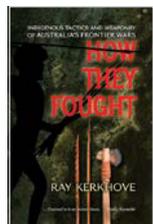


and Donald Trump's 79th birthday. Let the parade begin, while we ponder if modern liberalism encourages the rich to position themselves above the rest of society.

Bernie Howitt
HTANSW



How They Fought: Indigenous Tactics and Weaponry of Australia's Frontier Wars

Ray Kerkhove

Tingpala, QLD: Boolarong Press, 2023

430 pp ISBN 9781922643582

RRP \$39.99 (paperback)

In the seminal work *How They Fought: Indigenous Tactics and Weaponry of Australia's Frontier Wars*, Ray Kerkhove presents the Frontier Wars through the lens of a military historian, deftly applying a western military lens to understand how Aboriginal people fought a war of resistance and liberation against the wave of colonialism that threatened ways of knowing and living during the colonial period. This text will be invaluable for teachers embarking on programming the core topic of the new Stage 4 History syllabus, which requires the Frontier Wars to be explicitly taught. This history is being sourced, written and understood, and rapidly evolving, making this a challenging task. As a teacher attempting to resource and teach relevant, culturally appropriate, and, most importantly, reliable lessons, this is a daunting task made more accessible through this book.

This book provides comprehensive descriptions and explanations of how Aboriginal people planned military campaigns, deployed complex military strategies and developed effective technologies in warfare. The book is full of examples of battles, uses of weapons, and stories of communities and individuals from across Australia, ensuring that most teachers can find relevant topics that relate to their region within these pages. Teachers will also be able to find fantastic primary sources for students to analyse, evaluate, and synthesise to actively engage with the construction of history. Teachers will find the graphs and tables very useful and will be able to provide students with opportunities to consider other ways of presenting historical knowledge. Most importantly, teachers can rest assured that they are using a text written in consultation with Aboriginal scholars, researchers and communities.

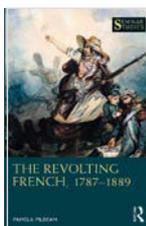
Many primary sources are from the colonial perspective, which, in the vein of Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu*, have been interpreted to find the Aboriginal experience. This is done with expert analysis and evaluation, providing opportunities to model for students how to analyse, evaluate and synthesise colonists' accounts to better understand the Aboriginal methods and motives in warfare. These are the Aboriginal perspective, or, in some cases, an Aboriginal primary source, which allows Kerkhove to excavate the colonial insights to see the Aboriginal experiences and motives. This aspect of the book will make it an invaluable text for the History

Extension course. The introduction provides a succinct historiography of the Frontier Wars, which the savvy Extension student could analyse and debate.

The content of this book is fascinating and provides wonderful explanations and examples of particular aspects of Aboriginal culture through the study of warfare. Chapter 4, 'Strategies', has a section that focuses on psychological warfare, including some vivid explanations and concrete examples of supernatural warfare with a focus on the strategic uses of magic. These explanations provide insights into cultural belief systems and the central role of magic in Aboriginal practices, of which students may not be aware. The passages are full of information and sources which students will find highly engaging. A second example of content students will find intriguing is in Chapter 3, 'Command and Control' – the section on communication networks describes the system of smoke signalling, the use of message sticks with visual primary sources and interpretations, and the use of telegraphy (stone/stick tapping). Students will be blown away by the stories of Aboriginal warriors in north-western Australia, who used rocks to communicate strategy as they surrounded an expedition, or how near Townsville, warriors used rock tapping to communicate underwater.

How They Fought is a dense text written for an academic audience, requiring background contextual knowledge to fully understand the examples. It is also highly technical in its language usage and will be far more helpful as a resource for the teacher than a text appropriate for most high school students. That said, sections of this book provide excellent opportunities for extending gifted History students, allowing them to consider the application of Western military history structures to understand Aboriginal methods of warfare during the Frontier Wars. This book is a brilliant resource for any teacher tackling the new NSW Stage 4 syllabus.

Nadia Szimhart
St Mary Star of the Sea College
Woollongong, NSW



The Revolting French, 1787-1889

Pamela Pilbeam

London: Routledge, 2024

176 pp ISBN 9781408204917

RRP \$81.99 (hardcover)

Pamela Pilbeam, author of *The Revolting French, 1787-1889*, is an English historian and is Professor Emeritus at Royal Holloway, University of London. She is Past President of the Society for the Study of French History. Her previous publications include *Republicanism in Nineteenth Century France* (1995), *French Socialists Before Marx: Workers, Women and the Social Question in France* (2000) and *Madam Tussaud and the History of Waxworks* (2003).

The Revolting French is part of Routledge's *Seminar Studies*