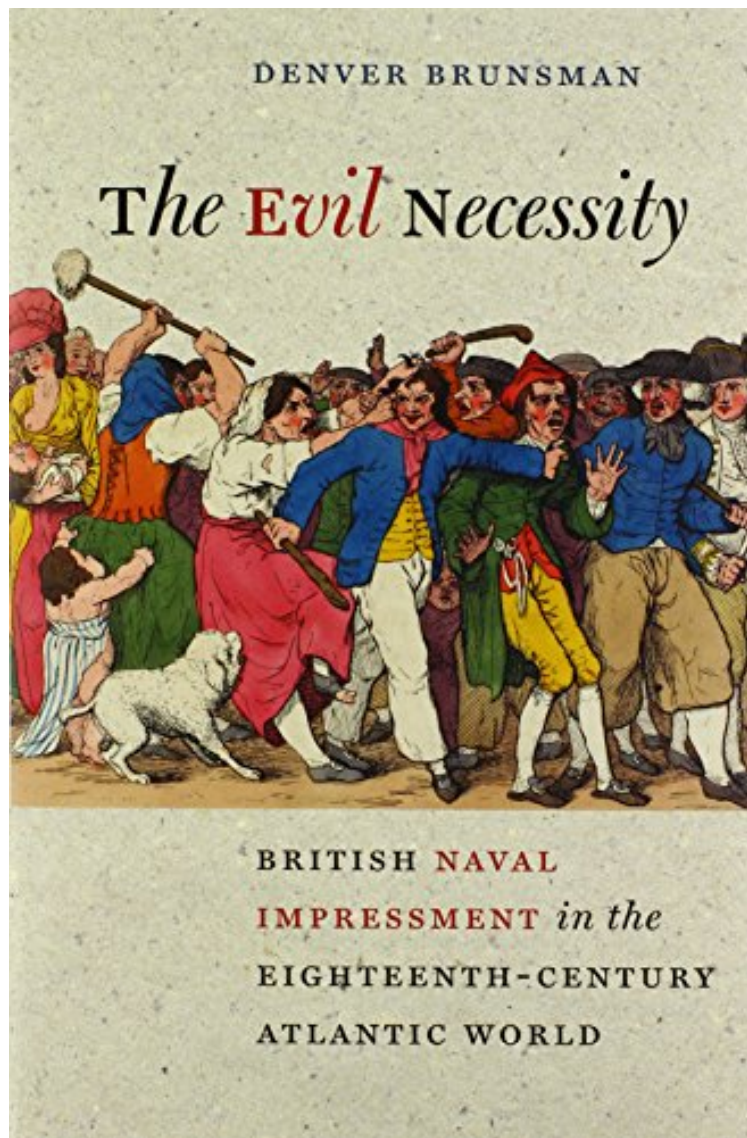


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The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World (Early American Histories)

Denver Brunzman

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#1283630 in Books Denver Alexander Brunzman 2013-03-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.48 x 1.15 x 6.40l, 1.46 #File Name: 081393351X376 pages The Evil Necessity British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth Century Atlantic World | File size: 41.Mb

Denver Brunzman : The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World (Early American Histories) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World (Early American Histories):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. press gangsBy Ralph R. Woodworth book purchase. This book was bought after listening to a review by the author on C-Span. The review was very much more interesting than the book. The first half (or so) discusses the societal, political geographical, and governmental aspects of press gangs and skips around without much of a time line which tend to confuse the story. The remainder discusses the effect on individuals(I suppose you could say psychological aspects) and is more interesting and more smoothly presented. There are no war scenes.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jeanette K. FordGreat book!!!! Very informative!!1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A must read!By Frequent FlyerI recommend this book for anyone curious about the culture of America. It's well written, and a delight to read.

