

Introduction

This study began as an attempt to address one of early American military history's most perplexing ambiguities and contradictions: the place and relationship between what we today know as unlimited war and what eighteenth-century writers termed *petite guerre* (little war) in the American military tradition. Unlimited war, in both its modern and earliest American manifestations, centers on destroying the enemy's will or ability to resist by any means necessary, especially by focusing attacks on civilian populations and the infrastructure that supports them. Military theorists now use several different terms in place of *petite guerre*, including "irregular," "guerrilla," "partisan," "unconventional," or "special" operations.¹ Today's United States military places those kinds of wars under the rubric of "low-intensity conflict." But no matter what we call it or how we define it today, early Americans understood war to involve disrupting enemy troop, supply, and support networks; gathering intelligence through scouting and the taking of prisoners; ambushing and destroying enemy detachments; serving as patrol and flanking parties for friendly forces; operating as advance and rear guards for regular forces; and, most important, destroying enemy villages and fields and killing and intimidating enemy noncombatant populations.²

- 1 French military theorists began to speak of *petite guerre* in the middle of the eighteenth century. During the duke of Wellington's Peninsular Campaign in the Napoleonic Wars, Anglophones replaced *petite guerre* with the Spanish term *guerrilla* to describe the practice of "irregular" warfare. See *The Stanford Dictionary of Anglicized Words and Phrases*, 1964 ed., s.v. "La Petite Guerre" and "Guerrilla." George Smith, *An Universal Military Dictionary, A Copious Explanation of the Technical Terms &c.* (1779; reprint, Ottawa: Museum Restoration Service, 1969), 202, described the practitioners of *petite guerre* as "partisans." "Unconventional" is a term that theorists developed in the twentieth century to address aspects of modern warfare that fall outside "regular" (state-on-state or army-on-army) forms of war making.
- 2 United States Army, *Field Manual 7-85 Ranger Unit Operations* (Washington, DC: Headquarters, Department of the Army, 1987), states that Army rangers conduct "special military operations" in support of conventional military operations or act independently when conventional forces cannot be used. *FM 7-85* notes that special military operations include "strike operations, usually deep penetration, and special light infantry

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Military historians long have sought to describe Americans' approach to war. Russell F. Weigley has been the most influential of the scholars to suggest that Americans have created a singular military heritage. Indeed, his seminal book *The American Way of War* established the paradigm that most scholars use to explain the American military tradition. This study offers an alternative understanding to Weigley's, one based on the proposition that war focused on noncombatant populations is itself a fundamental part of Americans' military past, indeed, is Americans' first way of war.

Weigley's argument, and with it the accepted synthesis of American military history, rested on two conceptual pillars, both the products of post-Napoleonic German scholarship. First, he contended that Carl von Clausewitz's *On War* defines in general terms the parameters within which we can understand America's military culture. Clausewitz distinguished between two kinds of war: those that seek the overthrow of the enemy and those that seek merely to achieve a limited victory. Weigley asserted that all of American military history falls in that framework. In America's earliest wars, he argued, English colonists, and later the United States, proved too weak to pursue anything other than limited wars; as time went on and Americans' military might grew, however, Americans increasingly fought unlimited wars to overthrow their enemies. The Civil War, especially William T. Sherman's March to the Sea, symbolized how Americans embraced the Clausewitzian conception of the complete destruction of the enemy as a goal of war.³

The second part of Weigley's thesis derived from his understanding of another German military philosopher and historian, Hans Delbrück. Delbrück suggested that there are two kinds of military strategy: the strategy of annihilation, which seeks to erase an enemy's military power in a thunderclap of violence, and the strategy of attrition, which attempts to erode it.⁴ Weigley argued that most modern American military strategists have preferred Delbrückian wars of annihilation and closing with the enemy for the "decisive" battle. He suggested that when American

operations. Strike operations include raids, interdiction, and recovery operations" (pp. 1-1-1-2).

