

The book is useful to the teacher of African-American history, too. It contains the kind of information usually required in a 5-hour class, and the bibliographical essay is a mine of information on other sources and their relative strength and weaknesses. I am currently using it with profit for the United States component of my "Africans in the New World" class.

African Americans in the Early Republic only covers a short (early republican) period, but it is a fitting companion to *African Americans in the Colonial Era*, also by Wright, *Black Southerners* by John B. Boles, and *From Slavery to Freedom*, the all-time favorite by John Hope Franklin.

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Michael J. Puglisi. *Puritans Besieged: The Legacies of King Philip's War in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*. Lanham, MD, and London: University Press of America, 1991. Pp. 244. Cloth, \$43.50; paper, \$24.50.

Is this well organized and generally readable volume, Michael Puglisi discusses the significance of King Philip's War of 1675-76 in New England society during the last quarter of the seventeenth century. Under the leadership of Metacom (King Philip), native Americans carried on the single greatest challenge to the New England colonists. After fifteen months of conflict, the war ended with Metacom's death in August 1676. According to Puglisi, the legacies of the war were to live long after Metacom and have grave effects on Puritan society for the remainder of the century.

In the first three chapters, Puglisi briefly traces the conflict itself, the role of conflict with natives in the colonists' belief system, and the effect of the war on the Puritan attitudes towards the natives. He then has rather detailed chapters on the cost of the war to the colonists and governmental measures to meet those costs, the struggle to build or rebuild communities in the frontier areas most affected by the war, and the effects of the war on political stability. In the final portion of the book, Puglisi discusses "the intellectual and attitudinal changes which resulted from the conflict and continuing tensions."

The central chapters of the book—those on the war's cost and the war's effect on community building and politics—are based on careful scrutiny of local records. Careful reading of these chapters can provide good insights into life in the various Massachusetts communities in the 1670s and 1680s. It is in the final portion of the book that Puglisi's presentation and argument are least effective. In keeping with his concept of King Philip's War as a "focal point," he relates numerous subsequent events to the war and suggests—but does not demonstrate—causation. He is careful to say that the war was not the only reason for the turmoil of the final quarter of the century, but he generally fails to make clear connections between the war and the attitudinal changes and continuing tensions that ensued.

Although the book is not a definitive study, it can be used to advantage as supplementary reading in courses in American colonial history. The inclusion of a few good maps and perhaps some pictures would have greatly enhanced this volume, particularly if it is to be used in the classroom. Unless the reader has a good grasp of geography, much of the information in the chapter on community building can be difficult to follow. More careful proofreading and editing would also have enhanced the value of this work for classroom use.

The Society of Colonial Wars recognized Michael Puglisi's achievements by awarding this book its 1993 Honorable Mention prize.

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