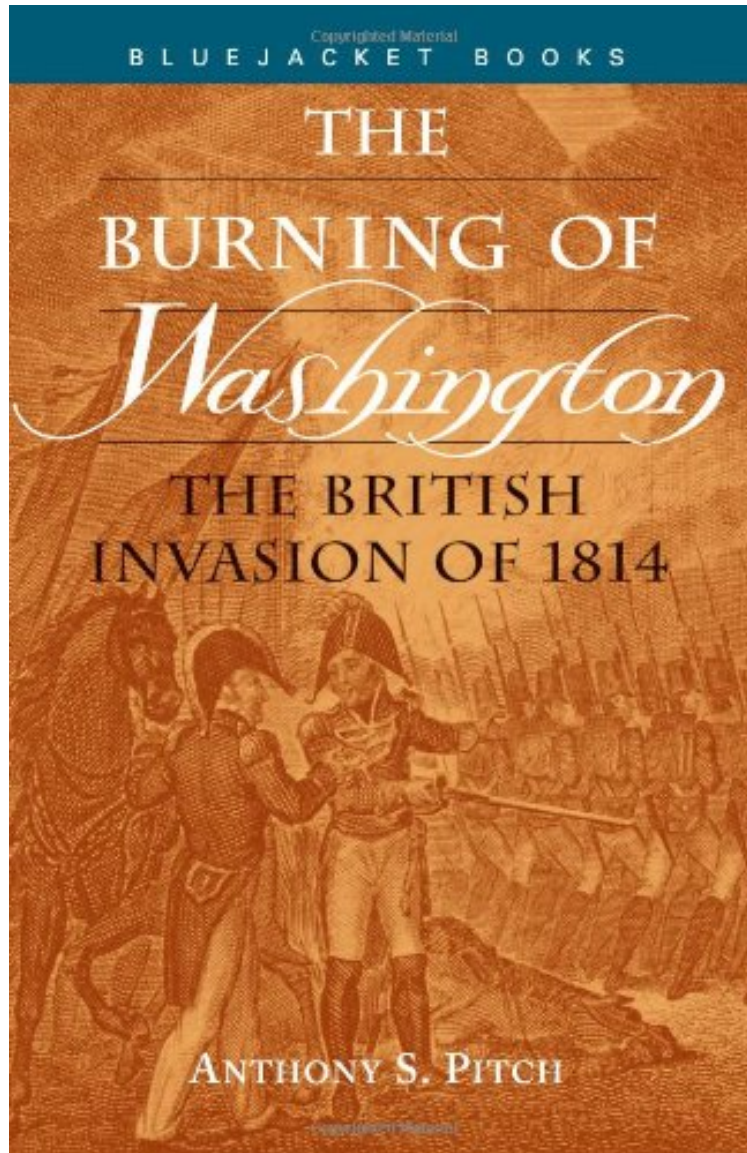


(Pdf free) Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814 (Bluejacket Books)

Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814 (Bluejacket Books)

Anthony S. Pitch

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1434827 in Books Naval Institute Press 2000-03-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.99 x .93 x 6.00l, 1.02 #File Name: 1557504253336 pages | File size: 64.Mb

Anthony S. Pitch : Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814 (Bluejacket Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814 (Bluejacket Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Compelling, game-changing accountBy KatherineA resident of

Brookeville, MD, I read Anthony Pitch's book to prepare for our commemoration of President Madison's flight from the burning capital. The exhausted, endangered President slept one night in the relative safety and hospitality of our little Quaker village almost exactly 200 years ago. Anthony Pitch's book brought home the choices, horrific details, confusion and trauma of the final stages of the War of 1812 by portraying the motives and reactions of the people involved and guiding us along the confusing roadmap of this strange war. No longer do I see this period as a footnote in history or a bump on the way to US autonomy as a fledgling nation. Pitch's awesome research and pulsing, deft narrative made a powerful case that this messy war was a defining moment in early American history. I truly couldn't put the book down. I heard author Anthony Pitch speak at a War of 1812 symposium and will see him at our re-acted commemoration of the President's stay in Brookeville, just a few weeks from now. As is his in-person conversation about this era, his book is an essential, intimate recounting of the final stages of the tragic war during the ultimately successful struggle to establish this nation. Read this book if you really want to understand those high notes you sing at the start of every baseball game. You will realize that congressional standoffs, fingerprinting at Presidents, and recriminations over involvement in wars have telling roots at the founding of our political process. I think it is fair to say that the burning of Washington was a 9/11 experience for the early USA. This book is brilliant at weaving the central themes into a compelling account. I wish Pitch's book had been available when I taught high school history courses on pre-20th century US history, years ago. I now face the local commemoration of President Madison's one night in Brookeville with humility and appreciation for these traumatizing, life-changing experiences of our ancestors.

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. **WASHINGTON SACKED BY FOREIGN ARMY !!** By Wayne A. Smith I imagine most Americans would think the above title reflected historical fiction rather than fact. The fact is that most contemporary Americans thought the Burning of Washington would live on forever in the American mind as an ignoble moment of shame and humiliation. That it has largely been forgotten is a testament to how America has changed and grown since 1814 -- rendering what has become one of our "little wars" largely to the history books with an occasional reprieve when the Star Spangled Banner is considered. It is worth considering that President Madison is remembered today as the father of the Constitution, and not as the rascal who allowed the White House and the Capitol to be burned by a foreign army during a war so ineptly fought by our side. I imagine that had this occurred in any number of other countries, his moment of singular presidential humiliation would attach itself more largely to his name. We remain an optimistic people.

