The Industrial Revolution and the French and Indian War

The mid-18th Century was a transitional time period for Europe and North America. The British Isles and France were experiencing an economic advancement known as the Industrial Revolution. This revolution had an impact on the people of Europe and North America, as well as the environment. During this time period the French allied themselves with the American Indians whose goal was to gain more territory to aid their need of fur. Britain was also seeking more territorial gain to fuel the fire of the Industrial Revolution. The two European superpowers clashed in what is now known as the French and Indian war. The factors of the French and Indian war play an important role with the environment.

The Roots of Revolution

Americans had been fighting the British for about ten years before the American Revolution began. Pennsylvanian James Smith, and his band of followers called “The Black Boys,” started these fights
against the British crown. James Smith used tactics against the British that he learned as a teenage captive of the Delaware Indians. Among the things Smith learned from the Delaware were hunting, trapping, canoe and shelter construction, and other abilities needed to survive in the wilderness. His success with this tribe led to his acceptance by the American Indians. However, this honor bestowed on him by his tribe led to his capture by the British.

**Fighting for Freedom**

In 1763, three years after Smith’s return to the Conococheague area, hostilities between the Indians and the colonists on the Pennsylvania frontier erupted once more. Smith was selected to lead a band of men to fight against the attack. Using the tactics he had learned from the Delaware, Smith dressed his band of men in Indian attire and painted their faces black and red. Smith and his “Black Boys” were successful in keeping the Indians at bay. James Smith and his Black Boys also caused a great deal of havoc in the Conococheague Valley by stopping pack trains of goods for the British Crown and burning the supplies. Although Smith and the Black Boys never killed any British subjects, they protected the civilians of the Conococheague valley from constant Indian attacks and trespasses by the British Crown.
James Smith and the Black Boys

War and the environment have gone hand in hand since the beginning of time. The effect on land from war has been tremendous, none the less. The environment also has an effect on war, causing decisively planned battles go wrong due to the terrain or climate. Research was conducted on how historians have evaluated the relationship between environment, and the people that inhabit and fight over the land. Looking at three different view points from three different historians will provide evidence to support that environment is not only affected by war, but is also a place to wage war due to its vast capabilities of providing safety and camouflage from the opposing enemy.

First, a point of focus would be to take a look at the leaf shaped peninsula of Morea and the article that J.M. Wagstaff wrote about it called “War and Settlement: desertion in the Morea, 1685-1830.” Morea is located on the end of Greece and was formerly in the Byzantine Empire.1 Wagstaff argument is, “why did the venetian conquest of Morea (1685-1687) and the Greek War of Independence (1821-1827) cause the desertion of many homes.”2 Looking at these two wars, I will look at the way Wagstaff perceives the environment.

Wagstaff explains many of the geographical features of Morea that gives a person the capability to imagine Morea in his or her mind. Wagstaff also uses graphs and maps to show the

areas that had more desertion of homes than others, while at the same time giving mathematical figures, like mean and mode, to describe this desertion. There is also a high emphasis on water in Wagstaff’s article, since Morea is surrounded by water, the water would be its since of life, being trade, warfare and economic purposes. The Serene Republic used this to their advantage in year 1700 to stop the Ottoman Fleet from landing on Morea and also using the sea to land forces from Italy and missionary troops from Germany.³

Simon Schama shows the importance of water in his book “Landscape and Memory.” Schama thinks that water is a source of life and looks more toward the Nile River, since the Nile River is the source of life for Egypt.⁴ Wagstaff also portrays the mountain ranges of Morea as rough and treacherous, and again we can relate to Schama. When I read about the Morea Mountains, I immediately thought of the portrait in Schama of Hannibal crossing the Italian Alps with dark clouds hovering over the mountains, giving the painting a sort of horrific image.⁵

During the Greek war of Independence (1821-1827) the Christians used guerilla warfare, depending on the Morean environment and its natural resources to fight the Muslims.⁶ This relates to my narrower case study of James Smith and the Black Boys. James Smith used his fighting techniques that he had learned from the Delaware Indians, whom captured him as a teen. Smith used these fighting tactics against the Indians when they were conducting their raids, and eventually against the British crown.

I find Wagstaff’s article very brief, and doesn’t give much detail on the two wars, also my knowledge of Morea is very diminutive. Wagstaff’s devotion to the environmental portion of his article is very helpful to my report, but more historical background would have been more

³ (Wagstaff)
⁵ (Schama)
⁶ (Wagstaff)
helpful, as well as interesting. This article is the only piece, compared to the following two books, that has graphs, which I find helpful in understanding Wagstaff’s argument.

