

Neither victor nor vanquished

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Auteur(s) : Weber, William (1951-....)

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Note sur le contenu : The need for new narratives A classical view of the military balance in the War of 1812 Invasions of 1814 and 1863 The men who governed America during the War of 1812 Dueling Narratives: Henry Adams's alternative history of the War of 1812 The Battle of Bladensburg : could Washington have been saved ? Victory or defeat, and for whom ? Alternative outcomes for the War of 1812 A worst-case scenario for the War of 1812 What if the War of 1812 had never occurred ?

Résumé ou extrait : La jaquette indique : "In 1812, less than forty years after breaking from Britain, the United States found itself in another war with its former colonial master. Now, during the two hundredth anniversary of the War of 1812 comes Neither Victor nor Vanquished, William Weber's reappraisal of this critical but frequently misunderstood conflict. In the first half of the book, Weber reexamines the war's military aspects, highlighting the asymmetric nature of the conflict as the world's foremost naval power with a credible professional army stood against an idealist republic with commercial and agricultural aspirations but without an adequate navy and army. Weber also attempts to recalibrate popular conceptions of the U.S. forces' generally poor performance during "Mr. Madison's War," and frames the War of 1812 in the context of both the Jeffersonian Revolution that preceded the war and the accelerated territorial expansion and consolidation of the United States that eventually led to the American Civil War. The book's thought-provoking second half presents alternative outcomes for the War of 1812, reminding us that history is made, not predetermined. Various scenarios arise from differences in two key factors - the quality of generalship in both armies and the direction of the Napoleonic Wars, which Britain was simultaneously fighting. Weber imagines a worst case scenario for the young republic, an ending worse than a simple military defeat. Indeed, history might have provided a

different answer to Francis Scott Key's central question, "O, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave / O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?" A final what-if explores a nineteenth-century America that chooses to avoid the War of 1812 and, consequently, the rise of Andrew Jackson."

Sujet - Nom commun : Guerre de 1812