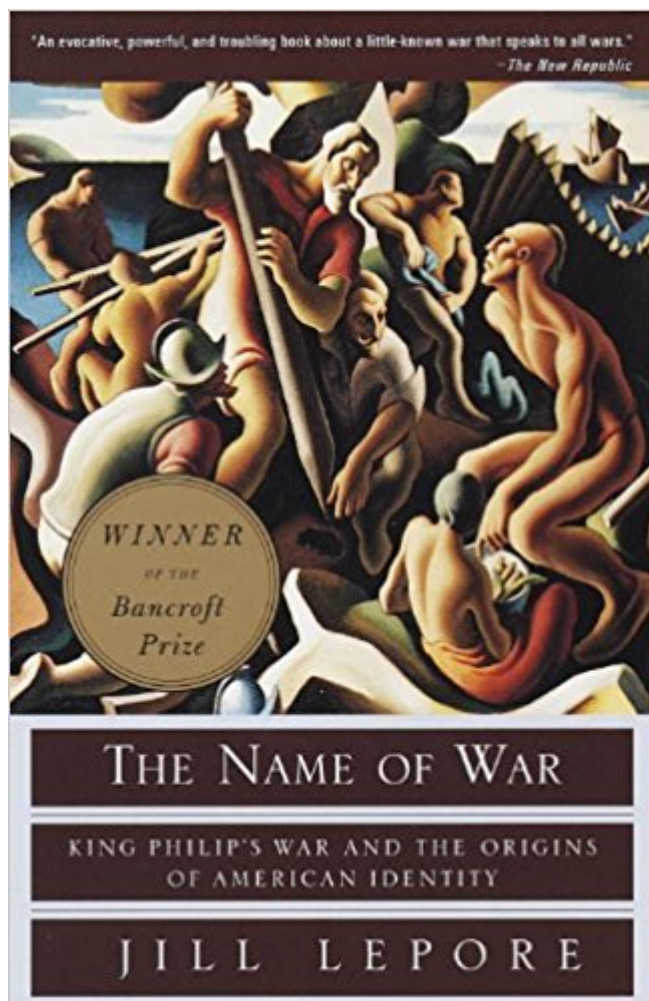


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# The Name Of War: King Philip's War And The Origins Of American Identity



## Synopsis

Winner of the Bancroft Prize King Philip's War, the excruciating racial war "colonists against Indians" that erupted in New England in 1675, was, in proportion to population, the bloodiest in American history. Some even argued that the massacres and outrages on both sides were too horrific to "deserve the name of a war." The war's brutality compelled the colonists to defend themselves against accusations that they had become savages. But Jill Lepore makes clear that it was after the war and because of it that the boundaries between cultures, hitherto blurred, turned into rigid ones. King Philip's War became one of the most written-about wars in our history, and Lepore argues that the words strengthened and hardened feelings that, in turn, strengthened and hardened the enmity between Indians and Anglos. Telling the story of what may have been the bitterest of American conflicts, and its reverberations over the centuries, Lepore has enabled us to see how the ways in which we remember past events are as important in their effect on our history as were the events themselves. Winner of the the 1998 Ralph Waldo Emerson Award of the Phi Beta Kappa Society

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Vintage (April 27, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375702628

ISBN-13: 978-0375702624

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 65 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,230 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Colonial Period #28 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Military #37 in Books > History > Americas > Native American