The Historian William Cronon looks at American colonial New England in an ecological historical perspective. In his book Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England, Cronon examines Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau, being the naturalist that he is, remarks at how horrible the environment and landscape has changed, due to the economic revolution and society wanting to be more technologically advanced, even if it means the destruction of the environment.7 Cronon goes on to discuss the abundance of animals, such as deer, bear, beaver, turkey and other animals, which will eventually be depleted due to the coming of the white man. The historian George Perkins Marsh would likely agree with Cronon because of his statement from his book Man and Nature: “since, that human action, mainly farming, degraded environments to the point where agricultural production was threatened.”8 A new law also came into effect when the English came over from England, something the Indians never heard of or believed in, that would be property rights. Cronon writes on this new “property rights” concept due to the fact that Indians believed that everyone shared the land.

Simon Schama depicts forest as these great mythical wooded areas that hold almost a supernatural power, with its tree’s reaching for the sky and the wild beast that roamed the woods like the Lithuanian Bison.9 In chapter four of Schama’s “Memory and Landscape,” he discus’s the famous redwood trees of California and how people were astonished by their massive size. It didn’t take long for people to start cutting the trees down for wood, this takes place in Cronon’s book also. The English cut down forests left and right, some shipped back to the home country.

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9 (Schama)
The forest were cut down for agriculture, construction and fuel, this cutting down of the forest would have a great effect on the environment, causing erosion, flooding and wildlife to move further to the interior of the country.\textsuperscript{10} Cronon places great emphasis on the environment and how the Indians were well adapted to the land until the English came. The New Englanders were depicted as people who used the land only for its natural resources and their self benefit, while cheating the Indians out of land and killing them off by nasty European diseases.

William Cronon’s book was a very read. Cronon goes into detail about how the environment would have looked like before the first settlers had arrived and then goes through the transition until the white man has supreme rule over the land. I enjoy how Cronon explains the abundance of animals through stories from Indians as well as the first settlers. Cronon doesn’t focus much on the French trading, or the French and Indian war of that matter, but yet seemed to keep me interested in the book. I think if Cronon added more conflict between the Europeans it would have made it even more interesting, while also adding more information to the French trade and how the Indians allied with the French.

\textit{Facing East from Indian country} by Daniel Richter takes a real in-depth analysis at Indian country and the arrival of Europeans. Richter’s book involves a lot of attention to religion, including Indian beliefs and Europeans trying to convert Indians into Christians, while also devoting a lot of time to trade. Richter’s book relates to Jared Diamond’s book “\textit{Guns, Germs, and Steel}.” When Tecumseh tried to ally various Indian nations to fight against the colonialist, and eventually lose, Richter asked why the Colonialist won and not the Indians. I think you can look at Jared Diamond for this answer; Diamonds book describes how technology evolved and why it evolved were it did.\textsuperscript{11} A good point in Diamonds book that would relate to

\textsuperscript{10} (Cronon)
Richter’s, is Yali’s question. Yali asked Jared Diamond: “Why is it that you white people developed so much cargo and brought it to New Guinea, but we black people had little cargo of our own?”12 Why don’t the Indians have the technology like the Colonialist? I guess you will just have to read Jared Diamonds book to find the answer. The last chapter of Richter’s book goes into some detail about my case study for this report, it doesn’t mention James Smith, but it does mention a group called the Paxton Boys which is similar to the Black Boys.

Richter’s book injects a multitude of information about religion and trade, and the conflict between Indians and Europeans. I feel there was too much emphasis on religion and trade, due to the fact I lost interest and could not feel compelled when I was about ready to pick up the book. I did find it interesting though that Richter used many of Indian quotes from when the Indians were negotiating with the Europeans. This book doesn’t cover as much information on environment as Cronon, but it covers the information that Cronon’s book doesn’t cover, but in a more dull way.

From all of the sources that I have used for this historiography, the information found from each source contributes something that the other source does not. It is very helpful for me when I write my final paper, by taking the information that I learned from these sources and applying it to the case study. Wagstaff’s use of graphs and maps makes it easier to understand the desertion of Morea by comparing it to other centuries, while also seeing how war can affect a community and also the environment. William Cronon’s book gave me a better insight into what was actually lost due to European westward expansion; it still very astonishing of the abundance of animals during the 1500’s. Richter’s Book Facing East From Indian Country show’s how religion can play such a big factor between two races; also religion is used as an excuse to go to

12 (Diamond)
war due to different beliefs. Richter also goes into great detail about all of the Indian and European treaties, which would usually be broken in a short amount of time.

