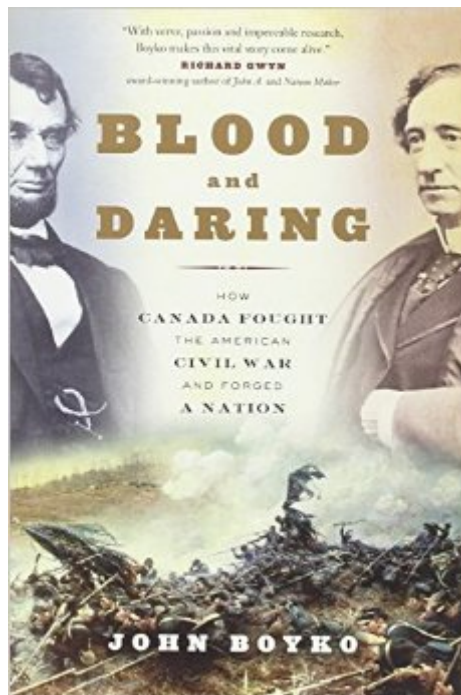


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# Blood And Daring: How Canada Fought The American Civil War And Forged A Nation



## Synopsis

Blood and Daring will change our views not just of Canada's relationship with the United States, but of the Civil War, Confederation and Canada itself. In Blood and Daring, lauded historian John Boyko makes a compelling argument that Confederation occurred when and as it did largely because of the pressures of the Civil War. Many readers will be shocked by Canada's deep connection to the war--Canadians fought in every major battle, supplied arms to the South, and many key Confederate meetings took place on Canadian soil. Boyko gives Americans a new understanding of the North American context of the war, and also shows how the political climate of the time created a more unified Canada, one that was able to successfully oppose American expansion. Filled with engaging stories and astonishing facts from previously unaccessed primary sources, Boyko's fascinating new interpretation of the war will appeal to all readers of history. Blood and Daring will change our views not just of Canada's relationship with the United States, but of Confederation itself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The American Civil War tore apart a country. Secession in the South sought to establish a new nation where life could be lived in the fashion people were used to- with the foundation of slavery underpinning everything. Union Northerners refused to allow the country to fall apart, and for more than four years, Americans went to war against each other, killing each other in large numbers over the issues of race, freedom, the nation, and what kind of future they would all have. By war's end, the country was reunited, slavery was abolished, and state's rights, one of the underlying issues that

had contributed to the war, gave way to a more unified sense of Americans about themselves. Yet two countries did rise out of the aftermath of that war. *Blood And Daring: How Canada Fought The American Civil War And Forged A Nation* is a new book by historian John Boyko, weaving the tale of the Civil War and that of the birth of Canada. The war influenced Canada- and Canada influenced the war- in ways that most people overlook, and this book sheds light on a side of the war that needs to be told. I have read earlier books that go through some of this material; Claire Hoy wrote an insightful book several years ago called *Canadians In The Civil War*. This book delves into the same territory but offers new insights. The author tells the story of the war and the parallels of what was going on across the border before, during, and after those years.

Historian and author John Boyko deserves a place in the upper echelon of great historians for his ability to discover and tell many of the fascinating stories from history that other historians overlook or gloss over, and to do so in such a clear and interesting manner. He demonstrates this ability superbly in this wonderful and informative work, a compelling chronicle of a tenuous time in the history of both the United States and Canada. Boyko tells of the very significant role that Canada and Canadians played in the Civil War, and of the many issues and personalities that affected the future of both nations. Boyko is too clever to simply give a chronological accounting of what was happening in what was then known as British North America during the Civil War era. He makes his account much more interesting by wrapping the story of the wartime relationship between the two peoples by weaving in accounts of six interesting contemporary figures whose lives were engrossed in that relationship. These include John Anderson, a fugitive slave at the center of an important and pivotal legal proceeding in Canada over the issue of whether runaway slaves would be returned from Canada, an issue that heated up cross-border political tension. William Seward, Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State was a man whose vision of manifest destiny included a dream of annexing Canada to the United States. Sarah Emma Edmonds was a woman who served in the Union Army disguised as a man, and who was among the tens of thousands of Canadians who joined one of the two warring armies. Jacob Thompson was a southerner ensconced in Canada who tried to organize attacks on the north, some of which were more successful than others. Canadian political leaders John A.

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