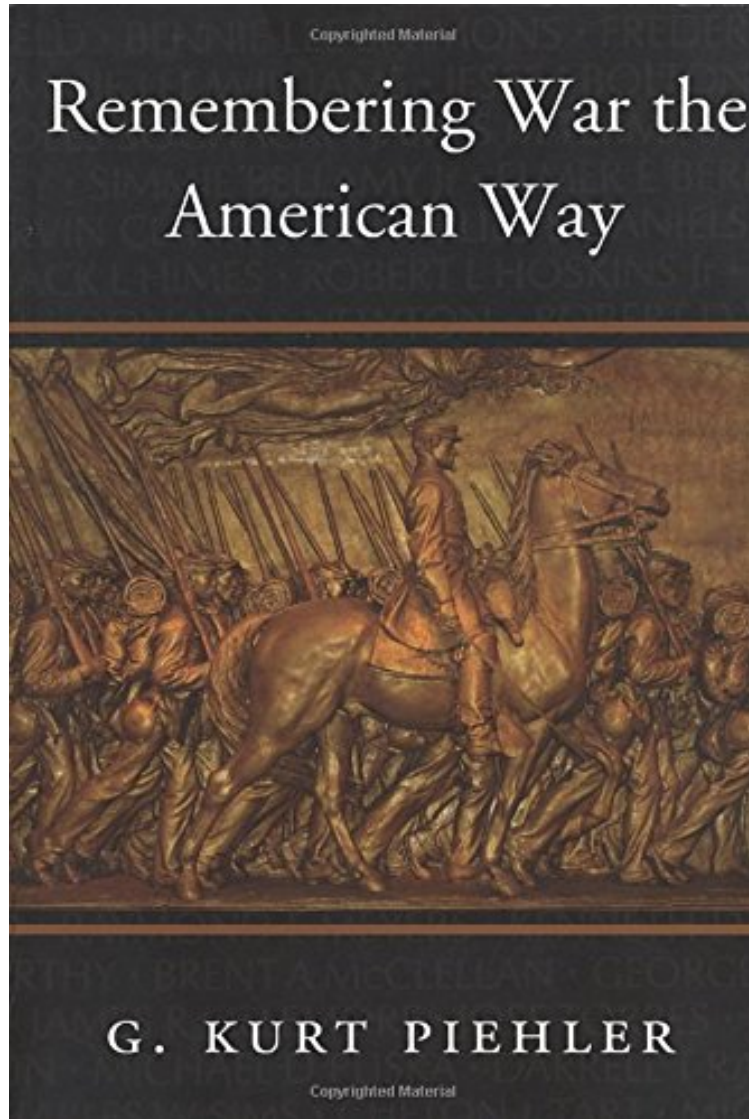


[FREE] Remembering War the American Way

Remembering War the American Way

G. Kurt Piehler

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G. Kurt Piehler : Remembering War the American Way before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Remembering War the American Way:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. bookBy maymayWritten by a friend and look forward to start reading it. Subject matter interesting and informative. Excited to read it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. how we honor our fallenBy NazaniThis is a study of how Americans have commemorated military events and people, from the Revolution through the Vietnam War era. Many footnotes, photos, historical anecdotes. Of equal interest to psychologists, those interested in the national character or history.

Wars do not fully end when the shooting stops. As G. Kurt Piehler reveals in this book, after every conflict from the Revolution to the Persian Gulf War, Americans have argued about how and for what deeds and heroes wars should be remembered. Drawing on sources ranging from government documents to *Embalmer's Monthly*, Piehler recounts efforts to commemorate wars by erecting monuments, designating holidays, forming veterans' organizations, and establishing national cemeteries. The federal government, he contends, initially sidestepped funding for memorials, thereby leaving the determination of how and whom to honor in the hands of those with ready money and those who responded to them. In one instance, monuments to Yankee heroes erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution were countered by immigrant groups, who added such figures as Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko to the record of the war. Piehler argues that the conflict between these groups is emblematic of the ongoing reinterpretation of wars by majority and minority groups, and by successive generations. Demonstrating that the battles over the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are not unique in American history, *Remembering War the American Way* reveals that the memory of war is intrinsically bound to the pluralistic definition of national identity.

From *Library Journal* Piehler, who is an archivist and oral historian, undertakes to document how each of America's wars has been memorialized in monuments, cemeteries, holidays, and fraternal groups. The emphasis is definitely on the tangible; film, video, music, and literature are barely mentioned. The accounts of the social and political disagreements over the purpose and form of public remembrance synthesize a great deal of heretofore scattered or inaccessible information and will attract scholars, but more attention to popular culture would have enhanced the book for both researcher and general reader. An optional purchase for academic libraries. Fritz Buckallew, Univ. of Central Oklahoma Lib., Edmond Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. A sprightly, informative, insightful, and compelling tale of how we honor those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Kurt Piehler blends politics, memory, culture, regionalism, race, and religion into a fascinating mix. Recommended without reservation. Stephen E. Ambrose, author of *D-Day: June 6, 1944* and *Band of Brothers* The accounts of the social and political disagreements over the purpose and form of public remembrance synthesize a great deal of heretofore scattered or inaccessible information. *Library Journal* An important addition to the growing body of literature on the construction and function of the memory of war. *Journal of American History* About the Author G. Kurt Piehler is director of the Center for the Study of War and Society at the University of Tennessee. He lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.