The mid-18th Century was a transitional time period for Europe and North America. The British Isles and France were going through an economic advancement known as the Industrial Revolution. This revolution not only had an impact on the people of Europe and North America, but also on the environment as well. During this time period the French allied themselves with the Native Americans, who were trying to gain more territory to aid their need of fur. Britain was also looking to seek more territorial gain so they could fuel the fire of the Industrial Revolution. The two European superpowers clashed in what is known as the French and Indian war. The factors of the French and Indian war play an important role with the environment.

Focusing on a Pennsylvania frontiersman named Colonel James Smith from the Conococheague Valley. Smith lived amongst the Delaware Indians during the time of the French and Indian War and gained much knowledge on the way of Indian life and how much the Native Americans depended on the environment to survive the wilderness of the Ohio and Cumberland vallies. Smith relies heavily on the knowledge that he acquired from the Delaware Indians to fight against the raiding Indians that would cause havoc all throughout Pennsylvania. Eventually Smith would also use these tactics to rebel against the British crown. Narrowing the topic of James Smith down on how the Indians relied on the environment and benefitted James Smith, the Black Boys and their ability to help protect Pennsylvania and defy the British crown.

When most people think of Americans standing up against the British, automatically people think of the American Revolution. During the revolution, Americans fought for what they believed was right because they were tired of being subject to British rule. On the contrary though, Americans had been fighting the British for about ten years before the American
Revolution even started. The Pennsylvanian James Smith and his band of followers, named “The Black Boys,” started these fights against the British crown. James Smith used tactics against the British that he learned from being captured by the Delaware Indians when he was just a teenager. Focusing on how James Smith used those tactics against the British crown will be basis, while also focusing on how Smith used the environment to his benefit when he decided to clash with the British.

James Smith was born in 1737 in the Conococheague Valley, near what is now Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. There is not much information on his early childhood, until he was captured at the age of eighteen. During the year of 1755, a road was allowed to be built by the British General Braddock. This road was to be built from Will’s Creek to Fort Duquesne and became known as Braddock’s Road. Samuel Smith, the commissioner of Cumberland county and James Smith’s brother-in-law, helped build the new road. On June 12, 1755, a letter was sent from James Burd (sometimes referred to as Bird) to Governor Robert Morris on the progress of the road. The letter stated that half of the working force was at Juniata crossing and was hoping to be at Raystown by the end or the middle of next week. This letter also states that Samuel Smith was appointed to “purchase provisions …to devote time and as much hands as possible.”

Another road was to be constructed to intercept with Braddock’s road. This road was to be cut from Fort Loudon to Braddock’s road. Samuel Smith was appointed commissioner of this road and had three hundred men to construct it. Samuel asked his brother-in-law to acquaint him

14 Colonial Records, Volume VI 430
on the adventure and James agreed. During the construction of this road, James Smith was sent back to hurry up the wagons of goods, which were located at the Juniata crossing. James seen that the wagons were moving as fast of a rate as possible and started to return back with another man by the name of Arnold Vigoras. There were three Indians using brush as cover as Smith and Vigoras was traveling back up the road on their horses. The three Indians shot their guns at the two men, killing Vigoras instantly and scaring Smith’s horse, causing him to fall. The Indians scalped Vigoras and captured James Smith. James Smith recalls that the Indians were two Delaware and one Canasatuaga. Also, one of the Indians from the Delaware tribe could speak English. The Indians took James Smith deep into the Alleghany Mountains, where they stayed the night with no fire. The Indians with their capture were making their way to Fort Duquesne, while stopping and meeting with various tribes along the way. When they finally reached the fort, Indians came running towards Smith, forming two lines, in which James Smith had to run through this gauntlet being beat. One of the Indians that could speak English told Smith to run as fast as he could because “it would be so much the better.” James Smith ran as fast as he could through the gauntlet, but nearing the end he was struck with a stick or a tomahawk handle, making him fall. Smith tried to stand up, but one Indian threw sand in his eyes so he could not see. Then all of the Indians started to beat him unsympathetically until he thought he was going to die. Fortunately, the Indians did not kill him and a French doctor nursed him back to health.

