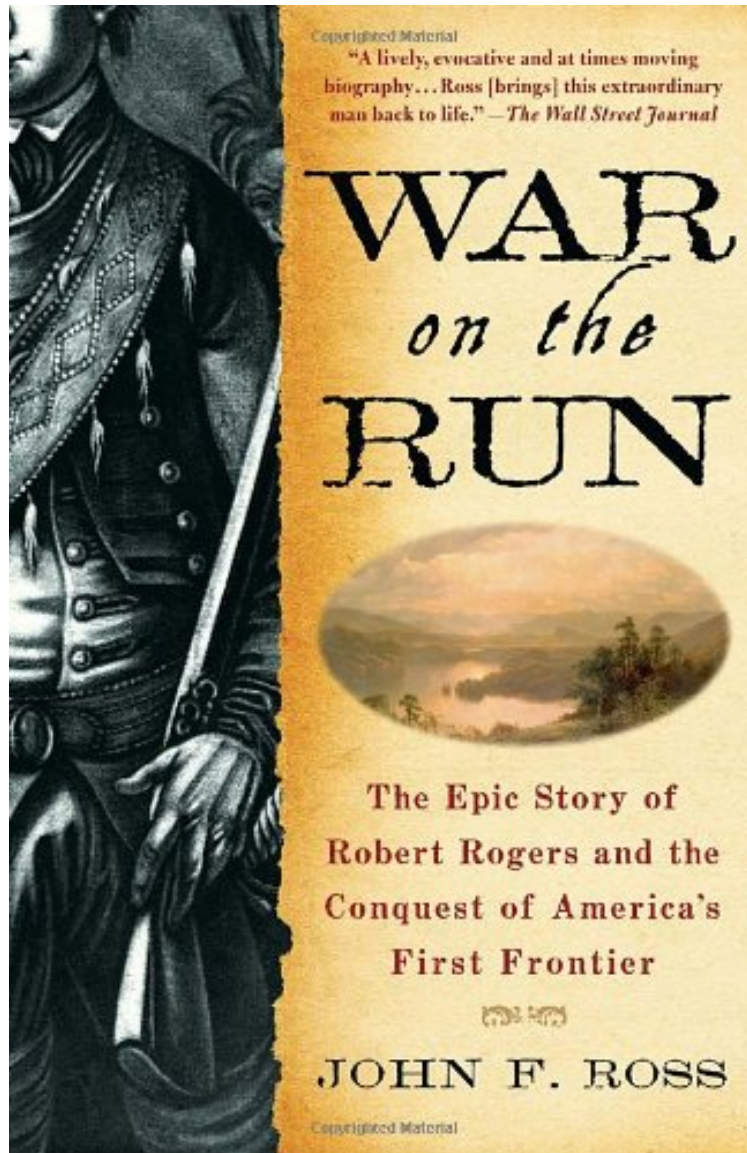


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War on the Run: The Epic Story of Robert Rogers and the Conquest of America's First Frontier

John F. Ross

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John F. Ross : War on the Run: The Epic Story of Robert Rogers and the Conquest of America's First Frontier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised War on the Run: The Epic Story of Robert Rogers and the Conquest of America's First Frontier:

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book about a unique early American! Author has background in reporting and living in extreme environments and it comes through in this book. Descriptions of Roger's scouts with his rangers vivid and stirring. The mystery and power of Robert Rogers comes out clearly in this work. He seems born to the task of creating and leading men at war with each other and nature. The raw, brutal frontier also emerges like a character in the drama, a foe to all yet a prize sought by all combatants. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read! By Kevin Thorough exploration of a complex historical figure. Nothing is exaggerated, and nothing is sugar coated, just plain fair. Ross illustrates how Rogers is at the same time an oppressor and victim of social justice issues and class warfare. Heroism, humility, narcissism, savagery, selflessness, loyalty, and entitlement are all part of Roger's complex character, along with a healthy dose of unfairness. Few authors give such thorough examinations of historical figure. This is one of the most fascinating eras of American and this is one of the most fascinating men of history, one that apparently feels that a short daily stroll in the woods is a mere 20 miles. If nothing else Roger's physical stamina in an age of starvation, and malnutrition is awe inspiring alone. The distances this man traveled on foot, and canoe in his average daily business is mind boggling. This is a delicious long read that doesn't end in glory. I couldn't help but see strong connections between the real life Robert Rogers and Bernard Cornwell's Major Richard Sharpe. If you are a Sharpe fan, you should have not trouble enjoying this read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. War on the Run By mjer99 Major Rogers has always seemed to be a dark figure who has gone unspoken of in our history. This book opens our eyes as to why that is. I thank Mr. Ross for this excellent work which I could not put down. I did find that the author tries to shield Major Rogers from so much intrigue that surrounds him. Major Rogers was an American hero and unfortunately traitor also. The accounts of Major Rogers during the Revolutionary war saddened me but opened my eyes to the earlier intrigue of his life, most of it and the accusations against him I now see as probably true, although mired in uncertainty caused by the Major himself. After putting down the book I am left wondering on what could have been given this man was so courageous and yet after reading the account of the capture of Nathan Hale (which I never knew he played the major part in) I am just saddened at his actions. All in all it is a great work of a man who seems to be an enigma.

