



Barry Gough

THE COLLISION OF EMPIRES  
IN NORTHWEST AMERICA

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FORTUNE'S  
A RIVER

# Fortunes A River The Collision Of Empires In Northwest America

**Barry Gough**



## **Fortunes A River The Collision Of Empires In Northwest America:**

*Fortune's a River* Barry M. Gough, 2007 Winner of the John Lyman Book Award for best Canadian naval and maritime history Finalist for the Nereus Writers Trust Non fiction Award Finalist for the Roderick Haig Brown Regional Prize BC Book Prize Longlisted for the 2007 Victoria Butler Book Prize Honourable Mention for the Canadian Nautical Research Society's Keith Matthews Award *Fortune's a River* is the most authoritative and readable account to date of just how British Columbia became British and how Oregon Washington and Alaska became American By the closing years of the 18th century the stage was set for a major international confrontation over the Northwest Coast Imperial Russia was firmly established in Alaska Spain was extending its trade routes north from Mexico Captain James Cook had claimed Northwest America for England and Captain Robert Gray had claimed the Columbia River region for the United States Open warfare between Spain and England was narrowly averted during the Nootka Sound Controversy of 1789 1794 and again between Britain and the US in the War of 1812 when a British warship seized American property in Oregon In *Fortune's a River* noted historian Barry Gough re examines this Imperial struggle for possession of the future British Columbia and fully evokes its peculiar drama It turned out the great powers were reluctant conquerors in this area Russia and Spain withdrew of their own accord Britain was in a position to dominate but couldn't be bothered The US vaguely wished to fulfill its manifest destiny by securing the Northwest Coast but it was not a priority In the end the battle was carried on by private enterprise and individuals of vision Alexander Mackenzie established an overland route to the coast and with his partners Simon Fraser and David Thompson set up a network of fur trading forts south to Oregon US president Thomas Jefferson countered by sending out the Lewis and Clark expedition to strengthen American claims and an American entrepreneur John Jacob Astor established a lonely US outpost at Astoria Gough examines each of the players in this territorial drama bringing them fully to life and vividly recounting their hardships and struggles *Fortune's a River* is a major historical work that reads like a wild west adventure

Britannia's Navy on the West Coast of North America, 1812-1914 Barry Gough, 2016-10-04 The influence of the Royal Navy on the development of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest was both extensive and effective Yet all too frequently its impact has been ignored by historians who instead focus on the influence of explorers fur traders settlers and railway builders In this thoroughly revised and expanded edition of his classic 1972 work naval historian Barry Gough examines the contest for the Columbia country during the War of 1812 the 1844 British response to the aggressive American agenda of President Polk's Manifest Destiny and cries of Fifty four forty or fight the gold rush invasion of 30 000 outsiders and the jurisdictional dispute in the San Juan Islands that spawned the so called Pig War The author also looks at the Esquimalt based fleet in the decade before British Columbia joined Canada and the Navy's relationship with coastal indigenous peoples over the five decades that preceded the Great War

**Furs and Frontiers In the Far North** John R. Bockstoe, 2009-09-15 This comprehensive history of the native and maritime fur trade in Alaska during the eighteenth and

nineteenth centuries is without precedent The Bering Strait formed the nexus of the circumpolar fur trade in which Russians British Americans and members of fifty native nations competed and cooperated The desire to dominate the fur trade fed the European expansion into the most remote regions of Asia and America and was an agent of massive change in these regions Award winning author John R Bockstoce fills a major gap in the historiography of the area in covering the scientific commercial and foreign relations implications of the northern fur trade In addition the book provides rare insight into the relationship between the Western powers and the Native Americans who provided them with fur ivory and whalebone in exchange for manufactured goods tobacco tea alcohol and hundreds of other things But this is also the story of the enterprising individuals who energized the Alaskan fur trade and in doing so forever altered the region s history

