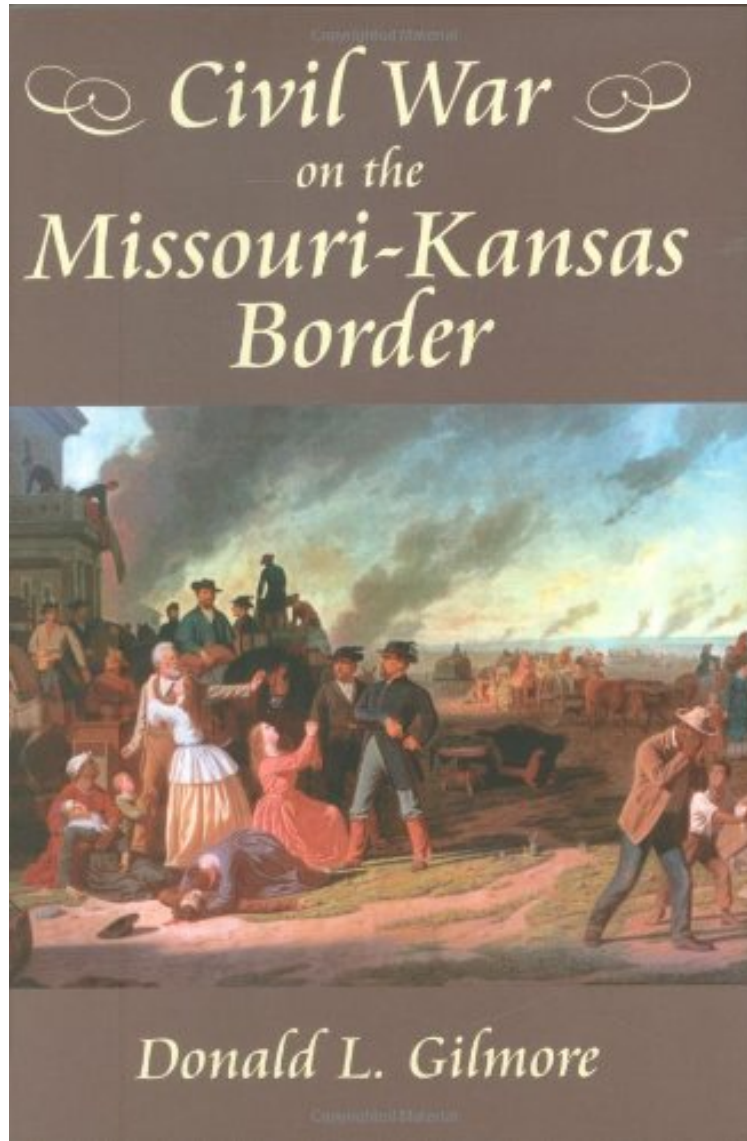


Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border

Donald Gilmore

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Donald Gilmore : Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy JO2Great detail on how much conflict existed between the two states1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. There was no love for Kansas growing upBy TJ
SCHOENLEINSeldom do you get reference material of this scope. 101 pages of notes, bibliographies,
manuscripts...Mr. Gilmore has done his homework.Of course history is interpretation, historians choose what to leave

in - what to leave out. Mr. Gilmore lays it out for you to read research for yourself. This book belongs in your library. It's just that good. A short side comment...I grew up in Independence Missouri. In the 5th grade, we boys at recess would don the Union/Confederate caps (every boy had one) and ruff house in the play area near the school. Each boy would choose the side they wanted to be on. The teachers look the other way as we were just being boys. No political correctness nonsense in those days. (1953)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Greg HigginsGood reference.

During the Civil War, the western front was the scene of some of that conflict's bloodiest and most barbaric encounters as Union raiders and Confederate guerrillas pursued each other from farm to farm with equal disregard for civilian casualties. Historical accounts of these events overwhelmingly favor the victorious Union standpoint, characterizing the Southern fighters as wanton, unprincipled savages. But in fact, as the author, himself a descendant of Union soldiers, discovered, the bushwhackers' violent reactions were understandable, given the reign of terror they endured as a result of Lincoln's total war in the West.

"...Gilmore's book focuses on depredations committed by Jayhawkers...as well as raids by Missourians into Kansas." -- Topeka Capital-Journal "...none has dissected and disproved the whole dogma, item by item, beginning to end, quite as Gilmore has done." -- Nevada (MO) Daily Mail "Donald Gilmore's 'Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border' bravely and patiently marshals its evidence ..." -- St. Louis Post-Dispatch "Gilmore's new book is a bombshell!" -- Armchair General Magazine, Dr. Jerry Morelock, Ph.D. From the Inside Flap "Gilmore's new book is a bombshell! It turns the 'standard textbook' Civil War history of the bloody Missouri-Kansas border war right on its head--and about time, too!"--Armchair General "A captivating account of western life during the violent years prior to and during the Civil War. A thorough, well-researched study of the realities of life during a particularly volatile time."--Military "Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border is a riveting glimpse into the calculated ruthlessness of both sides in a vicious, prolonged conflict."--The Midwest Book In reexamining many of the long-held historical assumptions about this period, Donald L. Gilmore discusses President Lincoln's utmost desire to keep Missouri in the Union by any and all means. As early as 1858, Kansan and Union troops carried out unbridled confiscation or destruction of Missouri private property, until the state became known as "the burnt region." These outrages escalated to include martial law throughout Missouri and finally the infamous General Orders Number 11 of September 1863 in which Union general Thomas Ewing, Federal commander of the region, ordered the deportation of the entire population of the border counties. It is no wonder that, faced with the loss of their farms and their livelihoods, Missourians struck back with equal force. Jayhawkers and bushwhackers were equally ruthless in this hard-fought "war without quarter." Mr. Gilmore sets the record straight by spotlighting the depredations and atrocities performed by Kansas senator and Union major general James Lane and his men, which are often ignored or underreported in most historical accounts. He also questions the accepted characterization of all bushwhackers as bloodthirsty demons. For example, David Rice Atchison, leader of the so-called Border Ruffians, was in fact a cultured man, a respected Missouri senator, and president pro tem of the United States Senate. Even William Clarke Quantrill, best known for leading the massacre of August 21, 1863, in which 450 Confederate guerrillas descended on Lawrence, Kansas, an abolitionist stronghold, and slaughtered 150 citizens, was not the devil, as he is usually depicted. He was a typical guerrilla chieftain whose violent actions are understandable in their correct context, given the U.S. Army's policy of exterminating his men on sight without trial or capture. From the Back Cover During the Civil War, the western front was the scene of some of that conflict's bloodiest and most barbaric encounters as Union raiders and Confederate guerrillas pursued each other from farm to farm with equal disregard for civilian casualties. Historical accounts of these events overwhelmingly favor the victorious Union standpoint, characterizing the Southern fighters as wanton, unprincipled savages. But in fact, as author Donald L. Gilmore, himself a descendant of Union soldiers, discovered, the bushwhackers' violent reactions were understandable, given the reign of terror they endured as a result of Lincoln's total war in the West. Lincoln's drastic measures included imposing martial law and finally deporting the border counties' entire population under General Orders Number 11 in September 1863. Rebels were also subject to the roughest frontier justice as they were executed on sight, without trial or jury. The author includes new assessments of the careers of Union major general James Lane, Missouri senator David Rice Atchison, Confederate guerrilla William Clarke Quantrill, and many more as he describes how the Missouri-Kansas border became "the burnt region."