Often hailed as the godfather of today's elite special forces, Robert Rogers trained and led an unorthodox unit of green provincials, raw woodsmen, farmers, and Indian scouts on impossible missions in colonial America that are still the stuff of soldiers legend. The child of marginalized Scots-Irish immigrants, Rogers learned to survive in New England's dark and deadly forests, grasping, as did few others, that a new world required new forms of warfare. John F. Ross not only re-creates Rogers's life and his spectacular battles with breathtaking immediacy and meticulous accuracy, but brings a new and provocative perspective on Rogers's unique vision of a unified continent, one that would influence Thomas Jefferson and inspire the Lewis and Clark expedition. Rogers's principles of unconventional war-making would lay the groundwork for the colonial strategy later used in the War of Independence and prove so compelling that army rangers still study them today. Robert Rogers, a backwoods founding father, was heroic, admirable, brutal, canny, ambitious, duplicitous, visionary, and much more like America itself.

From Booklist Modern practitioners of military special operations know of Robert Rogers principles of their craft, but history readers are apt to ask, Rogers who? American Heritage editor Ross answers that query absorbingly, creating a colorful portrait of a remarkable American colonial officer of the French and Indian War. Of Scots-Irish immigrant heritage, Rogers (1731-95) experienced frontier raids in what is now New Hampshire in his boyhood. As a young man, Rogers acquitted himself with shrewd scouting as well as in brutal battles with woodland parties of the French and their Indian allies and was awarded an officer's commission in the British army (an honor George Washington coveted in vain). Rogers' hard-won eminence in colonial society came apart after the peace of 1763. He was court-martialed, went to debtors prison, sided with Tories in 1776, ensnared Nathan Hale, then receded from history. Ross' recovery of Rogers from the footnotes closes a gap in colonial historiography with a sanguinary war biography that is practically a movie script unto itself. Buffs of the period will love it. --Gilbert Taylor A lively, evocative and at times moving biography . . . Ross [brings] this extraordinary man back to life. The Wall Street Journal Nothing less than a tour de force that will appeal to a wide range of readers . . . This remarkable book should go far to rescue a once-famous figure in American history. Winston-Salem Journal In this exhaustive book, variously scholarly and white-knuckle exciting, John Ross has done the great man justice. The Washington Times Rousing . . . The story of Rogers, as told by Ross, is an American tale. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette [A] sweeping account . . . a thrilling narrative. The Boston Globe Tales of a stealth warrior before the Revolution In November 1759, reporting on his audacious mission to destroy the French-allied Indian village of Saint-Francois in Quebec, Major Robert Rogers wrote that he and his elite Rangers "[had] marched nine days through wet sunken ground; the water most of the way a foot deep, it being a spruce bog." The return journey through that same unforgiving terrain, now pursued by Canadian militia and Indian warriors seeking vengeance, has become one of the great epics of the American frontier. And Rogers, in John F. Ross's sweeping account, "War on the Run," stands forth as one of the most skilled tacticians of small-unit, backcountry warfare - a war of endurance and stealth. An unschooled farmboy growing up on the New Hampshire frontier, Rogers

volunteered in 1748 for a local militia unit after seeing the bodies of neighbors who had been killed in an Indian raid. Over the next dozen years, as war with French Canada raged across the northern New England frontier, Rogers organized an elite commando-style unit, leading it in raids against French outposts, ambushing French patrols - and being ambushed in turn. "It would be his signature genius," as Ross puts it, "to create a new and formidable mode of warfare; the invisibility and sweeping range of the forest people would be cleverly united to the newcomers' technologies, strategic vision, and cultural appetite for innovation." It would be a brand of warfare, he writes, "to match not only the continent's environment, but also its magnitude." It is no surprise to learn that Rogers's "Rules of Ranging" are now taught at Camp Rogers, the US Army's Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga. Ross, the executive editor of American Heritage magazine, has crafted a thrilling narrative from Rogers's "Journals," the accounts of British and French commanders, and those of Rangers themselves. In addition to such traditional sources, Ross has hiked and kayaked over much of Rogers's territory and conveys a fine sense of place... Rogers has been a heroic figure for this reader since first encountering him some 60 years ago in Kenneth Roberts's classic 1937 novel, "Northwest Passage." Here is Roberts's narrator describing Rogers on the night before the attack on Saint-Francois: "Rogers, it seemed to me, could go beyond the limits of human endurance; and then, without rest, buoyantly hurl himself against the fiercest opposition of Nature or man, or both. There was something elemental about him - something that made it possible for men who were dead with fatigue to gain renewed energy from him, just as a drooping wheat-field is stirred to life by the wall of wind that runs before a thunder-storm." It deepened the pleasure of reading "War on the Run" to find that historian Ross has matched the narrative skills of novelist Roberts.