**Empire Maker** Kenneth N. Owens, 2015-07-01 A native of northern Russia Alexander Baranov was a middle aged merchant trader with no prior experience in the fur trade when in 1790 he arrived in North America to assume command over Russia s highly profitable sea otter business With the title of chief manager he strengthened his leadership role after the formation of the Russian American Company in 1799 An adventuresome dynamic and charismatic leader he proved to be something of a commercial genius in Alaska making huge profits for company partners and shareholders in Irkutsk and St Petersburg while receiving scandalously little support from the homeland Baranov receives long overdue attention in Kenneth Owens s **Empire Maker** the first scholarly biography of Russian America s virtual imperial viceroy His eventful life included shipwrecks battles with Native forces clashes with rival traders and Russian Orthodox missionaries and an enduring marriage to a Kodiak Alutiiq woman with whom he had two children In the process the book reveals maritime Alaska and northern California during the Baranov era as fascinating cultural borderlands where Russian English Spanish and New England Yankee traders and indigenous peoples formed complex commercial political and domestic relationships that continue to influence these regions today

**The Indianization of Lewis and Clark** William R. Swagerty, 2012-10-29 Although some have attributed the success of the Lewis and Clark expedition primarily to gunpowder and gumption historian William R Swagerty demonstrates in this two volume set that adopting Indian ways of procuring processing and transporting food and gear was crucial to the survival of the Corps of Discovery The Indianization of Lewis and Clark retraces the well known trail of America s most famous explorers as a journey into the heart of Native America a case study of successful material adaptation and cultural borrowing Beginning with a broad examination of regional demographics and folkways Swagerty describes the cultural baggage and material preferences the expedition carried west in 1804 Detailing this baseline reveals which Indian influences were already part of Jeffersonian American culture and which were progressive adaptations the Corpsmen made of Indian ways in the course of their journey Swagerty s exhaustive research offers detailed information on both Indian and Euro American science medicine cartography and cuisine and on a wide range of technologies and material culture Readers learn what the Corpsmen wore what they ate how they traveled and where they slept and with whom before during and after

the return Indianization is as old as contact experiences between Native Americans and Europeans Lewis and Clark took the process to a new level accepting the hospitality of dozens of Native groups as they sought a navigable water route to the Pacific This richly illustrated interdisciplinary study provides a unique and complex portrait of the material and cultural legacy of Indian America offering readers perspective on lessons learned but largely forgotten in the aftermath of the epic journey *Historical Dictionary of the Discovery and Exploration of the Northwest Coast of America* Robin

Inglis,2008-04-02 The Northwest Coast of America ranging from northern California through Oregon Washington and British Columbia all the way up to Alaska was the last temperate coastline to be placed on the world map First visited by Russians in 1741 and thought to contain a navigable passage between the Pacific and the Atlantic it was systematically revealed during an intense period of exploratory and commercial activity from the 1770s to the 1790s Subsequently the imperial ambitions of Russia Spain and Britain and an assumption of manifest destiny by the United States led to further exploration and ensured that the region would become disputed territory before national boundaries were determined in the mid 19th century The Historical Dictionary of the Discovery and Exploration of the Northwest Coast of America tells of the heroic endeavors and remarkable achievements the endless speculation about a northwest passage and the fighting and manipulation for commercial advantage that surrounded this terrain This is done through an introductory essay a detailed chronology an extensive bibliography modern maps and selected historical maps and drawings and over 400 cross referenced dictionary entries Entries cover the native people encountered the scientists and artists who left an invaluable documentary and visual record of people places flora and fauna the numerous voyages taken by men such as Vitus Bering James Cook Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra and George Vancouver overland expeditions like those of Alexander Mackenzie Simon Fraser Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and David Thompson and maritime fur traders including George Dixon Grigori Shelikhov Robert Gray and William Sturgis No other dictionary exists that is dedicated solely to the coverage of this region

