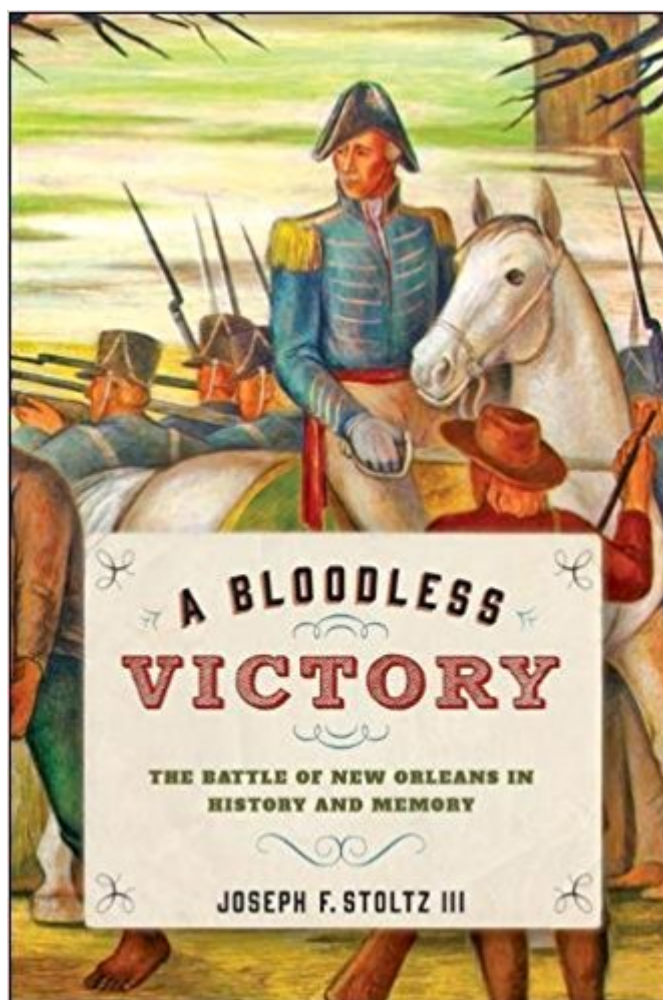


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A Bloodless Victory: The Battle Of New Orleans In History And Memory (Johns Hopkins Books On The War Of 1812)



Synopsis

Once celebrated on par with the Fourth of July, January 8th—the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans—is no longer a day of reverence for most Americans. Although the United States's stunning 1815 defeat of the British army south of New Orleans gave rise to the presidency of Andrew Jackson, the Democratic Party, and the legend of Jean Laffite, the battle has not been a national holiday since 1861. Joseph F. Stoltz III explores how generations of Americans have consciously revised, reinterpreted, and reexamined the memory of the conflict to fit the cultural and social needs of their time. Combining archival research with deep analyses of music, literature, theater, and film across two centuries of American popular culture, Stoltz highlights the myriad ways in which politicians, artists, academics, and ordinary people have rewritten the battle's history. While these efforts could be nefarious or driven by political necessity or racial animus far more often they were simply part of each generation's expression of values and world view. From Andrew Jackson's presidential campaign to the occupation of New Orleans by the Union Army to the Jim Crow era, the continuing reinterpretations of the battle alienated whole segments of the American population from its memorialization. Thus, a close look at the Battle of New Orleans offers an opportunity to explore not just how events are collectively remembered across generations but also how a society discards memorialization efforts it no longer finds necessary or palatable.

Book Information

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"Clearly a labor of love that has been years in preparation, this refreshingly engaging, detail-rich

narrative draws on a truly impressive body of scholarship. A worthy new contribution to cultural memory studies." (Len Travers, author of Hodges' Scout: A Lost Patrol of the French and Indian War)"At a time when Andrew Jackson plays such a prominent role in the political fight over public memory, Stoltz demonstrates that Old Hickory's greatest military triumph was a contested battleground of myth and memory during his lifetime and remains so today. In lucid prose and with in-depth research, he reminds us that there is still much to learn about Jackson and his legacy." (Mark R. Cheatham)"Joseph Stoltz's lucid, well-documented and well-written account of how perceptions of Jackson's famous victory have changed over the years reveals a fascinating subject for both history buffs and academics to ponder. The author has bridged the diverse fields of military history and public opinion." (Daniel Walker Howe, Author of Pulitzer Prize-winning book What God Hath Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848)

Joseph F. Stoltz III is a historian at the Fred W. Smith Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon.

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