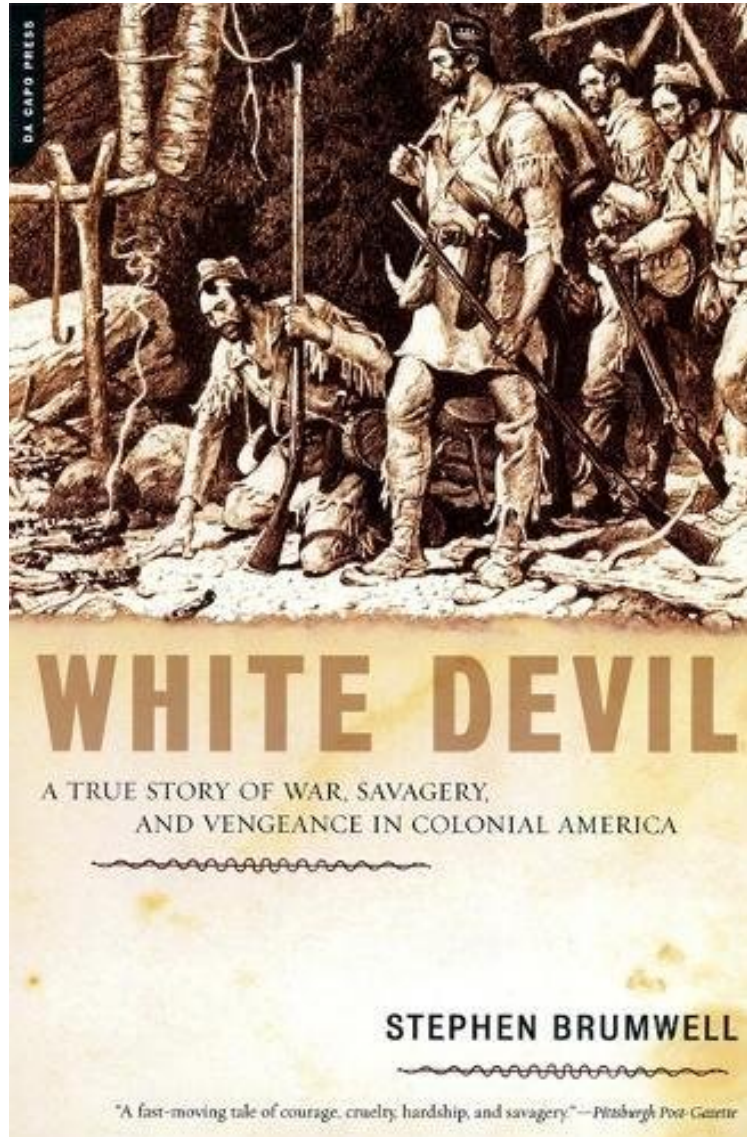


White Devil: A True Story of War, Savagery And Vengeance in Colonial America

Stephen Brumwell

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Stephen Brumwell : White Devil: A True Story of War, Savagery And Vengeance in Colonial America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised White Devil: A True Story of War, Savagery And Vengeance in Colonial America:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Real Treat for FIW Buffs By Thomas M. Sullivan By happy

