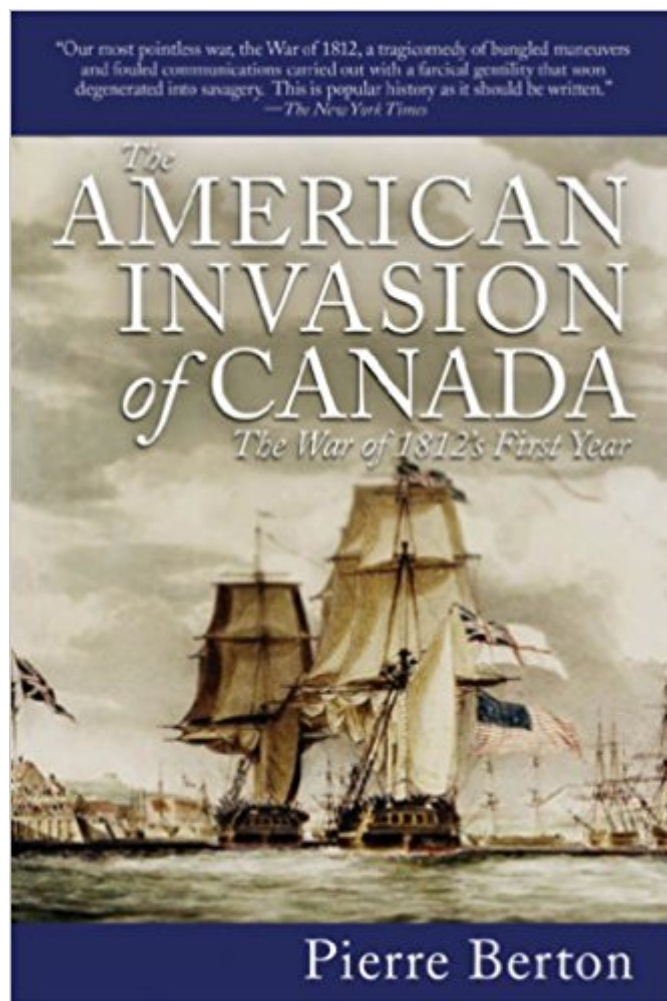


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# The American Invasion Of Canada: The War Of 1812's First Year



## Synopsis

How could a nation of eight million fail to subdue a struggling British colony of 300,000? In this remarkable account of the war's first year, Pierre Burton transforms history into an engrossing narrative that reads like a fast-paced novel. Drawing on memoirs, diaries, and official dispatches, the author gets inside the characters who fought the war—the common soldiers, the generals, the bureaucrats and the profiteers, the traitors, and the loyalists. This is a gripping account of a fascinatingly complex war that shaped the boundaries of America as we know them today.

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing; 1 edition (January 4, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1616083352

ISBN-13: 978-1616083359

Product Dimensions: 6 x 6.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #894,789 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > History >](#)

[Americas > Canada > 19th Century](#) #12 in [Books > History > Americas > Canada > War of 1812](#)

#87 in [Books > History > Americas > Canada > 20th Century](#)

## Customer Reviews

• "A wonderful historical work | a book of love, ambition, guile, heroism, tragedy and cowardice." • (The Detroit News)  
• "A popular history as it should be written." • (The New York Times)  
• "If history could be taught in the schools the way Berton writes about it, there wouldn't be a more popular subject on the curriculum." • (The Globe and Mail)  
• "A popular history as it should be written." • (The New York Times)

Pierre Burton is the internationally renowned bestselling author of fifty books and the recipient of over thirty literary awards including the Governor-General's Award for Creative Non-Fiction (three times). He was raised in the Yukon, served almost four years in the army, was an editor at the Toronto Star, and a writer and host of a series of CBC programs. He is a member of the Newsman's Hall of Fame. Pierre Berton passed away in 2004.

Enjoyable read of Canadian/US history of the war of 1812, because although there were a lot of events to cover, Berton does a good job of putting each one in context and in relation to the others; also explaining how the repercussions of one event affected subsequent events. However I feel compelled to warn potential readers of the Kindle edition that it was riddled with "typos" or what I can only assume are OCR errors introduced during the creation of the Kindle edition. It got to the point where it was not only distracting but confusing in a few sentences. I would say the book contained between 50 and 100 of such errors. (e.g., "18io" instead of "1810

