
REVIEWS

Trevor Burnard, Emma Hart, and Marie Houllemare (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Seven Years' War*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2024, 784 pages.

The Oxford Handbook of the Seven Years' War is a recent addition to the renowned *Oxford Handbook* series, which covers a wide range of academic subjects. The volume is co-edited by late Trevor Burnard, who was a professor of history and the director of the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull; Emma Hart, professor of history and director of the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania; and Marie Houllemare, professor of history at the University of Geneva.

The aim of this *Handbook* is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the Seven Years' War (1756–1763). The interdisciplinary approach adopted by the contributors offers valuable insights in cultural and social shifts brought about by the conflict, alongside a traditional account of political and military history. Likewise, the inclusion of scholars from different regions and academic backgrounds provides a global perspective on the war. The *Handbook* consists of an introduction and thirty-eight essays, organized into five parts. In the introductory notes, the editors provide a concise overview of the war and survey modern interpretations of this conflict, with the aim of highlighting how this *Handbook* opens new lines of inquiry and considers the potential results that they might yield.

The first part of the *Handbook* (pp. 1–156), titled *Global War*, contains thematic essays that explore major aspects of warmaking. Stephen Conway's essay, "Armies," examines the professional land forces of the principal European belligerents. The author focuses on determining whether the war demonstrated more change or continuity in the military development and concludes that veterans of previous wars would be

largely familiar with the armies of this conflict. Next essay, titled "Manpower," by Matthew Dziennik assesses the transformative nature of the war by analyzing changes in the methods states employed for meeting manpower needs. The author identifies three major trends: the expansion of previous recruiting methods, the use of previously untapped sources of manpower, and the implementation of new demographic policies. Émilie Dosquet's essay, "Warfare," analyzes the major operational aspects of a mid-18th-century war, namely: logistics, sieges, field battle tactics, petty warfare, and naval combat. Peter H. Wilson's "Resources" examines the mustering, utilization and nature of the resources needed for war, while "European Medicine and Foreign Diseases in a Global War" by Erica Charters highlights the profound effects of diseases on the military operations of this war. François-Joseph Ruggiu's essay, "Empires," analyzes the war's effects on the policies of France, Great Britain and Spain in relation to their American possessions. The essay "Maritime Warfare and the Expansion of British Seapower in the Seven Years' War" by Anna Brinkman provides an overview of naval warfare, addressing strategic considerations of Britain and France, their naval operations, commerce raiding, and the rights of neutral parties. Eliga Gould's essay, "The Peace of Paris," concludes this part of the *Handbook* by examining the consequences of the Treaty of Paris (1763).

The second part (pp. 157–264), titled *Europe*, focuses on the European theater of the Seven Years' War. Sven Externbrink's essay, "Europe and Global Dynamics, 1713–1755," provides an overview of international relations in Europe during the first half of the 18th century. The author outlines the European system based on the principle of balance of power and the challenges it faced. Externbrink concludes that, although considered a period of wars, the 18th century shows a trend of de-escalation. Everyday experiences of soldiers in the European theater are analyzed in Paul Vo-Ha's

“Going to War,” while Adam L. Storrington’s essay “The Third Silesian War” surveys the historiography of this conflict, explores its place in the broader war, and assesses the use of battle tactics, geographic position and resources by the belligerents. Edmond Dziembowski’s essay, “European Geopolitics, 1756–1783,” examines the war’s impact on the geopolitical landscape of Europe and a new system dominated by five powers: France, Russia, Great Britain, Austria, and Prussia. Leos Müller’s essay, “Maritime Law and Neutrality in the Seven Years’ War”, analyzes differing discourses on international trade law and their influence on the development of the broader international law. Manuel Covo’s essay, “The Economic and Financial Consequences of the Seven Years’ War in Europe,” explores the financial ramifications of the war across the continent, arguing that wartime expenditures eroded the financial foundations of the belligerent states.

The third part (pp. 265–396), titled *South Asia*, examines the Seven Years’ War in the South Asian theater. Abhishek Kaicker’s essay, “The Mughal Empire,” outlines the regional context of the war in India by providing a historical overview of the development of the empire that dominated large parts of the Indian subcontinent during the early modern period and its interactions with the Europeans. “The East India Companies and the Seven Years’ War” by Danna Agmon and Philip J. Stern focuses on the trade companies and their perspectives on the war. The authors aim to challenge the traditional notion of companies as mere proxies of their governments. Kaushik Roy’s essay, “War in South Asia,” explores the military campaigns on the subcontinent, while Jonathan Eacott in “The Indian Ocean World” emphasizes the importance of local trade relations, power dynamics and conflicts of the Indian Ocean area on the broader war. “Aftermaths of War in South Asia” by Elizabeth Cross reconsiders the view of the war as the transformative event that led to uncontested British domination in India by examining its consequences. Vinita Damodaran’s essay, “Climate, Environment, and Crisis in Eighteenth-Century India,” considers the war

through the lens of environmental history. Essay “French Careers in Eighteenth-Century India” by Seema Alavi explores the careers of the French individuals in service of local rulers and the British East Indian Company.

