

ways this can be accomplished. It serves not only as a technological blueprint but as an instructional and reference manual, and should be required reading for any Criminal Intelligence Analyst and an is-

sue item for each LE organization and Intelligence Fusion Center. I highly recommend “*Data Mining for Intelligence, Fraud & Criminal Detection*” to all LE and Intelligence professionals. ✨

**Reviewed by Michael P. Ley, Antiterrorism Officer (ATO) and Intelligence Coordinator
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Professional Reader

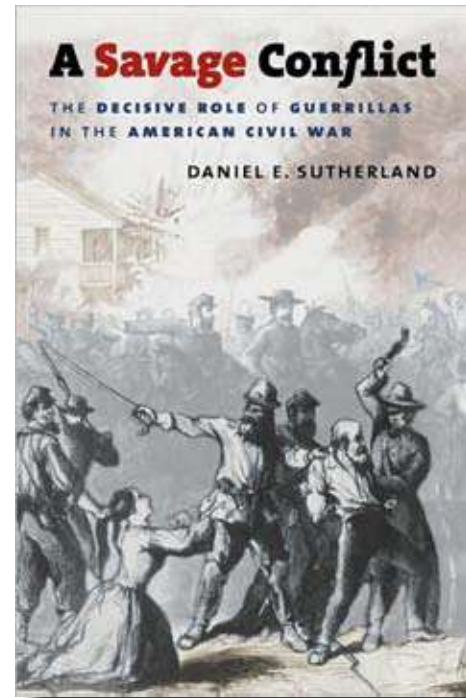


*A Savage Conflict: The Decisive
Role of Guerrillas in the American
Civil War by Daniel E. Sutherland*

*(Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North
Carolina Press, 2009), 440 pages, ISBN: 978-
0-8078-3277-6*

The Moccasin Rangers, Swamp Dragoons, Dixie Boys, and The Mountain Marksmen are not organizations typically associated with the American Civil War. Instead, it is likely that the Battles of Gettysburg, Antietam and Bull Run are what usually are considered when reflecting on the tragedy of that war and the preservation of the U.S. In *A Savage Conflict* by Daniel E. Sutherland, commonly held perceptions of what constituted the Civil War and how it was fought are brilliantly challenged, and for this reader, adapted into a better understanding of this critical conflict. Sutherland’s thesis rests on the impact of Guerrilla Warfare as a political and military tactic and how this type of warfare impacted the conventional military operations of large, set-piece battles such as Gettysburg. Importantly, Guerrilla Warfare in the Civil War also had a powerful impact on Confederate and Union Government policies and an especially crucial impact on public morale.

A Savage Conflict chronologically describes the prevailing anarchy that unraveled America as the Civil War devolved into an incredibly ruthless and violent war; and this is all in addition to battles such as Antietam. In many ways the persistent fighting between small and less known bands of fighters, such as the mentioned Swamp Dragoons and Moccasin Rangers, formed a backdrop to the more



famously known conventional battles. What makes Sutherland’s book fascinating is the explanation of how intimidation, fear, retaliation, and blood feuds on local levels throughout the south and especially in border states such as Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Virginia set the conditions for the type of brutality of battles such as Antietam and the aggressive strategies and tactics of Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Tecumseh Sherman.

Furthermore, Sutherland’s book reveals the incredible local tension throughout the country that focused on basic security of individuals and families and how that far superseded the political maneuverings for succession from the Union or preservation of it. This type of problem was compounded when communities were plundered by groups that were often formed to originally protect them. In many cases described in the book, such

groups were sometimes manipulated or motivated to act through grudges or, in some cases, just bent on destruction and attacked civilians in addition to Yankee or Confederate troops. Sadly, this type of confusion occurred on both Confederate and Union sides of the conflict. (As a side note, for readers familiar with the book and movie, *Cold Mountain*, the band of marauders that antagonized numerous villages and the protagonists in that story exemplify the type of local level violence that occurred during the Civil War.) Generally, for any readers interested in the conditions that foster Guerrilla Warfare, *A Savage Conflict* is highly recommended.

Interestingly, and a wise move on the part of the author, no comparison is made to more recent insurgencies or actions in Afghanistan or Vietnam. It must have been very tempting; however, as there are considerable parallels which could be made be-

tween historical examples and how human beings interact and behave when confronted with the intimidation of marauding guerrillas in their communities. Sutherland's description of Kentucky alone and how it was utilized as a buffer state between the Union and the Confederacy is fascinating and causes the reader to critically think about how our contemporary operating environment may be better understood through the study of history. For this reviewer, for example, Kentucky in the Civil War was a historical antecedent to contemporary Afghanistan in that both have been politically postured as buffer states during times of political maneuvering. Ultimately, *A Savage Conflict* is an excellent historical work that causes a reader to think critically about Guerrilla Warfare and develop ideas about how Guerrilla War is conducted and how it impacts every facet of life in which it unfolds. ✨

Reviewed by First Lieutenant Nathaniel Moir



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