here is a case where they could only have enriched the story.

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Never Come to Peace Again
Pontiac's Uprising and the Fate of the British Empire in North America
By David Dixon

(Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005. Pp. xvii, 353. Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. $34.95.)

Writing that it is "time to reexamine Pontiac's Uprising," David Dixon has penned what amounts to one book and one suggestive essay (p. xi). He offers a vivid narrative of the battles and maneuvers of Indian and British forces in the conflict known popularly as Pontiac's War, but then argues, unconvincingly, that the impact of the war on western Pennsylvania contributed in a substantial way to the coming of the American Revolution a decade later.

This book joins Gregory Evans Dowd's *War Under Heaven* (2002) and William R. Nester's *Haughty Conquerors* (2000) in a new wave of scholarly attention to Pontiac's War. Where Dowd placed primary cause for the war on the preachings of the Delaware prophet Neolin and on the pan-Indian spiritual revitalization movement that erupted throughout the Great Lakes and Ohio valley at the end of the Seven Years' War, and where Nester assigned principal blame to the miserly and arrogant actions and attitude of British commander Sir Jeffrey Amherst, Dixon combines these causes with colonial demand for Indian land to explain the "savage war to expel the whites from their land" (p. 183). Whether the author means that the war was fought in a savage manner or that "savages" started the war is not always clear. Though Dixon depicts the incredibly brutal actions committed by all sides in the war, he spills more ink on Indian depredations than on European atrocities; further, he does so without placing such actions in cultural context. The book lacks an ethnohistorical focus that could better explain Indian motivations and the author deliberately eschews "masterful analysis" for "chronology and narrative" (p. 283).

The main strength of Dixon's book lies in its dramatic and thorough narrative of events and personalities involved in the war. Dixon is a good storyteller and his depictions of the sieges at Fort Detroit and Fort Pitt, the Battle at Bushy Run, and of persons such as Henry Bouquet make for compelling reading. Dixon immersed himself in the British primary literature and reproduces in an appendix two letters from Bouquet to Amherst

written during the midst of the Battle at Bushy Run. Bouquet's forces, on their way to relieve Fort Pitt in August 1763, were ambushed by Indians in overwhelming numbers yet managed to outmaneuver them and get most of the military unit to Fort Pitt. The Swiss officer Bouquet and the Scottish Highland troops under his command became folk heroes to settlers in western Pennsylvania for their daring and fierce counterattack. The military history focus of most of Dixon's book is its strong point, yet this approach begs for a more nuanced discussion of causes and impacts.

Though Dixon promises "to offer readers new insight into the causes and important consequences" of Pontiac's War, seven of the eight chapters cover the military actions of the 1758-1765 period, with only the remaining eighth chapter cursorily devoted to the impact of the war on later times and peoples (p. xi). That last chapter is interpretatively the weakest, as Dixon cherry-picks events from 1765 to 1776 that involved persons from western Pennsylvania in an attempt to demonstrate a direct connection between the Paxton Boys and other Indian-hating terrorist groups and the call for independence from Britain. The supposed connection between the Paxton Boys and calls for independence requires more analysis than is offered here; the author has not proven precisely what role they and other backcountry settlers played in toppling British imperial power. The fact that those settlers remained just as disillusioned with the new government of the United States under the Articles of Confederation suggests at the least that they did not accurately foresee the impact of their actions.

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Demanding the Cherokee Nation
Indian Autonomy and American Culture, 1830-1900
By Andrew Denson

(Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004. Pp. xi, 327. Notes, bibliography, index. $55.00.)

Andrew Denson's contribution to the University of Nebraska's series on Indians of the Southeast joins a growing and timely debate about Indian sovereignty. Focusing on the Cherokees, one of the most acculturated of the Five Tribes in the nineteenth century, Denson's text richly explores resources only marginally used by previous historians. Rather than depending upon Bureau of Indian Affairs materials, the book considers