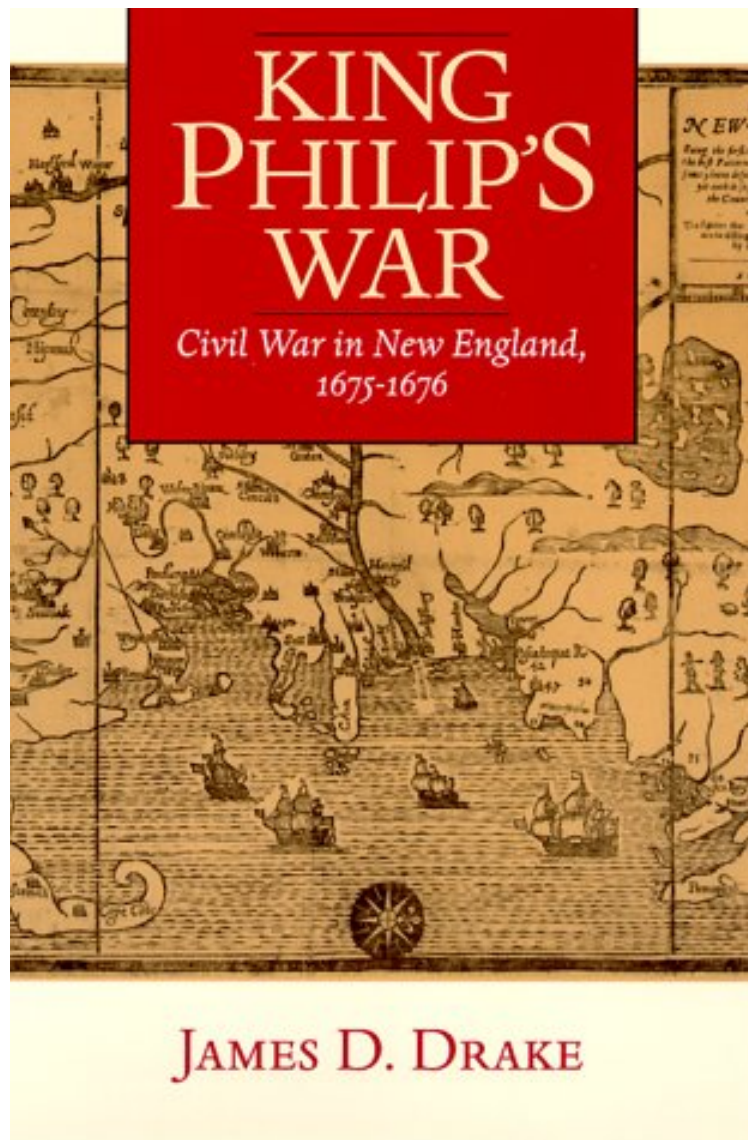


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King Philip's War: Civil War in New England, 1675-1676 (Native Americans of the Northeast: Culture, History, the Contemporary)

James D. Drake

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James D. Drake : King Philip's War: Civil War in New England, 1675-1676 (Native Americans of the Northeast: Culture, History, the Contemporary) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised King Philip's War: Civil War in New England, 1675-1676 (Native Americans of the Northeast: Culture, History, the Contemporary):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed it much
By Gary F. My ancestors fought in this war. Enjoyed it much.
19 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Well-Written, Well-Argued and Balanced Treatment
By Daniel R. Seligman
James D. Drake's "King Philip's War" offers a tight, well-argued thesis that the King Philip War should be viewed more as a civil insurrection than a "settler-versus-Indian" conflict. It is not a chronological account of the war but rather a well-researched interpretation. For a detailed account of the war's events, the reader should see Douglas Leach's "Flintlock and Tomahawk" or Jill Lepore's "The Name of War." Indeed, for a full appreciation of Drake's arguments it is probably a good idea to have read beforehand one or the other of these excellent accounts. Drake examines the tensions among the various groups that figured in the war -- the bickering among the English colonies, the divided loyalties of the so-called praying Indians, the complex relationships among the Wampanoags, Narragansetts and other Algonquian tribes -- and argues that the war can best be explained as a conflict within single a society rather than a racial conflict between the Puritans and the natives. He frequently resorts to the molecular analogy of covalent bonding to explain how different groups can contribute to a definable whole (the molecule) while remaining in some fashion distinct (the atoms). Drake's work invites comparison with Russell Bourne's "The Red King's Rebellion," also an interpretive piece. Bourne examines how an amicable relationship between the Puritans and the Algonquians dating from the arrival of the Mayflower in 1620 degenerated into an ugly armed conflict in the 1670s. While both Bourne and Drake take pains to examine the war from the perspectives of both the colonists and the Algonquians, Drake seems a little less prone to condemn the Puritans and more willing to view their treatment of the natives in the context of contemporary European attitudes toward war and rebellion. "King Philip's War," a well-written, well-argued and balanced treatment of a complex subject, is both good scholarship and good reading.
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I went to the library, brought home a stack of King Philips books and this one was the best
By Cindy Cutler
I know some reviewers disagree with the civil war theory of the book but I think it's be best one out there. Part of what makes this war interesting is that it is unique and hard to compare to other wars so it does make it difficult to put a label on it. But I do agree that "civil war" is the best one. This book does touch on the racial and religious aspects of the war but also goes into economic and political alliances between the leadership of the colonies and the Indians. This is information that I wasn't able to find in any other book and which I found to be interesting and relevant.

Sometimes described as "America's deadliest war," King Philip's War proved a critical turning point in the history of New England, leaving English colonists decisively in command of the region at the expense of native peoples. Although traditionally understood as an inevitable clash of cultures or as a classic example of conflict on the frontier between Indians and whites, in the view of James D. Drake it was neither. Instead, he argues, King Philip's War was a civil war, whose divisions cut across ethnic lines and tore apart a society composed of English colonizers and Native Americans alike. According to Drake, the interdependence that developed between English and Indian in the years leading up to the war helps explain its notorious brutality. Believing they were dealing with an internal rebellion and therefore with an act of treason, the colonists and their native allies often meted out harsh punishments. The end result was nothing less than the decimation of New England's indigenous peoples and the consequent social, political, and cultural reorganization of the region. In short, by waging war among themselves, the English and Indians of New England destroyed the world they had constructed together. In its place a new society emerged, one in which native peoples were marginalized and the culture of the New England Way receded into the past.

"What one has here is the genuine article colonial history that is fully about all the peoples in the region. This is neither 'white' nor 'Indian' history. . . . It is the first serious scholarly history of King Philip's War in well over a generation. Drake is a historian who knows how to write, how to make his subjects fully human, tell multiple stories, and keep his readers eager for more." Barry O'Connell, editor of *On Our Own Ground: The Complete Writings of William Apess, a Pequot*
"The need for a single-volume treatment of King Philip's War that is well informed not only by recent scholarship on native peoples but on the English colonizers is greater than ever. Drake satisfies that need by offering a series of provocative theses about the conflict and its protagonists. The result is a book that should be as productively controversial as Jill Lepore's *The Name of War*."
Neal Salisbury, author of *Manitou and Providence: Indians, Europeans, and the Making of New England, 1500-1643*
From the Back Cover
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