



The Barbary Wars: American Independence in the Atlantic World

By Frank Lambert

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The history of America's conflict with the piratical states of the Mediterranean runs through the presidencies of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison; the adoption of the Constitution; the Quasi-War with France and the War of 1812; the construction of a full-time professional navy; and, most important, the nation's halting steps toward commercial independence. Frank Lambert's genius is to see in the Barbary Wars the ideal means of capturing the new nation's shaky emergence in the complex context of the Atlantic world.

Depicting a time when Britain ruled the seas and France most of Europe, *The Barbary Wars* proves America's earliest conflict with the Arabic world was always a struggle for economic advantage rather than any clash of cultures or religions.

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Editorial Review

Review

“For those in search of lessons for today, Lambert's crisp and readable narrative makes clear that it took a combination of patient diplomacy, military force, and good luck to make the Atlantic and Mediterranean worlds safe for U.S. commerce. One suspects that all three factors are needed again now.” ?*Walter Russell Mead, Foreign Affairs*

“Does an excellent job of placing the Barbary Wars within the context of their time.” ?*The Roanoke Times*

About the Author

Frank Lambert teaches history at Purdue University and is the author of *The Founding Fathers and the Place of Religion in America*, *Inventing the "Great Awakening,"* and *Pedlar in Divinity: George Whitefield and the Transatlantic Revivals, 1737–1770*.

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