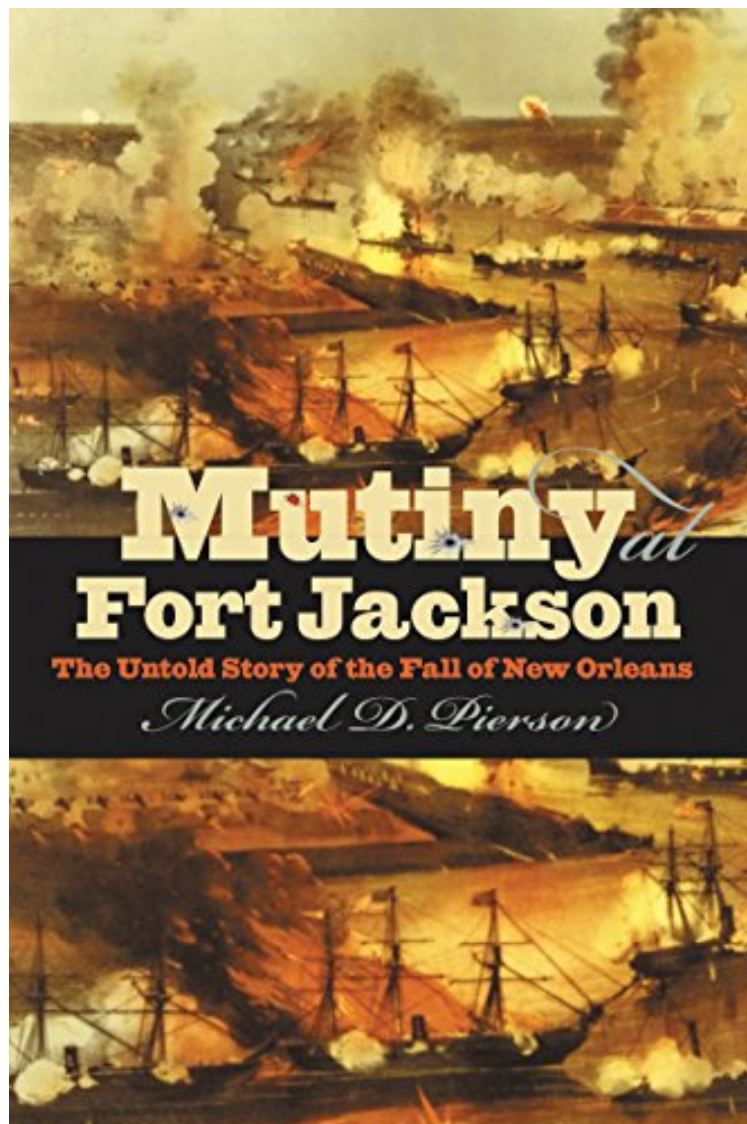


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Michael D. Pierson

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Michael D. Pierson : Mutiny at Fort Jackson: The Untold Story of the Fall of New Orleans (Civil War America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mutiny at Fort Jackson: The Untold Story of the Fall of New Orleans (Civil War America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a good, easily understood book on a little known chapter

...By Jake This is a good, easily understood book on a little known chapter in the American Civil War. I'm well-read on this subject and I learned quite a bit about Southern Unionists from this book. It will be an eye-opener for anyone who believes the tired old Lost Cause Myth that all white people in the Confederate States supported secession. Pierson presents a good discussion of who these Southern Unionists were, how they pulled off the mutiny, and how the mutiny led to the fall on New Orleans, the Confederacy's largest city, barely one year into the war. When the reader finishes this book, she can pick up one or two others that look to an even greater depth into the backgrounds of Southern Unionists: Virginia Bynam's *The Free State of Jones*, and Stephanie McCurry's *Confederate Reckoning: The Mutiny at Fort Jackson* is a good start to an education.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. For a totally different take on the Battle of New Orleans in 1862. By Mark McCandless This book completely blew me away. I live in New Orleans but had no idea there was such a large Unionist population here during the Civil War. The politics and social structure of the city become alive in this examination of who the soldiers that mutinied were, why they did it, and how important the fall of New Orleans was. This does not detail the naval battle in any significant way, but instead treads what was to me completely new ground.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Very Good Analysis With Provocative Modern Day Implications By James P. Giraldin Read in anticipation of visiting New Orleans and being Civil War enthusiast. I found the historical facts fun BUT the implications for considering modern day issues is undeniable.