3 Russell F. Weigley, *The American Way of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1973), xviii–xxiii.

4 A third strategic option, available to modern soldiers, is that of strategic paralysis. Strategic paralysis originated with the armored warfare theorists (J. F. C. Fuller and B. H. Liddell Hart) of the 1920s and 1930s. Its goal is to weaken and destroy the enemy's ability to resist by focusing on his command and control and sustainment capabilities. Modern airpower theorists, especially those in the United States Air Force, have adopted strategic paralysis as their mantra. Strategic paralysis can be achieved by simultaneous or parallel attacks on an enemy's centers of gravity. Early American soldiers, naturally, did not have the technology that would allow parallel war. Thus, their strategic options necessarily were only attritive or annihilationist.

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military resources were slight, Americans accepted the strategy of attrition out of necessity. But the abundance of economic resources characteristic of the United States from the mid-nineteenth century on, coupled with the adoption of Clausewitzian unlimited war aims, created an environment in which the strategy of annihilation became *the* American way of war. Weigley's synthesis of Clausewitz and Delbrück therefore led him to see American military history through a lens that focuses only on the complete destruction of the enemy through annihilation of the enemy's military power.

Two features of Weigley's account limit its explanatory power and range.⁵ First, it is disjunctive. Weigley established a demarcation between American wars before and after 1846, similar to the break that we sometimes assume separates colonial from later American history. He saw America's pre-Mexican War conflicts as limited-attritional wars; thereafter, Americans turned to an approach more in line with the unlimited-annihilationist model. Weigley suggested, for example, that a lack of military resources influenced George Washington's and Nathanael Greene's commitment to limited-attritional strategies in the War of Independence. Thus, while crediting Greene with creating an American conception of guerrilla war, he contended, "The later course of American military history, featuring a rapid rise from poverty of resources to plenty, cut short any further American evolution of Greene's type of strategy. He therefore remains alone as an American master developing a strategy of unconventional war."⁶ The assumption that colonial military history differed significantly from what followed led Weigley, with his focus on post-mid-nineteenth-century American war, to minimize continuity and evolution in America's military past in favor of an abrupt and "revolutionary" departure from previous norms and institutions.

Weigley's tendency to privilege the affairs of regular armies over the actions and attitudes of nonprofessional soldiers marks the second limiting characteristic of his argument. His subject was primarily the formal entity of the United States Army or, in the case of the colonial period, the British Army. Weigley's approach to military history centered on organizations, major campaigns, doctrinal thinking, and diplomacy. From it, he explained superbly the grand strategy and policy of the United States Army. Americans, however, had served and fought outside professional

5 For another critique of Weigley's thesis, see Brian M. Linn, "The American Way of War Revisited," *Journal of Military History* 66 (2002): 501–530. For Weigley's response, see "Response to Brian McAllister Linn by Russell F. Weigley," *ibid.*, 531–533. Note that neither Linn nor Weigley explains how Americans' military experience in the two and a half centuries before the Civil War shaped the parameters of the "American way of war."

6 Weigley, *American Way of War*, 36.

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military organizations for nearly 175 years before the Army came into existence in 1775. And while many Americans found their way to both the British and United States Armies, many more fought as Indian fighters as members of ad hoc organizations formed for specific operations and disbanded at their conclusion. Thus, Weigley was unable to provide more than a few incidental insights into the non-Army aspects of the American military experience.

Yet if we look closely at early American military history, we see that it had less to do with grand strategy, the movements of armies, or the clash of nations than with what eighteenth-century writers called *petite guerre*. War in early America among Americans, Indians, Britons, Canadians, Frenchmen, and Spaniards consisted of a multitude of “little wars” and quasi-personal struggles. Although in the 1690s the colonists became embroiled in the century-long series of Anglo–French conflicts that historians sometimes call the Second Hundred Years’ War, Americans fought those wars for different ends. While great European armies fought for dynastic and geopolitical goals in Europe, handfuls of colonists waged life-and-death struggles against Indians and Canadians on the American frontier. Without a Sébastien Vauban–style web of fortifications and magazines covering the land, or the massive armies like those engaged at Lützen, Blenheim, and Mollwitz, *petite guerre* reigned supreme.⁷ Americans’ use of *petite guerre* did not end with the colonial era’s wars. A series of small but brutal wars between frontiersmen and Indians ran concurrently with the War of Independence in the Transappalachian West and along the New York frontier. Similarly, the first military operations of the United States in the 1790s were not wars typical of the state-centered struggles occurring in Europe at that time. The American wars were primarily conflicts waged against Indians on the frontier that only