15 Smith, James. *An Account of the Remarkable Occurrence in the Life and Travels of Colonel James Smith, During the Captivity With the Indians, in the Years 1755, ’56, ’57, ’58 & ’59.* Philadelphia: Gregg & Elliott, 1799. Pg. 5
16 Ibid. 6
17 Ibid. 8
18 Ibid. 9
The Indians and French went to war against Braddock’s army, using guerilla style tactics against the British such as standing behind trees, hiding in gullies and keeping up a constant rate of fire. James Smith learned that seven Indians and four French had died, while a total of approximately 500 British had perished. The Indians were atrocious to their newly captured prisoners by burning them alive along the Allegheny River.19

The Indians started to raid colonial settlers during this time, due to increased westward expansion. The Indians used excruciating means of torture and death against these colonials during this time period. At a council meeting in Philadelphia in 1756, a man by the name of John Cox, who escaped from the Delaware Indians at Kittanning town, told the story of how he had to watch the execution of another prisoner. The prisoner was Paul Broadly, who the Indians captured and beat for a half an hour with tomahawks and clubs. After the beating, the Indians fastened him to a post and cropped his ears close to his head, then finally chopped his fingers off.20 A council meeting held at Philadelphia on Thursday April 8, 1756, declared war on the Delaware Indians. Money would be paid to people that captured Indians and also for scalps of men, women and children.21

James Smith eventually got the white blood washed out of him, which meant that he was now a true Indian and had no relation to the white people. The Indians painted his face and plucked out most of his hair, only leaving a few locks about 6 inches long. The Indians also gave Smith new clothes, a tomahawk, pipe, tobacco and other various items that were needed to survive in the wilderness.22

19 Ibid 12 - 13
20 Colonial Records, Volume VII 242
21 Colonial Records, Volume VII 78
22 James Smith Autobiography 15-16
James Smith’s new Indian name was Scoowa and he and the Indians traveled all around the Lake Erie region.\textsuperscript{23} James Smith learned many things from the Indians, like how to hunt, trap, build canoes and shelters, dry animal skins and anything else that was needed to survive in the wilderness. A couple of times Smith had gone astray from the Indians and had to stay out in the woods by himself, sometimes during the bitter cold of winter. The Indians never treated Smith any differently because he was one of them now. When food was in short supply, it was always provided in equal shares. Smith was even provided with a gun because the Indians respected him for when he stayed out in the wilderness alone. When he got lost, he always came back to the tribe instead of deserting.

James Smith and two other Indians went by canoe from Detroit to the Indian village of Caughnewaga. Caughnewaga is where James Smith heard of a French ship that had British prisoners on board. Smith went to the ship, but the river that he was on, St. Lawrence, was filled with British ships on their way to making an amphibious landing to fight the French and Indians. The British captured James Smith and he spent four months in jail since he was technically an Indian that was allied with the French. Smith returned to the Conococheague area early in 1760.

There was peace for about three years after James Smith’s arrival back to the Conococheague. In 1763, the Indians’ hostilities erupted back up with more attacks against the colonist on the Pennsylvania frontier. Smith was selected to lead a band of men to fight against the attack Indians. He trained his men with Indian tactics because it was the only thing that Smith knew. Smith also dressed the band of men in Indian attire and painted their faces black and red. Smith and his band of followers were very successful in keeping the attacking Indians at bay.\textsuperscript{24}

\textsuperscript{23} Ibid. 39
\textsuperscript{24} James Smith Autobiography 106-107
James Smith was promoted to a Lieutenant in 1764 after his success in battle with the Indians. The Indians and the colonialist came to peace terms, where the Indians promised to return all of the prisoners that they had. Unfortunately, the Indians didn’t abide to these rules for very long. They started to attack the frontier people again.\textsuperscript{25}

