



The Barbary Wars: American Independence in the Atlantic World

Franklin T. Lambert

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American independence was secured from Britain on September 3, 1783. Within a year, the American merchant ship *Betsey* was captured by Sallee Rovers, state-sponsored pirates operating out of the ports of Morocco. Algerian pirates quickly seized two more American ships: the boats were confiscated, their crews held captive, and ransom demanded of the fledgling American government.

The history of America's conflict with the piratical states of the Mediterranean runs through the presidencies of Washington, Adams, Jefferson and Madison; the adoption of the Constitution; the Quasi-War with France and the War of 1812; the construction of a full-time professional navy; and, most important, the nation's haltering steps toward commercial independence. Frank Lambert's genius is to see in the Barbary Wars the ideal means of capturing the new nation's shaky emergence in the complex context of the Atlantic world.

Depicting a time when Britain ruled the seas and France most of Europe, *The Barbary Wars* proves America's earliest conflict with the Arabic world was always a struggle for economic advantage rather than any clash of cultures or religions.

The Barbary Wars: American Independence in the Atlantic World Details

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From Reader Review The Barbary Wars: American Independence in the Atlantic World for online ebook

Rickie says

It was informative and interesting, but stalled in a few places. I particularly liked the parts that described the adventurous feats of heroism by Americans fighting against the pirates, but those parts didn't last very long.

Nick Montalbano says

A definitive concise history of the thirty year conflict that plagued the early nation's trade. This book should be in anyone's bookshelf who is interested in American history

Nedland P. says

Fascinating read.

Lizzie says

Exactly what I wanted- a concise, chronological history of the U.S. wars with the Barbary states, namely the Tripolitan War and the Algerine War, with much commerce raided and tribute demanded in between. The focus of the author was the U.S. struggle to balance its revolutionary desires for an open Atlantic trading system with its relative insignificance and weakness at the dawn of the 19th century. I would have loved more about the Barbary states themselves- aside from a bit of background on the Karamanli dynasty in Tripoli to set the scene on Eaton's march on Derna, there is very little here to learn about the so-called pirate states themselves. The glimpses of the lives of the U.S. captives, some later turned consuls of the United States, were fascinating and left me seeking more. Despite these gaps, this was an informative introduction into this very early chapter in U.S. diplomacy and warfare.

Hannah Scott says

I really enjoyed this book. An interesting and very important part of American history that is never taught.

Lisa says

A solid account of the long-simmering conflict between the newly independent American states (not yet United at the outset) and the Barbary states of North Africa. The author provides clear context for events, and brought up several points I was previously unaware of, such as that the treaty with France during the

Revolution protected American shipping in the Mediterranean. However, the narrative was a little circuitous at times- repeated mention of the *Betsy* left me briefly confused as to whether it had been captured multiple times, and this curious looping was also repeated with the construction and launch of the *Constellation*, *United States*, and *Constitution*.

Robert Flaxman says

A solid accounting of America's struggle to deal with the Barbary Coast states around the turn of the 19th century, but it focuses almost entirely on this admittedly minor conflict while not spending a ton of time on broader context, feeling a bit stretched as a result. Everything that's here is perfectly informative, and some color is brought to a distant time in the nation's history, but it did feel like it could have been more illuminating.

Annie says

Not bad for a historical text on the barbary wars. Chapter 4 was the best. Between 3 and 4 stars overall.

Nezka says

Detailed political and military history of specific dealings of the young American nation with foreign pirates and diplomacy, which led to establishing of American Navy and the USA as a strong foreign power.

Jerry Landry says

Great read, especially in light of our current conflict with Libya. I had only encountered the Barbary Wars as a sidenote in other historical texts, so it was good to get the whole story from beginning to end like this. Lambert does an excellent job of conveying the facts and placing the conflict in context of the other major events of early US history (the Constitution, War of 1812, etc.).

David R. says

A workmanlike narrative, but it tends to be superficial and occasionally one dimensional. Nor am I convinced that anything is truly concluded: there's a short rah-rah-we-won closing that historically, stops dead in 1815. A bit more afterward would be welcomed.

Elizabeth says

Adams is by far the most useless person in Early American history

