

Response to Reading Two

Fred Anderson and Andrew Cayton, *The Dominion of War: Empire and Liberty in North America* (Penguin, 2005).

Due: Monday, January 22, 2007

Andrew Cayton and Fred Anderson survey American history through the theme of war. The authors, as they say in their Introduction, “narrate the ambiguous and ironic relationship between war and freedom in the making of North America and in the creation of the United States as an actor on the world stage. It does not devote much attention to battles or to military history at the operational level; rather it investigates wars as defining moments in the construction of cultural and territorial borders, in North America and beyond.” Wars, the authors conclude, “have furnished crucial occasions for Americans to debate who they are and to express what they hope their nation represents.”

Please read:

Introduction
Conclusion
TWO Chapters of your choice

As you read passages assigned below, think about the following questions and answer TWO of them on one to two typed pages:

1. What are examples of contingency in history that are demonstrated by the chapters you read?
2. How do the authors suggest events as a new turning point or new way to divide American history?
3. How did the ideas of imperialism and republicanism interact in the events about which you read?

☛ *Please indicate in your paper which chapters you read*