**Quick & Dirty Highlights** This is probably the best book I've come across regarding early American history, especially regarding the War of 1812. I completely altered my understanding of the earliest stages of that war. It remains difficult to reconcile the early days of this war, in which civility ruled and in which, eventually, brutality will take hold just as it does in all wars. This work, covering the early days, was originally written in 1980 but has now been made available for Kindle. Length: 368 pages. Target Audience/Genre: American History buffs. Q - How was this book obtained? A - Bought at Amazon. Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? A - Yes. Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? A - I didn't see any. It seems that the typos and OCR conversion errors were cleaned up over the last three years, for the types of errors mentioned in a 2013 review are no longer evident. Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? A - This is an engaging leisure read. Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made? A - Plain English. Except for the word that rhymes with dam, there are no profanities. Q - What age group is this suitable for? A - If this was a film, it would be rated G. Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment? A - This is a remarkable history that hooked me in the introduction. Before reading this, I really had never considered the anomaly regarding the failed invasion, despite the vast population difference between the United States and Canada. The maps are useful and helpful, but I wish there also were illustrations so I could connect the names to pictures. What was most amazing, though, was the astronomical knowledge of one of the Shawnee leaders. Sort of a come full circle of Columbus's (I think) encounter with a tribe in the Caribbean. I've included a small excerpt below, so readers can peruse the style of presentation utilized by the author.

**EXCERPTS** SANDWICH, UPPER CANADA, July 23, 1812; with General Hull's Army of the Northwest. "Why does the army dally? Robert Lucas asks rhetorically, as he scratches away in his diary. "Why do they not make the Stroke on Maldon [Amherstburg] at once, had proper energy been used, we might have been in Maldon now, we are tampering with them until they will be able to drive us back across the river . . . Why indeed?"

Hull's troops are eager to maintain some momentum, have been since the day of the landing when it was expected Hull would sweep down the river to attack the British fort at Amherstburg—a place name that has a sinister connotation for western Americans who have suffered at the hands of the Indians. For this has been the headquarters of Elliott, McKee and Girty, whom the frontiersmen believe were behind the raids on white settlements in the Northwest. Like his fellow volunteers, Lucas wants to get on with it. Once Fort Amherstburg's guns are silenced, the way to Upper Canada lies wide open. The only other British forts on the western connotation for western Americans who have suffered at the hands of the Indians. For this has been the headquarters of Elliott, McKee and Girty, whom the frontiersmen believe were behind the raids on white settlements in the Northwest. Like his fellow volunteers, Lucas wants to get on with it. Once Fort Amherstburg's guns are silenced, the way to Upper Canada lies wide open. The only other British forts on the western frontier are at the other end of Lake Erie and along the Niagara River. A second American army has been dispatched to attack these strong points. Its task is to cause a diversion, pin down the defending British and prevent reinforcements from reaching Fort Amherstburg. To Lucas, speed is essential. Amherstburg must...Bottom Line: Readers should bear in mind, this is a history, not a fictional novel. As such, the pace might appear a bit slower, even tedious for a few. Still, it excels at communicating the essence of history as it was. Not merely the sterile facts for a quiz, but the essential understanding. Five stars out of five. Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite. Thank you.

This book is a popular history which follows the first year of the War of 1812. Berton deals with the complex political situations which led to war and the reluctance with which the commanders went to the front. Initially neither side wanted to fight, and both sought a peaceful resolution. However after a few skirmishes and battles both sides became more active in the war effort. The British resolved to fight a defensive war, but the Americans went on the offensive several times and fought on Canadian soil. Each side had a couple of decent officers, but tended to be run by elderly men from the Revolutionary Era who should not have been in command. Brock and Harrison seemed to be the most dynamic commanders. The Americans lost several battles, at Detroit, Niagara, and Frenchtown before the winter freeze set in and made fighting impossible. They didn't manage to sweep through Upper Canada like they planned, and the war dragged on for two more years. Berton includes several good maps of the Great Lakes theaters of war, and several portraits of the main

players.

Extremely well researched and written. Portrays the reality of the first part of the war with both the British and especially Americans unprepared to support the war effort. Talks about the lack of food, ammunition, clothing and other necessities. He does not hide the horror of this war. The second part he just touches on when the Americans took control of the sea and beat back the British. He does not call anyone a winner but has given the reader the view that the losers were the fighting soldiers. Excellent

I liked how the author incorporated the human aspects of the battles and events. Sharing not only the viscous side of Indians during their fight for survival but their softer human side. I just felt I learned a lot about this period.

This book makes me think of what could have been if only the United States had been as united during the War of 1812 as it had been during the Revolution. A concentrated effort then would have made Canada ours. If only, if only....

This book is a fascinating look at the War of 1812 from the Canadian viewpoint. It was much a more complex political situation than what we learned in school in America. I will definitely read more books by Mr. Berton regarding political relationships between Canada and the US.

The true history be told. A part of American History skipped over in school. I highly recommend reading. Thank You

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