

Book Notices

President Washington's Indian War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1790-1795, by Wiley Sword. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985. xv + 400 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

For the second time in two decades, the Indians of the lower Great Lakes were abandoned by their military allies. The Treaty of Paris of 1783 was an agreement to end hostilities between the colonials and the Crown. The new American republic was given this region by the leadership and negotiators in Europe, but the Indians and local British officials were less enthusiastic about withdrawing their military and economic presence in this region. The Indians wanted to continue the struggle as they had in 1763, and the British used this attitude to encourage the Indians to continue their resistance to the influx of squatters. The new nation was in no position to assert itself over these Indians. American-Indian diplomacy from 1783 through the 1790s was a mixture of stated positions, treaty negotiations, unrestricted settlement, and military actions. The early failures of Harmer and St. Clair accentuated the problem. The selection of Anthony Wayne to lead the military and negotiate the peace with the Indians plus the diplomatic gains of John Jay resolved the issues in the mid-1790s. The future of the Indian in the United States was determined during this era, according to Wiley Sword.

President Washington's Indian War is a synthesis of previous works on the subject. The author uses the narrative style to enliven the content and does not get bogged down in the polemics of previous writers. The reliability of some of his sources might be questioned and the typographical errors are disruptive. The scholar of American-Indian diplomacy will glean no new insights of the issue. But if the basic premise of the book is accepted, that the Indians' fate was sealed in this era, then the book is essential to any student of western Indian policy or the trans-Mississippi West as well as to military historians.

DEFIANCE COLLEGE

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