Captain Cook's Final Voyage James K. Barnett,2020-10-14 Maritime historian and researcher James K Barnett transcribed two extraordinary little known journals from Captain James Cook s third exploratory voyage They offer remarkable eyewitness accounts at the time of initial European contact the first reasonably accurate maps of North America s west coast the earliest comprehensive report from the Bering Sea ice pack and the dramatic story of Cook s death at Kealahakua Bay Astonishing for accounts of landings along Hawai i Vancouver Island and Alaska both chronicles languished in Australian archives for over a century Barnett adds context and commentary to complete the story Commissioned by the British Admiralty Cook set sail in July 1776 to confirm the outline of North America s Pacific coastline and search for the elusive Northwest Passage The expedition s sailing ships the Resolution and the Discovery traveled to the South Seas then chanced upon the Hawaiian Islands before reaching the Oregon coastline and the Arctic Cook chose to winter in the Hawaiian archipelago where he died in a skirmish His crews made a second attempt to find the coveted route then returned

to England after more than four years at sea James Burney was first lieutenant on the Discovery Active in shore parties and chart preparation he saw Cook's death from the ship's deck One of the few accounts from the consort vessel his writing provides new details and important thoughtful impressions of North and South Pacific people and places Working under the notorious William Bligh Henry Roberts was Master's Mate on the Resolution performing essential hydrographic and cartographic tasks He was a few feet away when Cook was killed His well illustrated logbook includes coordinates tables of routes and records of weather at sea but also lively accounts of shore excursions Illustrations include maps and drawings as well as images by the expedition's official artist John Webber

### **Unstable Properties** Patricia Burke Wood, David

Rossiter, 2022-10-15 The so called land question dominates political discourse in British Columbia *Unstable Properties* reverses the usual approach investigating Aboriginal claims to Crown land to reframe the issue as a history of Crown attempts to solidify claims to Indigenous territory The political and intellectual leadership of First Nations has exposed the fragility of BC's political and civil property regimes insisting that the province grapple with diverse interpretations of sovereignty governance territory and property From the historical geographic processes through which the BC polity became entrenched in its present territory to key events of the twenty first century the authors of this clear eyed study highlight the unstable ideological foundation of land and title arrangements In 2015 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission emphasized the need to educate Canadians about settler colonialism *Unstable Properties* puts critical human geography at the service of this goal by demonstrating that understanding different conceptualizations of land and territorialization is a key element of reconciliation

*Historical Dreadnoughts* Barry Gough, 2010-07-05 An account of Arthur Marder his famous sparring partner Captain Stephen Roskill and their enduring quest for pre eminence in the naval history field This is the story of the remarkable intersecting careers of the two greatest writers on British naval history in the twentieth century the American professor Arthur Marder son of immigrant Russian Jews and Captain Stephen Roskill who knew the Royal Navy from the inside Between them these contrasting characters were to peel back the lid of historical secrecy that surrounded the maritime aspects of the two world wars based on the privileged access to official papers they both achieved through different channels Initially their mutual interests led to a degree of friendly rivalry but this was to deteriorate into a stormy academic feud fought out in newspaper columns and the footnotes of their books much to the bemusement and sometimes amusement of the naval history community Out of it surprisingly emerged some of the best historical writing on naval themes and a central contribution of this book is to reveal the process by which the two historians produced their literary masterpieces Anyone who has read Marder's *From the Dreadnought to Scapa Flow* or Roskill's *The War at Sea* and they were both bestsellers in their day will be entertained and enlightened by this story of the men A J P Taylor called our historical dreadnoughts A book about naval historians and their differing approaches to writing history might be dry and dull but in the author's capable hands makes a fascinating read Warship 2012

### Voyages in the Waterway of Forgotten Dreams Barry

Gough,2015-06-15 The tale begins in sixteenth century Venice when explorer Juan de Fuca encountered English merchant Michael Lok and relayed a fantastic story of a marine passageway that connected the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans This tale would be the catalyst for centuries of dreaming and exacerbate English and Spanish rivalry The search for the fabled Northwest Passage inspired explorers to seek out fame adventure knowledge and riches Likewise the empires of Spain and Great Britain were impelled by the hopes of finding a naval trade route that would connect Europe to Asia thus securing their dominance over the other as an economic power The story of the Northwest Passage is one of significant figures and great empires jostling for a distant corner of North America Gough provides meticulously researched insight delving into diplomatic records narratives of explorers and commercial aspirants legal affidavits and court records to illuminate the journeys of Martin Frobisher James Cook Francis Drake Manuel Quimper Jos Mar a Narv ez George Vancouver and Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra among others A sea venture tied up with piracy political loyalty and betrayal all bound up in a web of international intrigue Juan de Fuca s Strait is an indispensable contribution to the history of discovery on the Northwest Coast