The British were trading warlike goods with Indians to seek a profit. A man by the name of Mr. Duffield heard of this pack train of cargo and asked them to stop while the pack train was searched for the warlike goods. The people of the pack train ignored Mr. Duffield, so he went to James Smith who gathered some of his old battle comrades to stop the pack train. Smith and his band of followers went into the Alleghany Mountains and stayed for the night. During their stay, they dressed like Indians and painted their faces. The band of men hid behind trees and two men to a tree. One man would reload and another would fire, which would make for a constant rate of fire. When the pack train arrived, the Black Boys opened fire and then captured the cargo, not killing anyone in the pack train.\textsuperscript{26} The horse drivers and the other people in the pack train went to Fort Loudon where a group of highlander soldiers went after the Smith and his Black Boys. The highlanders took many people as prisoner who was not even involved in the attack against the pack train, which caused a great deal of panic. A letter from Colonel Reid to General Gage stated that on March 6\textsuperscript{th}, 1756, the pack train of 81 loads was followed about 12 miles from Justice William Smith’s house, where the band met up and burnt 63 loads of goods. The highlanders took some “rioters” prisoner and later released them on bail, but they kept their eight guns until the names of the owners of the guns were given. A receipt for the guns that were captured was made by William McDowell. The receipt stated that Lt. Charles Grant of the 42\textsuperscript{nd} Regiment had five rifles and four smooth barrel guns that were taken off of the country people.

\textsuperscript{25} Ibid. 107-108
\textsuperscript{26} Ibid. 108-109
and that those arms shall be in his (William McDowell) possession “till the Governor’s pleasure is known to dispose of them as he shall see fit.”

Around 300 men went to Fort Loudon where they camped out and captured British soldiers in exchange of their own people. However, Smith had two prisoners for each one of the prisoners that the British had.

Another supply train was captured by James Smith and his Black Boys. This pack train consisted of liquors and necessities for soldiers that were owned by a Joseph Spears who arrived at Fort Loudon. The drivers of the horses took the horses into the woods to feed and get watered. The Black Boys attacked the drivers, killed five horses, wounded two and burnt all the saddles. One of the drivers escaped to go back to get help, which Grant sent Sergeant McGlashan to find the Black Boys. McGlashan and his force’s seen a man washing black paint from his face, thinking instantly it was one of the Black Boys that took part in the attack on the supply train. A warning shot was fired from the woods and one was returned from the British. McGlashan yelled to the invisible Black Boys to halt and they returned a lob of fire. The British did get a prisoner by the name of James Brown who was shot through the leg.

A letter from Lieutenant Grant to Brigadier General Bouquet stated that if he did not turn over the prisoners, then 200 men would burn down the fort and rescue the prisoners themselves. Colonel Reid received a letter from Colonel Grant about the situation with the rioters at Fort Loudon. Grant went on horseback, and a half mile from his post he was surrounded by rioters where he was shot at and thrown from his horse. The men took Grant 15 miles into the woods where they said they would “tie him up to a tree and leave him for dead, if

28 Ibid. 109-110
29 Colonial Records Volume IX. Harrisburg: Theo Fenn & Co., 1852. Pg. 269-27
30 James Smith: Early Cumberland Valley Patriot 16-17
31 Colonial Records IX, 269-270
he did not give them up some arms.” Grant told the rioters that he would give the guns back within five weeks “under a penalty of 40 pounds” (being British currency).

Smith and his Black Boys checked every wagon load that was on the road. A pass was needed from the Justice of Peace, William Smith. James Smith would also sign the permit after he was done checking the goods. An example would be the pass for Thomas M’Cammis from May 15th, 1765 when Justice of Peace, William Smith permitted M’Cammis to be able to transport nine kegs of rum, eight kegs of wine, one keg of spirits, one keg of molasses, three kegs of brown sugar, four kegs packed with loaf sugar, coffee, chocolate and a bag of shoes. James Smith replied by saying, “As the sideling hill volunteers have already inspected these goods, and as they are all private property, it is expected that none of these brave fellows will molest them upon the road, as there is no Indian supplies amongst them given under my hand, May 15, 1765.”

The return of the guns has not occurred and James Smith and his Black Boys were exasperated. William Smith wrote to Lieutenant Grant on June 22nd, 1765, stating that if the guns are not returned to the rightful owners, the containment of these guns will end with consequences being bad. On June 19th, James Smith wrote to Fort Loudon stating, “The arms that are detained in Loudon you may keep them, keep them, keep them!”