Anthony S. Pitch has written a very good account of the British occupation and sacking of Washington, D.C. in his book "The Burning of Washington. The British Invasion of 1814." The author makes good use of contemporary sources and observations from American and British combatants as well as civilians. The background is sketched well enough to allow the reader to understand why the British stood at the mouth of the Potomac River ready to invade our capitol city. Personalities of American and British commanders as well as President Madison and especially Secretary of War John Armstrong - to whom can be attributed the immediate blame for Washington's unpreparedness - are well summarized to give the reader a good feel for how individuals affected the events covered in the book. The story covers the Battle of Bladensburg, the march on and occupation of Washington, the burning of the public buildings (focusing on the Capitol and White House), as well as the British attempt to take Baltimore, which failed before the walls of Ft. McHenry. Francis Scott Key's penning of our national anthem is also covered, as well as the British retreat. The book ends with summaries of the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the war, as well as Jackson's incredibly lopsided victory over Gen. Packenham before New Orleans. All in all this is a good and interesting book. The author keeps the pace moving while giving enough detail to both satisfy curiosity as to why events are unfolding as they did as well as add the flavor and feel that can come from a judicious use of diary entries and contemporary accounts. I recommend this to any history buff who would like to know more about a now overlooked -- but still astonishing - part of American history.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **Excellent Read: Fills in the gaps left by your teachers!!!** By Bob in Richmond A very interesting read about a war all too often ignored by most Americans and their schools. One wonders at the beauty of the buildings burned and trashed and their contents which are gone forever. And also at the virtually, total unpreparedness to defend the city. Of additional interest is the rather mannerly way in which the British treated American civilians, naturally with some exceptions. An excellent book containing much insight on a forgotten, but important, war.

With all the immediacy of an eyewitness account, Anthony Pitch tells the dramatic story of the British invasion of Washington in the summer of 1814, an episode many call a defining moment in the coming-of-age of the United States. The British torched the Capitol, the White House, and many other public buildings, setting off an inferno that illuminated the countryside for miles and sending President James Madison scurrying out of town while his wife Dolley rescued a life-sized portrait of George Washington from the flames. The author's gripping narrative--hailed by a White House curator, a Senate historian, and the chairman of the National Geographic Society, among others--is filled with vivid details of the attack. Not confining his story to Washington, Pitch also describes the brave, resourceful defense of nearby Fort McHenry and tells how Francis Scott Key, a British hostage on a ship near the Baltimore harbor during the fort's bombardment, wrote a poem that became the national anthem.

From Publishers Weekly Americans have grown so accustomed to being citizens of a superpower that our collective memory of the burning of Washington during the War of 1812 has been submerged. Pitch, with a solid reputation as a tour leader and local D.C. historian, offers an archivally based, definitive account of the British raid into Chesapeake Bay in 1814, and the successful march on Washington that was a function of American ineffectiveness as much as British competence. After two decades of war with France, British forces had grown adept at "descents": small-scale incursions into hostile territory with the objective of inflicting damage and creating despondency. The decision to burn public buildings and destroy public property was as much political as military, aimed at sending the message that nowhere was there safety from the long arm of the British crown. The British withdrew once the capital lay in ruins, sailing on to the more economically promising targets of Alexandria and Baltimore. The latter city's successful resistance demonstrated that the British were not invincible. Even militia, given competent commanders and sufficient numbers, could blunt the edge of a raiding force unable to replace its own losses. At least as significant, according to Pitch, was the decision not to relocate the capital even temporarily, but to continue governing from the ruins, which conveyed the message that, like its predecessor, this second war of independence would be fought to a finish. In a Britain weary of conflict, that was a powerful incentive to initiate negotiations that within four months produced the Treaty of Ghent and confirmed America's identity as a nation. 14 illustrations. History Book Club selection. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal To this day, stones that bear the burn marks of the fire set by the British in the War of 1812 can be seen on the White House, but little thought is given to their context. Pitch attempts to bring alive that time of humiliation and triumph for the young republic, a time too much eclipsed by the American Revolution and the Civil War. A naturalized American born in England, Pitch is perhaps more importantly a guide who provides popular walking tours of historic neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. He knows both the past and present of his adopted city and has a feel for the people of the era covered here, which he displays through numerous entertaining anecdotes and quotations. This book fills a gap by enlightening many Americans about an important time in their history and is of special interest to Washingtonians. Recommended for public and academic libraries. ?Katherine E. Gillen, Luke AFB Lib., Avondale, AZ Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. Since he's been in the White House, President Clinton has always been intrigued by the burning. That's why he got by the burning. That's why he got hold of this book -- Associated Press quoting a White House spokesman Like the epic *Gone With the Wind*, ... no less dramatic, and equally significant -- Maryland Historical Magazine Truly masterful. As good as historical recreation gets -- Gilbert Grosvenor, chairman, National Geographic Society As readable as a novel. An exciting story well told -- History Book Club