

bat power at an unsustainably high rate. Digging made sense whether one admits that rifled muskets fundamentally altered the battlefield equation or not.

Hess also argues that June 3, 1864, was a significant day for two reasons other than the failure of the assaults at Cold Harbor that day. First, major portions of the Army of the Potomac dug in where the failed attacks stopped — much closer to Confederate lines than when they started. Second and more important, Grant ordered the men to start digging siege approaches to Rebel works for the first time. Grant later gave up and moved the Army of the Potomac further south to Petersburg in yet another attempt to outflank Lee. When that failed, he started the siege of Petersburg. From that point until virtually the end of the war, the Army of the Potomac engaged in a siege of the Army of Northern Virginia. Grant gave up his costly frontal assaults on fortified Rebel positions and slowly attrited Lee's combat power. Grant finally realized that such costly attacks could not be continued indefinitely and, by besieging Petersburg, subtly made the switch from a strategy of annihilation to one of attrition, then to one of exhaustion. That is where Hess's next work will pick up the story.

*Trench Warfare* is a significant addition to the military history of the American Civil War and adds an important argument to a topic generally ignored by Civil War historians. If Hess's third planned volume, focusing on the fortifications utilized during the operations around Petersburg and Richmond in 1864-65, is up to the standards of *Field Armies and Fortifications* and *Trench Warfare*, historians can look forward to another meticulously researched and analyzed work that will add much to Civil War historiography.

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*Policing the Great Plains: Rangers, Mounties, and the North American Frontier, 1875-1910*, by Andrew R. Graybill. Lincoln, Nebraska, University of Nebraska Press, 2007. xiii, 277 pp. \$31.25 Cdn (paper).

Andrew R. Graybill has reinterpreted the settlement of the Great Plains in this compelling comparative study of the roles the Texas Rangers, founded in 1874, and the North West Mounted Police, created in 1873, played in bringing the Texas hinterland and the North West Territories under their respective countries' governmental control from the 1870s to 1910.

Comparative analysis of the Rangers and the Mounted Police sheds new light on the expansion of two nation-states across the continent, their population changes, and variations in their agricultural and industrial development; it also clarifies two very different methods used by two very similar police forces to subjugate native peoples and bring mixed-breed people under control in developing "colonial" areas into integral components of powerful industrializing nations. One would like to read more direct comparisons of the Rangers with the

US Army operations against Native Americans on the southern plains, especially in proximity to the US-Mexican border. It is clear that the Rangers were much more likely to resort to force against Native American and mixed-race people than the Mounties. It would be helpful to see more direct comparisons of the North West Mounted Police and the US Army in relation to the Canadian-American border at the forty-ninth parallel. The Blackfoot tribes inhabited the emerging borderland and received very different treatment by the Mounties than at the hands of the US Army, with its massacre of Piegans on January 23, 1870, in Montana Territory.

The author is well-versed in the skills of comparative and transnational history, North American western history, and the story of the Great Plains in the nineteenth century north and south of the forty-ninth parallel. Graybill's organization of the study is tightly structured in five chapters. In this informative work, the author first delineates the origins of the North West Mounted Police and the Texas Rangers, both of which had similar police powers in their separate jurisdictions, and similar roles in subjugating indigenous peoples. They shared other functions: both dispossessed people of mixed ancestry of their resources. Both defended the rising cattlemen's empire in Texas and the North West Territories against homesteaders' encroachment. Both forces also policed industrial development and managed labor disputes in these growing societies. In Thurber, Texas, and Lethbridge, Alberta, significant industrial disputes developed in emerging coal-mining operations. The Rangers and the Mounties maintained industrial peace, limited unionization efforts, and aided smooth mining operations. The Texas Rangers intervened in worker strikes against the Texas & Pacific Coal Company, and the Mounties did the same for the Alberta Railway & Coal Company.

This study sheds light on the northern international border between the US and Canada and the southwestern boundary between the US and Mexico from the 1870s to 1910; it reveals the impact of the police and the boundaries on Native Americans in both "borderland" areas; and it shows the reaction of Indian people to the dividing lines drawn across their traditional homelands. Graybill's thoughtful work, drawn from both US and Canadian sources, transcends the geographic international boundary. It looks anew at traditional frontier, western, and Great Plains history. This approach is enlightening for those seeking understanding of either the new "borderlands" history or traditional American or Canadian industrialization in the west. Both specialists and non-specialists will find Graybill's work interesting and beneficial. His study is an important contribution to the transnational history of the US and Canada in the west. He argues convincingly that neither nation was unique or exceptional, and that there was much commonality in their late-nineteenth-century development.

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