In November James Smith and his Black Boys went to Fort Loudon to get their guns back. They fired on the fort for two straight days, nobody went into the fort and nobody came out of the fort. On November 10, the guns were surrendered to William McDowell and

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32 Pennsylvania Archives Volume IV, 219-220
33 Pennsylvania Archives Volume IV, 229
Governor Morris. They would see fit for what happened to the guns and eventually they were turned over to their owners.\textsuperscript{34}

James Smith and his Black Boys caused a great deal of havoc in the Conococheague Valley by stopping pack trains of goods for the British Crown and burning the supplies. They dressed up like the Indians that captured James Smith when he was only eighteen years old. James Smith taught his band of followers’ tactics that he learned from the Indians, by taking cover and trying to stay hidden. Did the incorporation of the Indian way of life help James Smith and the Black Boys get what they thought was right? I believe so, due to the fact that was the only thing that James Smith knew. Smith and the Black Boys never killed any British subjects, but they did kill Indians, the same Indians that took James Smith and incorporated him into a Delaware Indian. Smith protected the civilians of the Conococheague valley with these Indian tactics. Fort Loudon was eventually disbanded due to all of the trouble between the British at the fort and The Black Boys. You could almost say that this is the beginning of the American Revolution, but looking further into the situation, I find myself thinking that there were just a few greedy British soldiers who wanted to seek a profit by trading with the Indians, and a few courageous Pennsylvania colonialists who were not going to put up with it.

\textsuperscript{34} James Smith Autobiography 180-181
Fort Loudon, PA

James Smith as a Delaware Indian
Primary


Colonial Records volume six is where I located the starting of the road that the young James Smith was captured by the Delaware Indians in 1755. Volume six also gives the progress on the road being built, however I could not locate anything stating a James Smith coming up missing.


Colonial Records volume seven gives information on the Delaware Indians, while also providing the council meeting where the council declares war on the Delaware Indians due to the frequent attacks close to the Conococheague area.


This book gives various letters between important people like the British General Gage and Colonel Reid during the time that James Smith and his band of followers were laying siege to Fort Loudon. A great source for primary sources during the colonial period and shows the early tensions between the British and its subjects.


The documents in the Volume IV Pennsylvania Archives have information on the searches that James Smith did on the British supply trains. The Pennsylvania Archives also give information on how many guns were taken as well as what type when the British captured some of James Smith's Black Boys.


James Smith autobiography will benefit this paper because it focuses on my narrower topic of how James Smith lived with the Delaware Indians for several of years. James Smith’s autobiography will also benefit the paper by devoting information on how Indians have lived in the Conococheague area.

Secondary


William Cronon's book is also a broad book focusing on a little bit of everything that my paper deals with. This book discusses the issues of the environment for the Indians and the Colonists. This is a great book to get a sense of what the landscape was really like during the colonial era.


Wikipedia provided information on where Morea is located and gave background information on this part of Greece.


Diamond's book is based on how people spread across the universe, how they acquired technology, and why people conquered other civilizations.


Wilbur Nye's book is very broad, but it gives me a basic understanding of James Smith, while providing me with some of James Smith’s most famous conflicts among the British and Delaware Indians, while also making a very good place to start my research.


Daniel Richter's book gives me insight to what Native Americans thoughts were on the environment and how the Indians lived with the new Colonials. This book, like Cronon’s will also give you a perspective of the landscape of early America and how it changed with the coming of the white man.


Simon Schama’s book is a very interesting book that deals with the environment and try’s to look at the question; when we see landscape, do we see nature or culture?


The First Rebel is a more precise book on James Smith told in a romantic way, making it more interesting. The end notes provides me a place to start my primary research, Swanson uses a lot of information from James Smith’s autobiography.

Wagstaff wrote this article to give a description on two violent wars that were located in Morea (peninsula of Greece). The first battle is the Venetian conquest of Morea (1685-1687) and the second war was the Greek war of Independence (1821-1827). Wagstaff’s main focus is on the desertion of homes and towns from these two conflicts.
Ever since elementary school I have always had an interest in History. What got me hooked to history was an old World War II book that my grandfather had and I would look at all the pictures and read their captions. I also had a strong interest for Gettysburg when I was young and was fascinated by the huge cannons and the amount of soldiers that would fight in the battle. When I got a different cable provider in late elementary school we got the history channel, which I constantly watch to this day. The history channel opened up my eyes to more history, just not World War II and the Civil War. During high school I decided I would get bachelors in history since it was the most interesting subject for me. When I came to Shippensburg University I had that privilege of doing historical research on many of topics in which I will discuss. I have chosen to write on history theory and practice paper that deals with coal mining. The paper is titled “Coal Mining in Pennsylvania during the 1930′s” and deals with the Great Depression time period. The second paper that I have chosen is from my class Africa: South of the Sahara taught by Dr. Parry. The title of this paper is European “Colonialism of Africa” and gives a brief history of the colonization by the Europeans in Africa while also looking at the book by Adu Boahen called “African Perspectives on Colonialism.”