Historical Dictionary of Canada Barry M. Gough,2010-10-28 Once on the margins of European empires notably those of France England and Spain then a focus of international rivalries and wars during the 18th century Canada is now a nation that is front and center in the world s affairs Canada s emergence as a modern industrial nation and a key player in the resource commodities and financial institutions that make up today s world shows many aspects of what ex colonial powers have gone through except that compromise and reform rather than revolution and revolt have been the cardinal historical features The second edition of the Historical Dictionary of Canada greatly expands on the first edition through a chronology an introductory essay a bibliography and over 500 cross referenced dictionary entries on important persons places events and institutions as well as on significant political economic social and cultural aspects This book is an essential guide to the history of Canada

*Global Force* David Forsyth,2016-04-15 This volume emerged from an international research colloquium jointly organised by National Museums Scotland and the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies University of Edinburgh funded by the Scottish Government and administered by the Royal Society of Edinburgh Historians and museum curators from Australia Canada New Zealand and South Africa were invited to join with their Scottish counterparts to consider the functioning and the meaning of military Scottishness in different Commonwealth countries and in Britain from the late Victorian period to the present day with a particular focus on the impact of the First World War Another key objective was to throw light on the hidden culture of social networking which potentially operated behind local regiments and military units amongst Scotland s global diaspora This edited collection provides a comparative overview of the nineteenth century emergence of military Scottishness and explores how the construction and performance of Scottish military identity has evolved in different Commonwealth countries over the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries In particular it looks at the ways in which Scottish volunteer regiments in Commonwealth countries variously

sought to draw upon align themselves with or at certain key moments redefine the assertions of martial identity which Highland regiments represented      **Sea Otters** Richard Ravalli,2021-06 An examination of sea otters in a Pacific World context and an exploration of how this iconic sea mammal once defined the world s largest oceanscape      *Pax Britannica* B. Gough,2014-07-28 This book by world expert Barry Gough examines the period of Pax Britannica in the century before World War I Following events of those 100 years the book follows how the British failed to maintain their global hegemony of sea power in the face of continental challenges      **Tofino and Clayoquot Sound** Margaret Horsfield,Ian Kennedy,2014-10-25 Clayoquot Sound on the West Coast of Vancouver Island is not only a place of extraordinary raw beauty but also a region with a rich heritage and fascinating past Tofino and Clayoquot Sound delves into all facets of the region s history bringing to life the chronicle that started with the dramatic upheavals of geological formation and continues to the present day The book tours through the history of the Hesquiaht Ahousaht and Tla o qui aht as well as other nations that inhabited the area in earlier times It documents the arrival of Spanish British and American traders on the coast and their avid greed for sea otter pelts It follows the development of the huge fur seal industry and its profound impact on the coast It tracks the establishment of reserve lands and two residential schools The coming of World War II is discussed as is the installation of a large Air Force base near Tofino which changed the town and area dramatically From here the story spirals into the post road period With gravel and asphalt came tourism newcomers the counter culture of the 1960s the establishment of Pacific Rim National Park and of course surfing The book also addresses logging which became the main industry in the area and its questionable practices going into detail about the War in the Woods the world famous conflict and largest mass arrest in Canadian history A place is shaped by its people and Horsfield and Kennedy highlight notable figures of past and present the merchants the missionaries the sealers and the settlers the eternally optimistic prospectors the Japanese fishermen and their families the hippies the storm and whale watchers the First Nations elders and leaders Offering an overall survey of the history of the area Tofino and Clayoquot Sound is extensively researched and illustrated with historic photos and maps it evokes the spirit and culture of the area and illuminates how the past has shaped the present      **City in Colour** May Q. Wong,2018-10-30 A timely intriguing collection of the overlooked stories of Victoria s pioneers trailblazers and community builders who were also diverse people of colour Often described as more English than the English the city of Victoria has a much more ethnically diverse background than historical record and current literature reveal Significant contributions were made by many people of colour with fascinating stories including the Kanaka or Hawaiian Islanders who constructed Fort Victoria and members of the Kanaka community such as Maria Mahoi and William Naukana three Metis matriarchs Amelia Connolly Douglas Josette Legac Work and Isabelle M Mainville Ross the Victoria Voltigeurs the earliest police presence in the Colony of Vancouver Island and who were primarily men of colour Grafton Tyler Brown now known in the United States as one of the first and best African American artists of the American West Manzo Nagano Canada s first recorded immigrant from Japan and many more

