

The strength of this volume is its detailed analysis of territorial Wisconsin. How two widely divergent Wisconsins separated by the Fox-Wisconsin waterway were brought together might have been given more attention. The author's portrayal of the evolution of government in this period is an excellent account. Her study of money and banking is particularly good. Her examination of public land, internal improvements, and demographic matters are expertly presented. From the standpoint of documentation the volume is an important reference work. The footnotes and the forty-seven page bibliographic essay contain a wealth of information and citations on every aspect of prestatehood Wisconsin.

The author is well aware that state history has significance when placed in its larger contexts; sometimes, however, Wisconsin is not significantly involved, and the contexts become the ends in themselves. Personalities play a major role in these pages; but frequently the great detail makes the account too biographical at the expense of the Wisconsin story itself. There are several good maps, but the amount of geographic place name detail in the text will lose the reader who is only generally familiar with the state. Finally, even the casual reader will note the author's penchant for the conjectural conclusion, the frequent use of such qualifiers as probably, perhaps, apparently, it may be surmised, and there may have been. These factors detract, but they do not lessen the contribution which the volume makes.

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Dwight L. Smith

Arms for Empire: A Military History of the British Colonies in North America, 1607-1763. By Douglas Edward Leach. *The Macmillan Wars of the United States.* Edited by Louis Morton. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1973. Pp. xiii, 566. Notes, maps, bibliography, index. \$14.95.)

This book is a fitting successor to, and extension of, the work of Stanley M. Pargellis (*Lord Loudon in North America* and the documentary *Military Affairs in North America, 1748-1765: Selected Documents from the Cumberland Papers in Windsor Castle*) of forty years ago. Though the perspective is from the point of view of the colonial participants, the story comes through in the same dispassionate and balanced way.

Leach, professor of history at Vanderbilt University, has himself written earlier, more specialized studies on King Philip's War and on the northern colonial frontier from 1608 to 1763.

Arms for Empire spells out the differences between colonies and mother country in meeting the continuing threat to security on the frontier—whether at the hands of European rivals or Indians—and it brings out again the differences among the colonies themselves. Above all it provides a full, integrated account free of romanticizing and with attention to details—even the gory details—of the colonial wars.

At the very outset, in the opening statement of the preface, Leach makes clear his approach to military history: "The time is long past when armed conflict may be presented to serious, sensitive readers as a kind of glorious adventure. . . . But the history of armed conflict should not be ignored, for it has been a tremendously determinative part of human experience" (p. xi). The colonials themselves often looked forward to their military adventures with gusto, but more often they were sobered by the fire, destruction, and loss of life. Retribution took the form of massacres on both sides. Quests for booty turned more often into loss than gain.

If one reads very long at one sitting, interest becomes dulled in repetitiousness. But this is less the fault of the author's style than of the nature of the events themselves. All the familiar figures of the colonial wars are subject to reexamination and reevaluation with a refreshing balance and consideration. Edward Braddock, it appears, was not as bad as is usually assumed, and James Wolfe and the Marquis de Montcalm were not so great. Leach relies upon printed documents and secondary works, but extensive research in such sources is sufficient to form a sound basis for and to establish the authority of this book. It is well done, and it will serve well its purpose. One might wish for a concluding essay to draw all the strings together in an interpretative analysis, but much of this comes through at appropriate places in the narrative.

Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.

James A. Huston