7 Of course, there were Vauban-style forts in North America. Louisbourg and San Agustín, for example, would have fit in as middle-sized European forts. The difference was that American forts stood independent of one another, whereas in Europe they belonged to fortification and magazine systems. In fact almost all warfare between regular armies conducted in early America was siege warfare. There were, then, two kinds of military endeavors in colonial North America: siege and fortress war, on the one hand, the province of regular soldiers (British troops or militia formed into provincial regiments); and *petite guerre* on the other, the purview of Indians, rangers, backwoodsmen, and the *Troupes de la Marine* of New France.

One could argue that fortifying the frontier with blockhouses – a pared-down version of fortress warfare – was another part of Americans’ way of war. Indeed, forts were as ubiquitous in colonial military history after 1675 as rangers. Some of the leading figures of late-seventeenth- and early-eighteenth-century New England society, like the Saltonstalls of Haverhill, Massachusetts, made both names and fortunes for themselves as the builders and organizers of New England’s frontier fortification system. For a study that puts forts and garrisons at its center, see Stephen C. Eames, “Rustic Warriors: Warfare and the Provincial Soldier on the Northern Frontier, 1689–1748” (Ph.D. diss., University of New Hampshire, 1989), chaps. 2–3.

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occasionally, and usually reluctantly, saw the participation of the United States Army. Even in the 1810s, the period that most historians credit with signaling the birth of a professional American Army, *petite guerre* proved as important as, if not more important than, the operations of that Army in the American conquest of the Old Northwest and Old Southwest. For the first 200 years of our military heritage, then, Americans depended on arts of war that contemporary professional soldiers supposedly abhorred: razing and destroying enemy villages and fields; killing enemy women and children; raiding settlements for captives; intimidating and brutalizing enemy noncombatants; and assassinating enemy leaders.

Why, then, did Weigley not address that ubiquitous albeit darker side of American military history in his analysis? The answer would seem to be that, like the German theorists on whose work he drew, he tended to see professional military behavior and organization as normative.⁸ Clausewitz's service on the Russian general staff in 1812, in which he witnessed firsthand the horrifying behavior of the Tsar's Cossacks, led to his repudiation of their methods as an inferior, as well as ineffectual, way to fight.⁹ Clausewitz argued that war, rightly understood, was the rational instrument of national policy; he wrote that if "civilized nations do not put their prisoners to death, do not devastate towns and countries, this is because their intelligence exercises greater influence on their mode of carrying on War, and has taught them more effectual means of applying force than these rude acts of mere instinct."¹⁰ Delbrück, on the other hand, was a Prussian nationalist interested in chronicling the nineteenth-century Wars of German Unification. He emphatically shared Clausewitz's belief that war fell within the purview of a legitimate nation-state.¹¹

Weigley embedded both Clausewitz's revulsion at indiscriminate violence and Delbrück's focus on national war in his analysis. These biases – for that is what they are – led Weigley to discount the kind of war that early Americans waged as abnormal or unworthy of serious consideration. In the process, Weigley created, like the military theorists who preceded him, an artificial dichotomy between "regular" and "irregular" war and

8 In his essay on "American Strategy from Its Beginnings through the First World War" in *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, ed. Peter Paret (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986), Weigley briefly assessed the impact of unlimited war on American war making, after which he wrote, "historians may tend to exaggerate the readiness of early Americans to turn toward absolute war." See Weigley, *ibid.*, 409.

9 Peter Paret, "Clausewitz," *ibid.*, 186–213.

10 Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, ed. Anatol Rapoport (New York: Penguin Books, 1982), 103.

11 Gordon Craig, "Delbrück: The Military Historian," *Makers of Modern Strategy*, 326–353.

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organization.¹² In Weigley's paradigm, the frontier wars against Indians are relatively unimportant. He saw American military history following a path of Clausewitzian–Delbrückian evolution from the mid-nineteenth century to its ultimate manifestation in World War II. In reality, the American way of war also traveled an evolutionary route that began with the first days of European settlement in the early seventeenth century and stretched into the early nineteenth century.