coincidence, this worthy volume fell next on my summer reading list just after I completed Ben Hughes' "The Siege of Fort William Henry." Although Rogers was away on a mission the time of the fort's surrender in August, 1757, his brother was among the garrison and died shortly after the surrender only to be posthumously scalped by Montcalm's Indian allies as part of their victory predations. There are seemingly innumerable biographies of Robert Rogers and even more numerous accounts of his exploits in practically any work dealing with the FIW in the Northeast. Indeed, living in Lake George, one can hardly drive in any direction without encountering a Rogers this or a Rogers that, from stony outcroppings to campgrounds. Atypically, Rogers might actually deserve his many honorific remembrances. He was a 'hero' when the beleaguered British colonists sorely needed one, and as Author Brumwell amply demonstrates, his hard-to-credit exploits even pleased General Jeffrey Amherst, not one easily impressed or willing to say so. The book's title refers to the sobriquet bestowed on Rogers by the so-called St. Francis Abenaki tribe after the 'massacre' he and his men mounted on their village in October, 1759. That the tribe's actual losses were much less than Rogers claimed (both because he tended to exaggerate and because they had been warned by a friendly Indian who was part of Rogers' entourage), the raid nonetheless had a significant psychological impact on not only the Abenakis but other French-allied tribes as well and foreshadowed their wholesale relinquishment of the alliance beginning the following year as it became clear that the British would prevail. The story is of a piece with the inability or unwillingness of the French to prevent their Indian allies from killing, looting, scalping, and generally abusing surrendered individual British and colonial troops or, for that matter, entire garrisons. The horrors visited on the survivors of Montcalm's taking of Fort Oswego in 1756 were essentially repeated the following year in the much more publicized aftermath of the surrender to Montcalm of Fort William Henry. As the tide of war ebbed and flowed, British and colonial combatants refined their thinking about how to exact at least some revenge and Rogers' raid was the culmination of these ruminations. The Abenakis were known far and wide as the most war-like and brutal of the Indian tribes involved in the conflict. Their continually predatory activities subsequent to the William Henry surrender made them a natural target, and Rogers made sure they paid the (somewhat discounted but nonetheless real) price. But however comfortable in the wild and capable of leading even reluctant fighting men against great odds in the midst of war, Rogers was incapable of coping with the peace. He died an indebted drunk, leaving behind his exploits as the fodder for terrifically readable accounts such as "White Devil." 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely First-Rate By Mark H. Top-drawer current scholarship by the reigning master of 18th century military history in North America, the independent historian Stephen Brumwell. Concise, scholarly, authoritative, highly readable, it is a perfect introduction to the era and dominant personalities. While written for all audiences, this is a very good professional development work for junior officers, as it places pivotal people, events, and operations within a larger social and cultural context. If you approach the man and era looking for insight into both, you will be just as doubly satisfied. If the First Nations were your primary antagonists, what higher praise could one receive than the nickname White Devil. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rogers Rangers By E.P. McLean Good presentation of the involvement of Rogers Rangers in the French and Indian War. Little new ground covered, but the author's intent was to clarify the debate about the actions of the Rangers in the war. He does have some success at this. Perhaps his greatest success is illustrating the complexity of fighting at the time. Good use of sources, but mkst will find little new here.

In North America's first major conflict, known today as the French and Indian War, France and England--both in alliance with Native American tribes--fought each other in a series of bloody battles and terrifying raids. No confrontation was more brutal and notorious than the massacre of the British garrison of Fort William Henry--an incident memorably depicted in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*. That atrocity stoked calls for revenge, and the tough young Major Robert Rogers and his "Rangers" were ordered north into enemy territory to take it. On the morning of October 4, 1759, they surprised the Abenaki Indian village of St. Francis, slaughtering its sleeping inhabitants without mercy. When the raiders returned to safety, they were hailed as heroes by the colonists, and their leader was immortalized as "the brave Major Rogers." But the Abenakis remembered Rogers differently: To them he was Wobomagonda--"White Devil."

"Occasionally a book comes out that's written with color and flair, that's painstakingly researched, and that breaks new ground on an old subject ... This is just such a book." -- Military Book Club (USA) "Writing with verve and great narrative drive, Brumwell delivers a story full of adventure, brutality and moral ambiguity that readers will not want to put down. A splendid book." -- Professor Fred Anderson, author of *Crucible of War* "A fast moving tale of courage, cruelty, hardship and savagery set at a time when the Appalachian Mountains marked the boundary of the Wild West." - *Pittsburg Post-Gazette* "This is a fine book that offers a rewarding read to scholars and laypeople alike. It deserves a wide audience." - *New York History* "In the right hands truth, or at any rate fact, can be just as thrilling as fiction. Those hands here belong to Stephen Brumwell." - *Washington Times* About the Author Stephen Brumwell has scoured numerous archives to unearth eyewitness accounts that lay bare the remarkable facts behind the legend of this controversial episode from America's violent frontier past. In *White Devil*, he tells a powerful true story of hardship

and courage, savagery and humanity, vengeance and survival. Stephen Brumwell is a well-known expert on the British army in eighteenth-century America, and the author of *Redcoats*. He lives in the Netherlands.