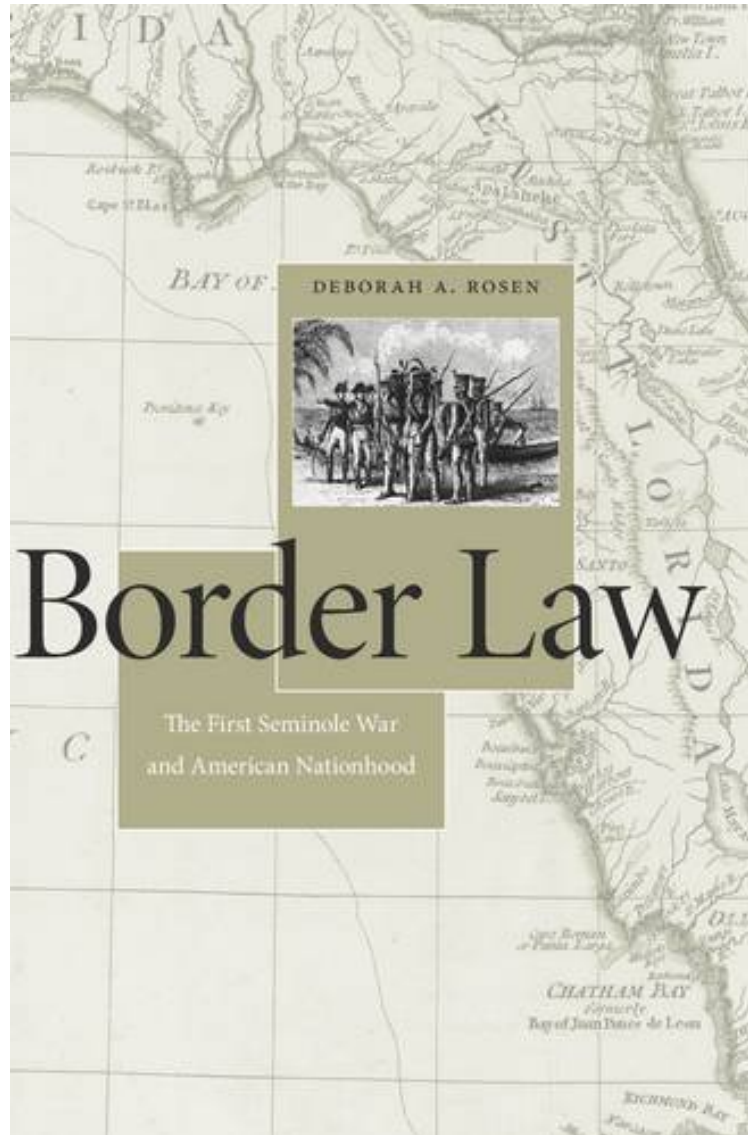


Border Law: The First Seminole War and American Nationhood

Deborah A. Rosen

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Deborah A. Rosen : Border Law: The First Seminole War and American Nationhood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Border Law: The First Seminole War and American Nationhood:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book was a reference in a bibliography I had seen and I purchased it based on the fact that it had good references, a solidBy A. WorkmanI am a First Seminole War period (1817-1819) researcher. This book was a reference in a bibliography I had seen and I purchased it based on the fact

that it had good references, a solid bibliography, was well written and very well researched. This reference has been invaluable for the information that I have been able to obtain and use for my research. I would say that it is a must have for anyone researching Florida's First Seminole War.

The First Seminole War of 1816-1818 played a critical role in shaping how the United States demarcated its spatial and legal boundaries during the early years of the republic. Rooted in notions of American exceptionalism, manifest destiny, and racism, the legal framework that emerged from the war laid the groundwork for the Monroe Doctrine, the Dred Scott decision, and U.S. westward expansion over the course of the nineteenth century, as Deborah Rosen explains in *Border Law*. When General Andrew Jackson's troops invaded Spanish-ruled Florida in the late 1810s, they seized forts, destroyed towns, and captured or killed Spaniards, Britons, Creeks, Seminoles, and African-descended people. As Rosen shows, Americans vigorously debated these aggressive actions and raised pressing questions about the rights of wartime prisoners, the use of military tribunals, the nature of sovereignty, the rules for operating across territorial borders, the validity of preemptive strikes, and the role of race in determining legal rights. Proponents of Jackson's Florida campaigns claimed a place for the United States as a member of the European diplomatic community while at the same time asserting a regional sphere of influence and new rules regarding the application of international law. American justifications for the incursions, which allocated rights along racial lines and allowed broad leeway for extraterritorial action, forged a more unified national identity and set a precedent for an assertive foreign policy.

Rosen not only provides a full account of the border conflict but also offers a thorough discussion of how the campaign reflected contemporary views of the young nation's place in the world. Rosen argues convincingly that the Seminole War established a pattern of assertive U.S. behavior that defined the early decades of U.S. history, leading to expanded economic/political opportunities but also inevitable conflict with Native Americans and regional neighbors. (S. J. Ramold Choice 2015-08-01) In the early American republic, empire-builders headed west to Louisiana, Texas, and the Pacific. But first they went to Florida. There, as Deborah Rosen shows in this magisterial study of Andrew Jackson's Seminole War, Americans pioneered the legal doctrines and practices that would underpin the United States expansion for the next century. Blending legal history with borderland history, Indian history, the history of slavery, and military and diplomatic history, *Border Law* is a major contribution to the story of how America's empire of liberty became an empire. (Eliga Gould, author of *Among the Powers of the Earth: The American Revolution and the Making of a New World Empire*) Deborah Rosen's provocative *Border Law* conceptualizes the Seminole War as a defining moment of American nation-building. Beyond the diplomatic high-handedness and low territorial motives, Rosen finds that Americans struggled creatively to match their ambitions with the law of nations. On the floor of Congress and beyond, popular desire for spatial expansion, racial exclusion, and national justice overrode conventional understandings of international diplomacy and law, helping to remake that law along the way. Among other virtues, Rosen puts Native Americans, Spaniards, and Britons at the center of early American history. Part of a new political history that blends diplomacy, law, and political culture, Rosen's in-depth examination bridges the Early Republic and Jacksonian America. (Daniel Hulsebosch, New York University School of Law) About the Author Deborah Rosen is Professor of History at Lafayette College.