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# Book Review: The Skulking Way of War: Technology and Tactics Among the New England Indians by Patrick M. Malone

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In general, Guttridge exhibits a very British-style disdain for conceptualization, as the reader is left to piece together an argument from a blizzard of narrative detail. In significant respects, this is not a scholarly book. There are no footnotes, and the sources are nearly always taken at face value. The division of chapters is also sometimes irritating, as mutinies appear suddenly and straddle chapters for reasons that are not self-evident. But one is safest critiquing the book that was written rather than the book that might have been written. This book fulfills the modest task it sets for itself reasonably well—applying a very familiar explanation of military behavior to a wide array of situations.

Leonard V. Smith

Oberlin College

***The Skulking Way of War: Technology and Tactics Among the New England Indians.*** By Patrick M. Malone. Baltimore, Md.: John Hopkins University Press, 1993 [1991]. Maps. Illustrations. Notes. Index. Pp. 172. \$13.95.

This book examines a clash of civilizations, one based on a southern New England aboriginal military system and the other based on the more technologically advanced European military system of the seventeenth century. The period of study, 1600–77, encompasses the Pequot (1636–37) and King Philip's (1675–77) Wars. Malone not only seeks to investigate the influence of technological change on an aboriginal society but also to examine the evolving tactics of the era and the European concept of total war as it existed on the colonial frontier, a far different concept of war than the limited warfare gradually taking hold in Europe in response to the horrors of the Thirty Years' War.

The outcome of this study is fascinating. The New England Indians were faced with a technologically advanced foe who easily crushed one of their tribes, the Pequots, because they stood in the way of English expansion. In response to this threat, they were able first to secure access to and then effectively to assimilate the firearm into their own changing material culture. By doing so, the Indians were able to modify both the accepted European tactical use of the firearm and their own traditional pattern of forest (i.e., skulking) warfare based on the bow. This resulted in the development of a hybrid form of aboriginal warfare with which the imported military system of the English colonists was unable successfully to contend.

With no alternatives, the English colonists were, in turn, forced to alter their own military system and rely upon the same skulking tactics which they bitterly resented as not being soldier-like. "Soon a tactical and technological revolution was underway, and a new doctrine of forest warfare was evolving" (p. 117). This revolution marks the initial break with the older pattern of European warfare and the start of the form of warfare the

colonists would rely upon in the American War of Independence a century later. It also facilitated the destruction of the last remnants of southern New England Indian culture.

This well-researched work undoubtedly contributes to the understudied field of the southern New England Indians and has earned a place on the bookshelf next to Douglas Leach's acclaimed *Flintlock and Tomahawk: New England in King Philip's War*. More important, though, is the significance of Malone's book to more generalized scholars who are attempting to understand the interrelationship of technology and tactics (and, while not explicitly stated therein, the influence of defeat) on military system change.

All in all, this is a first-rate and readily affordable work. It is well-written, fascinating, and concise. It would be a welcome addition to courses focused on either the origins of the American military system or the breakdown of eighteenth-century European warfare.

Robert J. Bunker

American Military University

*On the Napoleonic Wars*. By David G. Chandler. Greenhill/Stackpole, 1994. Maps. Index. Pp. 270. \$34.95.

If, as is often estimated, the number of published books on the Napoleonic era approaches 250,000, then the inventory of articles, papers, and other short works must be immense indeed. Unfortunately, this wealth of material is frequently inaccessible to the larger public. Tucked away in obscure or now defunct journals, unmentioned in bibliographies, or perhaps not even published, it becomes a reclusive treasure, frustratingly difficult to locate and exploit. It is a distinct pleasure, then, to have in hand a collection of essays, some previously unpublished by one of the most eminent of contemporary Napoleonic historians.

David G. Chandler, head of the War Studies Department at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst from 1980 to 1994, has authored or edited nearly one dozen books on Napoleon and his age, but is perhaps best known for his landmark *Campaigns of Napoleon*. Now, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday and concomitant retirement from his position at Sandhurst, publisher Lionel Leventhal has assembled a fine selection of Chandler's Napoleonic monographs from the past thirty years. Arranged chronologically, the sixteen essays cover the entire period of the Republic and Empire with useful introductory notes which set each chapter in context and comment on the state of scholarship relative to the topic under consideration.

Of the broader, strategically-oriented pieces, the one entitled "The Egyptian Campaign of 1801" deserves especial attention. In it, Chandler provides an insightful introduction to this little-known campaign, highlighting