Weigley's interpretation bestrides American military historiography like a colossus. Military historians have been unable to move far beyond it and advance a new synthesis on the place of early war making in the broader American military tradition. Most early American military historians, a small group to begin with, have focused their studies on military institutions and organizations. Moreover, the most recent review essays on colonial military history, as well as the definitive bibliography on United States military history, show that the topic of early American war making is bereft of any general study of *petite guerre*.¹³ Max Boot's *The Savage Wars of Peace*, for example, discusses America's small wars after the birth of the Federal government; the first small war he addresses is the Barbary War of 1801–1805. Indeed, Boot "focuses strictly on American small wars abroad," most of which "were fought by relatively small numbers of professional soldiers pursuing limited objectives with limited means."¹⁴ *The First Way of War* describes a small war tradition that saw nonprofessional soldiers pursue unlimited objectives, often through irregular means.

One group of historians, nonetheless, has noted that there was something distinctive about war in colonial America. That difference often manifested itself in patterns of extravagant violence and *petite guerre*. For example, Ian Steele argues that Americans built a tradition of war that was an amalgam of both traditional European and Indian methods of war.

- 12 Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century military theorists were the first to divide war making between regular and irregular. Today's United States military uses a "spectrum of conflict" to describe the different kinds of conflicts the army faces. It divides the spectrum into three main areas: low, mid, and high. Low-spectrum conflict includes low-intensity conventional warfare, unconventional war, and terrorism. Mid-spectrum conflict involves primarily minor conventional war and aspects of major conventional war. High-spectrum conflict encompasses other characteristics of major conventional war and nuclear war. Modern-day special operations forces are the progeny of early American rangers' military tradition and are trained, equipped, and tasked to operate primarily in the low and mid spectrums.
- 13 Wayne Lee, "Early American Ways of War: A New Reconnaissance, 1600–1815," *The Historical Journal* (Cambridge) 44 (2001): 269–289; Don Higginbotham, "The Early American Way of War: Reconnaissance and Appraisal," *WMQ* 44 (1987): 230–273; Wayne Carp, "Early American Military History: A Review of Recent Work," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 94 (1986): 259–284; Robin Higham and Donald J. Mrozek, eds., *A Guide to Sources of United States Military History: Supplement IV* (New Haven, CT: Archon Books, 1998).
- 14 Max Boot, *The Savage Wars of Peace: Small Wars and the Rise of American Power* (New York: Basic Books, 2002), xiv.

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Adam Hirsch similarly contends that the very different military cultures of native and colonizing groups interacted dialectically in seventeenth-century New England. “In the New World, honor was tossed aside – and once the colonists set the precedent, the surrounding Indians followed suit . . . an antecedent of total war had somehow emerged.”¹⁵ Ronald Dale Karr, building on Hirsch’s argument and focusing on the Pequot War, argues that the “virulent hybridization of military cultures” of which Hirsch wrote resulted from the failure of the English and the Pequots to maintain a reciprocal relationship, a balance of power, in which they mutually defined and agreed upon the limits of permissible battlefield behavior. English failure to see the Pequots as sovereign, Karr suggests, ordained that they would treat the Indians like rebels, heretics, or infidels.¹⁶ Yet, in cases where a rough balance of power existed and the Indians even appeared dominant – as was the situation in virtually every frontier war until the first decade of the nineteenth century – Americans were quick to turn to extravagant violence.

Two other historians have delved into how early Americans viewed their environment and themselves to help illuminate the fundamental characteristics of American war making. John Ferling argues that the wilderness, coupled with racism, imparted a unique “brutality” to early American military history, an experience that led Americans to look toward extirpating Indians. He suggests that while “Europe’s wars grew less ferocious, or at least had less drastic impact on the civilian population, American wars tended to become more feral.”¹⁷ John Dederer contends that the distinctive characteristic of early American military history centered on Americans’ combined experiences of Indian fighting with their reading of histories of antiquity’s wars. As a result, Americans forged the ideal of the militarily self-sufficient citizen-soldier in the service of a virtuous republic.¹⁸ Together, Ferling and Dederer are right to suggest that brutality and self-sufficiency in distant locales profoundly shaped early Americans’ experience of war.

