

**A “well-researched ... history of violence in the Revolutionary War that is as fascinating as it is enlightening.”**

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The virtue of this well-researched work by Hoock (history, Univ. of Pittsburgh; *Empires of the Imagination*) is to show how the attempts to inhibit the use of violence influenced the direction of the Revolutionary War and its eventual outcome. Violence grew in severity and frequency as the conflict progressed. According to the author, President George Washington viewed the conflict as a war for American honor. The general-turned-president took steps, not always successful, to restrain his troops from brutality. Congress appointed a commission to investigate and report on abuses, an innovation in the assessment of war crimes. The Patriots handily won the ensuing propaganda dispute over abuses. Other topics detailed in this comprehensive study include the treatment of prisoners of war, Britain's employment of German mercenaries, as well as their recruitment of black slaves in the South and Native tribes in the West, and British and Patriot massacres of enemy troops. VERDICT Hoock has written a history of violence in the Revolutionary War that is as fascinating as it is enlightening.