The fourth part (pp. 397–568), titled *Americas and Africa*, contains essays that deal with the Seven Years’ War across the Atlantic. Paul Mapp’s essay, “North America and the World, Late Seventeenth to Mid-Eighteenth Century,” considers the question of the inevitability of European conquest of inland North America and highlights the importance of perspective on human actions. Mapp provides a brief overview of the situation and concludes that, while it wouldn’t have been unreasonable to think that European settlement would remain confined to the Atlantic coast in earlier periods, the outlook for the natives became ever more grim as the 18th century progressed. In “North American Breakdown,” Michael A. McDonnell assesses the period preceding the war from the perspective of Natives from the Great Lakes area. The author stresses that examination of the Native politics is crucial for understanding the causes of the war. A comprehensive overview of military operations across the Atlantic World is provided in Eric Hinderaker’s “War in North America,” Éric Schnakenbourg’s “War in the Caribbean,” Kristie Patricia Flannery’s “The Seven Years’ War in the Spanish and Portuguese Empires,” and Pernille Røge’s “The Seven Years’ War in West Africa.” Maria Alessandra Bollettino’s essay, “Africans, Slavery, and the Slave Trade,” explores the significance of the Seven Years’ War for the people of African descent. History of Native resistance to British encroachments during and after the war is treated in Susan Sleeper-Smith’s “Native America after 1763,” while the status of French Canadians in the same period is analyzed in “French Canadian and British Attitudes toward Governance in Post-Conquest Quebec” by Nancy Christie. Edward G. Gray’s essay “The American Revolution” concludes this part of the *Handbook* by examining the Seven Years’ War’s role in precipitating the American Revolution.

The final part of the *Handbook* (pp. 569–

710), titled *Global Themes and Dynamics*, contains thematic essays that explore the effects of the Seven Years' War on religion, culture, science, demographics, and gender roles. Douglas Fordham's essay, "Visual Arts and Culture," examines the war's impact on the visual culture. The author identifies four major developments: changes in depictions of martial scenes, the establishment of new cultural institutions, the emergence of new print products-particularly maps, that offered new geographic representations of war to wider audiences-and an increased interest in collections of Native American art. Fordham also stresses the importance of the war for the development of national schools of art. In "Luxury and Consumption," Robert S. DuPlessis examines the war's impact on the transformation of consumer culture in the North Atlantic area during the latter half of the 18th century. Assessment of the war's influence on scientific development is provided in Stéphane Van Damme's "Science and Technology during the Seven Years' War," while Mark Peterson's "Demography and the Seven Years' War" outlines wartime demographic conditions and changes, and analyzes emerging demographic thought. In "Women and Gender," Sara T. Damiano provides a gendered examination of Seven Years' War through six case studies, each focusing on a different area: Britain, West Africa, New England, the Great Lakes and the Ohio River Valley, Louisiana and Jamaica. Brian Young and Richard Whatmore's essay, "Religion and Politics in the Seven Years' War," assesses the religious and political discourses in postwar Britain. The final essay of this *Handbook*, Marian Füssel's "Commemoration and Memory," examines the culture of remembrance of the Seven Years' War, focusing on commemorations, historiography, and visual arts.

The Oxford Handbook of the Seven Years' War offers a holistic view of one of the great conflicts of the Early Modern period. Its geographic and thematic diversity make it a valuable contribution to the historiography of Seven Years' War and the 18th century. As such, it is particularly useful for scholars of the Early

Modern period, as well as for history students, seeking a comprehensive account of the conflict.

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Miloš Vojinović (ed.), *Visions of the Future: The Yugoslav Space 1914–1918. A Thematic Collection of Documents*, Novi Sad: Akademska knjiga, 2024, 456 pages
(Miloš Vojinović (ur.), *Vizije budućnosti: Jugoslovenski prostor 1914–1918. Tematska zbirka dokumenata*, Novi Sad: Akademska knjiga, 2024, 456 str. (Serbian Cyrillic)).

When historian Ferdo Šišić published his collection *Dokumenti o postanku Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca, 1914–1919* (Zagreb: Matica hrvatska, 1920), his aim was clear. By bringing together key available acts and official statements from this period, he sought to present to the domestic audience the process of forming the newly established Yugoslav state. His undertaking was of undeniable significance, not only in the discipline of history but also within the broader social and political landscape, where the struggle to shape dominant interpretations of the recent past was already underway. It is therefore telling that Šišić's collection, unintentionally, outlined the framework within which subsequent debates on this topic would unfold. Although, in his own words, he sought the selected documents to "provide readers with an objective picture, even if not perfect and complete," the intention to show "how and what the best sons of our nation did for its liberation and unification" reveals convictions that shaped his selection. After all, like the creators of the documents he collected, Šišić was among those "who, from 1914 to 1919, not only lived through our history but also created it" (*Dokumenti*, pp. i–ii). A native of Vinkovci, he served as a member of the ethnographic-geographic section of the delegation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes at the Paris Peace Conference, where his attention was