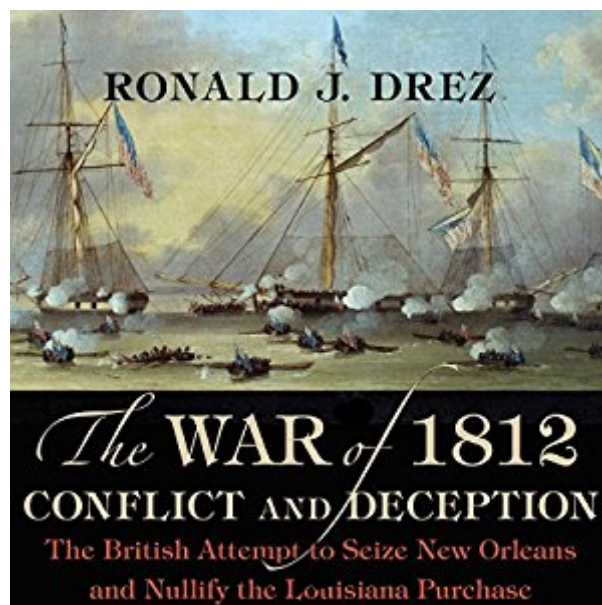




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# The War Of 1812, Conflict And Deception: The British Attempt To Seize New Orleans And Nullify The Louisiana Purchase



## Synopsis

Perhaps no conflict in American history is more important yet more overlooked and misunderstood than the War of 1812. At the climax of the war, inspired by the defeat of Napoleon in early 1814 and the perceived illegality of the Louisiana Purchase, the British devised a plan to launch a three-pronged attack against the Northern, Eastern, and Southern US borders. Concealing preparations for this strike by engaging in negotiations in Ghent, Britain meanwhile secretly issued orders to seize New Orleans and wrest control of the Mississippi and the lands west of the river. They further instructed British commander General Edward Pakenham not to cease his attack if he heard rumors of a peace treaty. Great Britain even covertly installed government officials within military units with the intention of immediately taking over administrative control once the territory was conquered. Far from being simply an unnecessary epilogue to the War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans firmly secured for the United States the territory acquired through the Louisiana Purchase. Drez offers a compelling account of this pivotal moment in American history. The book is published by Louisiana State University Press.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well written. Many facts revealed I was not aware of before. This really was the war that won liberty for the colonies. I really enjoyed reading this book about the history of the US.

While I believe the general idea of this book as expressed in the title is worthy of exploring, the

author did not prove his thesis in this book. Further, this is not a book on the New Orleans campaign only, but on the war in general. There are four points that tend to invalidate the book as far as I'm concerned: First, it isn't 'just' on the campaign and battle of New Orleans, so the title is somewhat misleading. I was expecting a book on the battle of New Orleans in depth and this isn't it. Second, the author rants about revisionist historians while in fact, that is exactly what he is doing in the text. This is not an accurate recounting of material on the War of 1812 and it appears to me that the conclusion was reached before research and writing began and was not found while the book was being formulated. That is not historical inquiry nor is it good historical methodology. Historical inquiry is the research for and the finding of facts on the subject being researched, and then a conclusion is reached from that research and those facts. That does not appear to be the case with this book. Third, Robin Reilly's excellent study, *The British at the Gates*, which is still the best book on the campaign and battle of New Orleans, and the definitive study of the campaign, is unfairly and inaccurately depicted in this book. I don't believe that type of criticism should be done in the text. The place for that is in a book review, not in a campaign study. Lastly, Andrew Jackson is vastly overrated as a general and commander in the book. He was neither a brilliant tactician or strategist, but he was pugnacious and would not give up which is one of the reasons why he won so convincingly at New Orleans. He was not, however, the best general the US produced in the War of 1812. I would rate Pike, Brown, and Macomb as superior to Jackson in generalship and rate them equal in leadership ability. Jackson was an outstanding combat leader, but so was the relatively junior Winfield Scott, and Scott was a much better and more skillful tactician. The book should be read, if for nothing else than to find the errors and to see for oneself what the author attempted to do, which I find both interesting and worthy of reasoned discussion. Unfortunately, the book's thesis was not proven and the errors and distractions in the book detract greatly from it. This volume is not recommended nor can it be used as a reference for the war or the New Orleans campaign because of its inherent inaccuracies and errors in historical methodology.

Enjoyed the read. Was especially impressed with the research relating to the British determination to exclude the Louisiana Purchase from the Treaty of Ghent. This is so critical to comprehending the importance of what happened 200 years ago and its impact on the growth of the United States. So many myths are advanced about this critical gulf campaign that the true value of what occurred here has become obscured. Mr. Drez has refuted some of these popular misconceptions.

The book is amateurishly written to the point it may put off some. That said, Drez's revelations about

the Treaty of Ghent and the British orders to Gen Pakenham at New Orleans is of particular interest to history buffs. The English probably did behave in a perfidious way; it is well worth reading this portion of the book, maybe to learn something you never knew. America did not lose (as some suggest) that war, I feel this book corroborates my feelings.

Wonderful

A seminal work that rewrites American history. This should be read in all American schools. This book burnishes the already bright star of Andrew Jackson. Beware of perfidious Albion.

Full Disclosure: Ron Drez is a personal friend of long standing. since he was trusted by the late Stephen Ambrose as his principal research assistant, I think anyone charging him with sloppy research is flat wrong. Now, to the contents of the book. when I spoke with Ron while the book was being written, I gave the conventional view that the battle was a waste of lives because the peace treaty had been signed. Ron told me I was wrong and when I read his book I discovered just how wrong I had been. the best part for me was the full coverage of the lengthy negotiations between Britain and the U-S over freedom of the seas. to say the British negotiated in bad faith is an understatement. they obviously thought they could fool the ex-colonials and they might have done so if Andrew Jackson and his soldiers had lost the battle. the American victory was crucial to the future development of the United States. this book covers all the military action of the War of 1812 and I learned a lot about this aspect as well. Ron's book should become the standard history -- especially in schools. I commend it to anyone wanting to know why celebrating the War's Bicentennial was important.

The most thoroughly researched account on the subject I have ever read, Hundreds of hours of research must have gone into this well written work. It puts to rest the theory that most of my generation were taught, that the war was over before the battle, and the whole episode was a waste.

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