Guy Chet argues there was little distinctly American in the ways that the colonists fought. He narrowly focuses his analysis on the tactical level of war and the overwhelming majority of his narrative on the seventeenth century. Chet finds that the first colonists remained committed to European tactics and maintained a preference for massed firepower

15 Ian Steele, *Warpaths: Invasions of North America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), 106; Adam J. Hirsch, “The Collision of Military Cultures in Seventeenth-Century New England,” *JAH* 74 (1988): 1204.

16 Ronald Dale Karr, “‘Why Should You Be So Ferocious?’: The Violence of the Pequot War,” *JAM*, 85 (1999): 908–909.

17 John Ferling, *A Wilderness of Miseries: War and Warriors in Early America* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1980), 197.

18 John Dederer, *War in America to 1775: Before Yankee Doodle* (New York: New York University Press, 1990).

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and the tactical defense. His aim is to challenge the suggestion that New England militiamen fought “Indian style.” But in finding continuity between European and American tactics in the early seventeenth century, he stopped his analysis there and engaged in a cursory narrative of Queen Anne’s, King George’s, and the Seven Years’ Wars. He thereby missed how both American strategy and tactics evolved in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Thus, he is correct to observe that Americans conquered the Indians of North America through attrition, but he fails to explain how those attritive wars changed over time and space.¹⁹

Other historians have focused on how American operations influenced the development of the eighteenth-century British Army’s doctrine and practice of war. Daniel Beattie has argued that the British Army in the Seven Years’ War used *petite guerre* partially to overcome the problems involved in wilderness campaigning. Eric Robson, Rory Cory, and David Parker have suggested that its experiences in North America during the Seven Years’ War and the War of Independence led the British Army to incorporate American-style tactics and organization during the Napoleonic Wars. Peter Russell believes that the tactics that the British Army used against Indians in America during the Seven Years’ War originated in the British officer corps’ mid-eighteenth-century experience fighting European partisans in Scotland, Flanders, and Central Europe. Taken together, Beattie’s, Robson’s, Cory’s, Parker’s, and Russell’s interests lie with the British experience with *petite guerre*, an experience that they see had more importance for European than American military developments.²⁰

The one area in which historians have come closest to addressing the impact of American conditions on the American military tradition has been in studies of the War of Independence. John Shy has argued that Charles Lee’s argument for a “partisan” campaign against the British offered a “radical alternative” to the war conducted by George Washington and the Continental Army. Mark Kwasny shows that the state militias attached to Washington’s army indeed fought a partisan war in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Similarly, John Pancake and others who

19 Guy Chet, *Conquering the American Wilderness: The Triumph of European Warfare in the Colonial Northeast* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2003).

20 Daniel Beattie, “The Adaptation of the British Army to Wilderness Warfare, 1755–1763,” *Adapting to Conditions: War and Society in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Maarten Ultee (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1986), 56–83; Eric Robson, “British Light Infantry in the Mid-Eighteenth Century: The Effect of American Conditions,” *The Army Quarterly and Defense Journal* 43 (1952): 209–222; Rory McKenzie Cory, “British Light Infantry in North America in the Seven Year War” (Ph.D. diss., Simon Fraser University, 1993); David E. Parker, “That Loose Flimsy Order: The Little War Meets British Military Discipline in America 1775–1781” (M.A. thesis, University of New Hampshire, 1985); Peter Russell, “Redcoats in the Wilderness: British Officers and Irregular Warfare in Europe and America, 1740 to 1760,” *WMQ* 35 (1978): 629–652.

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have written on the Revolution in the South have described it as a partisan and brutal civil war. Wayne Lee's description of how North Carolinians accepted certain kinds of violence (brutality toward Indians who practiced unlimited ways of war and executions for Americans who engaged in unlimited war) as legitimate goes far in explaining the ferocity of the civil war in the South. Shy's essay on "British Strategy for the Southern War," coupled with Sylvia Frey's depiction of the Revolution in the South as a "Triangular" war among patriots, slaves, and British soldiers, especially suggests the distinctive war in the American South during the War of Independence.²¹

Yet in none of those works can we put the first way of war of the Revolutionary era in both the context of its development from the previous colonial wars and its impact on the development of the American military tradition that followed. Instead, the War of Independence appears as a militarily self-contained unit, with only tenuous ties to trends that came before it and none with patterns that followed it.²² Thus, these accounts, like Weigley's, are essentially disjunctive and similarly limited in explanatory power.