A fundamental component of Britain's early success, naval impressment not only kept the Royal Navy afloat?it helped to make an empire. In total numbers, impressed seamen were second only to enslaved Africans as the largest group of forced laborers in the eighteenth century. In *The Evil Necessity*, Denver Brunzman describes in vivid detail the experience of impressment for Atlantic seafarers and their families. Brunzman reveals how forced service robbed approximately 250,000 mariners of their livelihoods, and, not infrequently, their lives, while also devastating Atlantic seaport communities and the loved ones who were left behind. Press gangs, consisting of a navy officer backed by sailors and occasionally local toughs, often used violence or the threat of violence to supply the skilled manpower necessary to establish and maintain British naval supremacy. Moreover, impressments helped to unite Britain and its Atlantic coastal territories in a common system of maritime defense unmatched by any other European empire. Drawing on ships' logs, merchants' papers, personal letters and diaries, as well as engravings, political texts, and sea ballads, Brunzman shows how ultimately the controversy over impressment contributed to the American Revolution and served as a leading cause of the War of 1812.Early American HistoriesWinner of the Walker Cowen Memorial Prize for an Outstanding Work of Scholarship in Eighteenth-Century Studies

Denver Brunzman's examination of British impressment in the Atlantic world emphasizes the importance of sailors to British global power, and the clash of ideas with the American colonies that helped to spark both the War of Independence and the War of 1812 and that sustained Anglo-American antagonism down to the 1860s. It remains a potent metaphor for the tyranny of King George. (Andrew Lambert, King's College London)The first book-length study of British naval impressments in a transatlantic context, *The Evil Necessity* tells the fascinating story of impressments in the British and British colonial world. Denver Brunzman is a fine storyteller and an excellent writer, who offers a highly original piece of scholarship on a subject that has received remarkably little scholarly attention (John Dann, editor of *The Nagle Journal: A Diary of the Life of Jacob Nagle, Sailor, from the Year 1775 to 1841*)The author reproduces some engaging engravings and provides a rich bibliography; his research is as thorough as his writing is fine. Given Brunzman's interest in liberty, his book especially reveals impressment's costs to individuals and to their families. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, faculty. (B. M. Gough, Wilfrid Laurier University)Impressment remains a potent metaphor for the tyranny of George III. The author reproduces some engaging engravings and provides a rich bibliography; his research is as thorough as his writing is fine. Given Brunzman's interest in liberty, his book especially reveals impressment's costs to individuals and to their families. Summing Up: Recommended. (Choice)"At once deeply researched and eminently readable, Denver Brunzman's new book on British naval impressment during the long eighteenth-century is the first book-length study of this important topic in a very long time." (W. Jeffrey Bolster, University of New Hampshire Durham *The Journal of American History*) "Brunzman has made an invaluable contribution to the literature on the British navy and the Atlantic world. Any further studies of eighteenth-century impressment will have to begin with *The Evil Necessity*." (Robert W. Smith *The Journal of Southern History*) I would certainly call Brunzman's book required reading for scholars interested in the economics, politics, and culture of the Atlantic world and, likewise, for naval historians. (Peter Staffel, West Liberty University *The Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer*) "With this book, Brunzman has provided a welcome corrective to scholarship on impressment and a fresh way to consider the role of the institution in the creation and expansion of the British Empire." (Charles R. Foy, Eastern Illinois University *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*)Aspects of the colonial story have been told before...No one has quite tied it together so ably, and here Brunzman displays considerable powers of synthesis and engagement as well as a fine writing style. (Nicholas Rogers, York University)" *The Evil Necessity* is crucial reading for scholars of the British Empire, but will be of great value as well to anyone interested in the negotiation of freedom between center and periphery, and between impersonal systems and individual agency." (Natalie A. Zacek, University of Manchester *American Historical*)About the AuthorDenver Brunzman, Assistant Professor of History at George Washington University, is an editor of both *Colonial America: Essays in Politics and Social Development* and *Revolutionary Detroit: Portraits in Political and Cultural Change, 1760-1805*.