After reading my paper for the first time since 2007 when I turned it into Dr. Shafer for theory and practice I have noticed how much carelessness that I used. One good point of this paper that I fully appreciate now is my interest in local history. The theory and practice paper goes into depth about the history of my hometown of Broad Top, Pennsylvania and how it was
a coal mining town. The paper in general discuss coal mining in Pennsylvania during the 1930’s while also taking a look at Unions, everyday life of coal miners, and the dangers that coal miners went through.¹

I researched many accidents that happened all throughout Pennsylvania dealing with mine explosions caused by methane gas or explosives used to blow coal out of seams. Accidents were also due to collapse of the mine ceilings due to weight and pressure pushing down on the ceiling. These accidents claimed many coal miners’ lives, like in Pittston, Pa where five miners were killed in an explosion.²

The miners had an early start to their day by arising around 4:00 A.M. in the morning to head to the mines. Most people in those days walked to work since it was hard to afford a car due to the Great Depression.³ The wages that the miners earned was spent either at the bar or the company story. The company story had high prices on their goods but they also allowed customers to put their purchases on credit. The credit would start to add up and cause the miner in debt, which relates to the song by Merle Travis “Sixteen Tons.”⁴

After reading my paper for Dr. Shaffer I noticed that I did not proofread my work while also having horrible grammar. These two symptoms combined makes for a low grade on a paper. I believe if this paper was proofread and the grammar fixed and the addition of a little more research as well would have made the paper more interesting as well as enjoyable to read.

¹ Miller, Eric Coal Mining in Pennsylvania during the 1930’s. Shippensburg University, 2007.
² Ibid.
³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
The next paper that I am looking over from past history classes comes from Dr. Parry’s Africa: South of the Sahara and is titled “European Colonialism of Africa.” The paper takes a brief look into colonization of Africa by the Europeans. I looked into reasons why the Europeans colonized Africa and how they divided up the African land. Also I take a look at Adu Boahen’s book called “African Perspectives on Colonialism.” This book tells the story of colonialism through an African not the usual European.

Africa was not the only continent to get colonized during this time period, it was occurring in South East Asia as well as in the Pacific. One of the main reasons for colonization is the Industrial Revolution that was happening in Europe. Europe advanced greatly in technology and needed raw materials to support the economic boom in the large amounts of factories that it possessed. Europe looked to Africa where they could attain rubber for very cheaply as well as many other natural resources.\(^5\)

If a country colonized another country it represented power and prestige. During the end of 1894 and the beginning of 1895 the top European countries met in Germany to go over the Berlin Conference. The Berlin Conference is where the European powers discussed who got what in Africa. This would later be known as “The Magnificent African Cake.”\(^6\) There were no Africans present at the Berlin Conference to represent their countries that where being divided up to the more powerful Europeans.

Looking back at Boahen’s book “African Perspectives on Colonialism” I have discovered it is always better to get the views of both opposing parties instead of only looking at one since Boahen is a African. Another thing that I like about Boahen is, he says that not everything that

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\(^5\) Miller, Eric *Europe Colonialism of Africa.* Shippensburg University, 2008.  
\(^6\) Ibid.
came from European colonization was bad like education, hospitals being built, and the
construction of railroads and roads to strengthen the interior of Africa.

I see a much better improvement in my writing style as well as grammar. Dr. Parry
didn’t have many grammar issues with my paper, which is a much better improvement from my
theory and practice paper. I also had a clear thesis and what I would be discussing in my paper.
I also discovered that my footnotes were not as good as they should have been for this paper
and not in the proper Chicago style format.

After going back and reading my previous work I have noticed how much of an
improvement that I have made in my writing and grammar. I also proofread my work now
before turning it in and use spell check to fix any grammatical errors that might be wrong with
my papers. There is one problem that I have discovered with myself and writing papers, that is
not getting another person to read your work to see if it makes since to him/her even if they
are not great in that subject matter. Looking back at my paper from 2007 in theory and
practice and comparing it to my seminar comparative history paper is shocking. I find myself
wondering how I made an improvement in my writing without realizing it.
References

Miller, Eric *Europe Colonialism of Africa*. Shippensburg University, 2008.

Miller, Eric *Coal Mining in Pennsylvania during the 1930’s*. Shippensburg University, 2007