The break in the military historiography between the colonial era and the Age of the Early Republic is striking. Many fine studies exist that discuss the carryover of military institutions from the colonial period to the 1790s and early 1800s (e.g., the transformation of the Continental Army into the United States Army) or address the specifics of individual

21 John Shy, "American Strategy: Charles Lee and the Radical Alternative," *A People Numerous and Armed: Reflections on the Military Struggle for American Independence*, rev. ed. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1990); Mark Kwasny, *Washington's Partisan War, 1775-1783* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1996); John Pancake, *This Destructive War: The British Campaign in the Carolinas, 1780-1782* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1985); Wayne E. Lee, *Crowds and Soldiers in Revolutionary North Carolina: The Culture of Violence in Riot and War* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001); Shy, "British Strategy for Pacifying the Southern Colonies, 1778-1781," *A People Numerous and Armed*; Sylvia Frey, *Water from the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1991).

22 The historical practice of *petite guerre* outside the American military experience has received the attention of several scholars. In 1896, Colonel Charles E. Calwell of the British Army published his classic *Small Wars: Their Principles and Practice* (London: HMSO, 1896). Calwell was most interested in providing a military treatise for British army officers in Africa and Central Asia to use in combatting "opponents who will not meet them in the open field" (p. 21). Walter Laqueur's *Guerrilla: A Historical and Critical Study* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1976) examined guerrilla and terrorist theory throughout history. Laqueur focused on examining the doctrine and actions of twentieth-century European partisans and the place of guerrilla warfare in "Third World Wars of National Liberation." Robert Aspery's *War in the Shadows: The Guerrilla in History*, 2d ed. (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1994), like Laqueur's study, focuses on twentieth-century guerrillas. Aspery, however, included material on guerrilla warfare as a phenomenon of both ancient and early-modern warfare.

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conflicts like the Old Northwest Indian War of 1789–1795 or the War of 1812. Few works, however, contextualize the American art of war as it evolved out of the colonial period, through the 1790s, and into the 1810s. Indeed Armstrong Starkey's recent book, *European and Native American Warfare*, is one of the few attempts to trace patterns of American war making from the late seventeenth century and the first two-thirds of the eighteenth century into the early nineteenth century. The centerpiece of Starkey's analysis, however, is his explanation of how, from 1675 to 1815, regular warfare, primarily because Americans were incompetent at Indian-style fighting, inexorably came to dominate frontier warfare. Like Weigley, Starkey favors *grande guerre* over *petite guerre*, and as a result, the place of nonregular warfare in American military history remains ambiguous and unclear.²³

This book therefore seeks to examine the whole of the early American military experience from 1607 through 1814 by addressing a series of questions. First, and centrally, how did Americans develop a way of war that was both unlimited in its ends and irregular in its means, and how did that way of war change over time? Second, what cultural, social, and military experiences and perceptions informed Americans' understanding and practice of war making? Similarly, which groups within American society participated in those wars, and why did they choose, or feel required, to do so? Finally, how and in what ways was early American war making distinctive?

The answers to those questions comprise my central argument: early Americans created a military tradition that accepted, legitimized, and encouraged attacks upon and the destruction of noncombatants, villages, and agricultural resources. Most often, early Americans used the tactics and techniques of *petite guerre* in shockingly violent campaigns to achieve their goals of conquest. In the frontier wars between 1607 and 1814, Americans forged two elements – unlimited war and irregular war – into their first way of war.

Military history is passé in most academic circles, and its practitioners often are derided as the “drum and bugle corps.” More often than not, critics see military history as litanies of orders of battle, the movements of regiments, or the deeds of the Great Captains. I have therefore tried to approach the writing of military history in such a way as to address the criticisms that many have levied against it. My approach is that of the so-called new military historians, who have tried to contextualize warfare by examining its social, cultural, and economic dimensions. In addition, however, I have tried always to bear in mind the essence of war

23 Armstrong Starkey, *European and Native American Warfare, 1675–1815* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999).