New Orleans was the largest city--and one of the richest--in the Confederacy, protected in part by Fort Jackson, which was just sixty-five miles down the Mississippi River. On April 27, 1862, Confederate soldiers at Fort Jackson rose up in mutiny against their commanding officers. New Orleans fell to Union forces soon thereafter. Although the Fort Jackson mutiny marked a critical turning point in the Union's campaign to regain control of this vital Confederate financial and industrial center, it has received surprisingly little attention from historians. Michael Pierson examines newly uncovered archival sources to determine why the soldiers rebelled at such a decisive moment. The mutineers were soldiers primarily recruited from New Orleans's large German and Irish immigrant populations. Pierson shows that the new nation had done nothing to encourage poor white men to feel they had a place of honor in the southern republic. He argues that the mutineers actively sought to help the Union cause. In a major reassessment of the Union administration of New Orleans that followed, Pierson demonstrates that Benjamin "Beast" Butler enjoyed the support of many white Unionists in the city. Pierson adds an urban working-class element to debates over the effects of white Unionists in Confederate states. With the personal stories of soldiers appearing throughout, *Mutiny at Fort Jackson* presents the Civil War from a new perspective, revealing the complexities of New Orleans society and the Confederate experience.

Pierson has contributed to our understanding of the Civil War home front, and the Confederacy as a whole. . . . All social and military historians of the Civil War should take the time to read this engaging, provocative monograph.--*Military History of the West* A blend of military and social history at its best. . . . An important addition, not only to Civil War studies, but also to labor and immigrant history. This is a well-written, soundly researched book. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the development of American studies of the 19th century."—*CivilWarNews.com* A well-written, thoroughly researched, and clearly organized account of the mutiny and the soldiers involved in the affair.--*Choice* [The] thesis is intriguing. . . . A worthwhile read because good historical writing should raise good historical questions and spark meaningful discussion, both in the classroom and around the conference table. Pierson does all of this and is to be commended for tackling a challenging topic.--*American Historical* This compelling, sometimes poignant account reflects exhaustive research. . . . Pierson's examination . . . illuminates broad thinking about Southern society, even modern America.--*America's Civil War* The most in-depth study of the mutiny at Fort Jackson and provides important evidence for a new perspective on many aspects of the Civil War in southern Louisiana.--*H-Net* sOne of those singular contributions to American history where a small slice, an episode, horrible as it was becomes human. . . . Both the lay reader and academic will equally enjoy Pierson's treatment of the Fort Jackson mutiny.--*The Advocate* An original and significant contribution to Civil War history.--*Soldier Studies* [A] lively and well-written book. . . . An impressive example of historical research and deductions based on thorough research in other period military and civilian sources. . . . [A] first-rate history, and Pierson's thesis and conclusions should spark debate and further study.--*Journal of America's Military Past* *Mutiny at Fort Jackson* makes a significant, original contribution to the field of Civil War history. Identifying the home front as crucial to understanding the course of the Civil War and its impact on American society, Pierson expands the burgeoning study of Southern Unionism with a sophisticated analysis of Unionism in New Orleans's ethnically diverse, urban wage economy. This book will interest Civil War enthusiasts as well as students and scholars.--Victoria Bynum, author of *The Free State of Jones: Mississippi's Longest Civil War* Pierson shows that there is much more to the Fort Jackson mutiny than we have thought, and that it really matters historically. He not only analyzes the episode astutely and provides rich background material, but also tells a good story, replete with drama and even humor. This is a well-written, well-organized, and deeply researched study that has important implications for some of the major

issues currently being debated among Civil War historians.--Stephen V. Ash, author of *When the Yankees Came: Conflict and Chaos in the Occupied South*About the AuthorMichael D. Pierson is associate professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. He is author of *Free Hearts and Free Homes: Gender and American Antislavery Politics* (from the University of North Carolina Press).