## Customer Reviews

In 1675, tensions between Native Americans and colonists residing in New England erupted into the brutal conflict that has come to be known as King Philip's War, named after Philip, the leader of the Wampanoag Indians. Jill Lepore's book is an evocative and insightful study of America's recollection and understanding of one of the bloodiest wars to take place on its soil. Lepore, an assistant professor of history at Boston University, depicts the horrors of this conflict, from

gruesome tortures to the massacre of women and children, so explicitly barbaric that the term "war" barely applies. An underlying theme of her narrative is that this unfortunate battle only served to strengthen the boundaries of cultural difference between the Native Americans and colonists, setting a rigid foundation for the many years of enmity between Indians and Anglos that would ensue. Skillfully drawing on accounts of substance from participants on both sides, Lepore presents a balanced overview of the causes and effects of this conflict and the reverberations it would have over the centuries to follow, ultimately revealing that how a past event is interpreted is often just as important as the event itself. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Shortly before his death in 1675, John Sassamon warned the governor of Plymouth Colony that Philip, a Wampanoag Indian leader, was about to attack English settlers. When Sassamon was found dead, indications pointed to murder. Three Wampanoag Indians were tried, convicted, and executed. Days later, Philip and his followers began attacking and destroying one English settlement after another. Colonial armies retaliated, killing Indian warriors on the battlefield and their families in the villages. Rather than providing a battle-by-battle description, Lepore (history, Boston Univ.) presents the war through the diaries, books, articles, and dramas written about it. Her major theme is that wars and their histories cannot be separated. Wars generate their own narratives, serving to define the geographical, political, cultural, and national boundaries between warring peoples. A unique approach to historical interpretation, this book will appeal to academic libraries and those that specialize in early American history. (Illustrations not seen.)?Grant A. Fredericksen, Illinois Prairie Dist. P.L., Metamora Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is both an history book and a philosophy book on the nature of war. It is a sad commentary of how the settlers treated the native population which eventually led to the bloodiest war ever fought on American soil (based on the percentage of people killed on both sides to the entire population at the time of the war.) The outcome was that for two centuries the people of New England did not believe that there were any native people left in New England. It is a must for history buffs for college students with history majors or minors.

I had to read this book for one of my history classes, and it honestly might have been my favorite aspect of the entire class. Jill Lepore has crafted a riveting fact based narrative that contemplates the nature of violence and domination in a clear eyed, unbiased light that simply presents the

information, and allows you to come to your own conclusion, and it's executed brilliantly.

This book was recommended by Rita Nakashima Brock, who promised it would reveal some of the underpinnings of our country's war like nature. She runs the Soul Repair organization. It treats veterans who have done things in war that makes them guilty. In a gentle manne she offers programing that eases the pain of moral injury.

This book was recommended to me by a professor. It was not required for my class on colonial America because it was considered to be too "dense" for those just passing by for a few humanities credits while they pursue engineering degrees. However, it was recommended to me for two reasons, first: it is an excellent book on how King Philip's War started. More specifically why war was the solution facing the complex society that made up the "New World", and how Colonists used that war in their own national creation myth. Also, this book is exceptionally well written! My professor was passionate about writing and taught his students to be good writers not just good researchers. About the book itself.... This is not a chronological history of the war, it merely uses the war as a setting for its larger intent. From the Mayflower to the inauguration of George Washington the history of the birth of America involves almost constant warfare. The imperial anvil hit hard in the forging of America. This book is for someone who wants to look at that process as a whole, not just the singular events of a few battles.

Although this book is very interesting ..... it can be difficult to read at times since the author sometimes quotes writings from centuries ago with old spellings. Otherwise it is an excellent book on Metacom's or King Phillip's War.

Superb examination of how "history" is created and related to subsequent generations. A MUST read for any history student. A more erudite Howard Zinn.

An incredible interpretation of American history that examines the conflict between the New England settlers and the natives with the resultant changes of identity of each.

Life in 17C North America involved war -- a brutal reality dutifully recorded from contemporary sources by the author and a very few others. It's a saga that permeates the foundation of this nation, and demands examination. All were perpetrators, all were victims. Who was right? This work

is a valuable account of King Phillip's War (1675). Read it and judge for yourself. Of course some of us read the book shortly after it was published in HC in 1998. Thus my remarks. I note other reviews, many critical, tie this work to completely unrelated savagery that occurred after 1998. They seem to be frantically trying to revise history. This book has nothing to do with 9/11/01. Those who interpret it as such should seek a competent analyst and a suitable drug regimen.

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