With information about various cultural communities in early Victoria and significant dates May Wong's *City in Colour* is a collection of fascinating stories of unsung characters whose stories are at the heart of Victoria's history *Canada's Entrepreneurs* John English, 2011-01-01 Beginning with an accessible overview of the rise of entrepreneurialism in Canada it features portraits of 61 individuals organized thematically Here readers will meet a variety of seminal characters the merchants of the first trading posts and the commercial empire of the St Lawrence the industrialists of the Maritimes Central Canada and the West the railway builders and urban developers and everyone in between *Resumé* Utmost Gallantry Kevin D McCranie, 2011-11-15 Focusing on the oceanic war rather than on the war in the Great Lakes this study charts the War of 1812 from the perspectives of the two opposing navies at sea one the largest navies in the world the other a small upstart navy just three decades old While American naval leadership searched for a means of contesting Britain's naval dominance the English sought to destroy the U S Navy and protect its oceanic highways Instead of describing battles between opposing warships Kevin McCranie evaluates entire cruises by American and British men of war noting both successes and failures and how they translated into broader strategies In the process his study becomes a history of how the two navies fought the oceanic war linking high level governmental decisions about strategy to the operational use of fleets in the Atlantic and Caribbean and from the south Pacific to the Indian Ocean This comprehensive work offers a balanced appraisal of the sea war taking into account the strategic considerations of both sides and how the leadership from each side assessed planned and implemented operational concepts It draws on a wealth of British and American archival sources to help the reader understand strategic imperatives and the correlation between these imperatives and why the oceanic war was conducted in the manner it was All American warships cruises not just those that resulted in battles are covered but the author's action packed accounts of battles hold special appeal Possessing Meares Island Barry Gough, 2021-11-13 A fascinating account that links early maritime history Indigenous land rights and modern environmental advocacy in the Clayoquot Sound region by award winning author and historian Barry Gough Centred on Meares Island located near Tofino on Vancouver Island's west coast *Possessing Meares Island* weaves a unique history out of the mists of time by connecting eighteenth century Indigenous colonial trade relations to more recent historical upheavals Gough invites readers to enter a dramatic epoch of BC's coastal history and watch the Nuuchah-nulth nations spearhead the maritime sea otter trade led by powerful chiefs like Wicannish and Maquinna Eventually Meares Island declines into an economic backwater due to overhunting the sea otter the bloody Clayoquot War of 1855 and most importantly the proxy of empire the Hudson's Bay Company establishing colonial roots in nearby Victoria Caught up in the tides of change the Treaty of 1846 ushers in a new era as the island is officially declared property of the British crown Gough bridges the gap between centuries as he describes how the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council draw on this complicated history of ownership to invoke their legal claim to the land and defend the majestic wilderness from the indiscriminate clear cut saw *Possessing Meares Island* will not only appeal to

history buffs but to anyone interested in a momentous triumph for Indigenous rights and environmental protection that echoes across the nation today     **The Land of Heart's Delight** Michael Layland, 2013-10-01 Shortlisted for the 2014 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize Shortlisted for a 2014 BC Book Prize Finalist for the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Historical Writing Just how and why did Vancouver Island get onto the map How was knowledge of our immediate geography acquired and recorded With 130 maps dating between 1593 and 1915 this cartographic history tells the story of how Vancouver Island and the surrounding area came to be mapped The book shows local cartographic milestones marking progress in our knowledge through the island's rich although comparatively short recorded history However the maps by themselves and without context cannot tell the whole story The accompanying text reveals the motives constraints agendas and intrigues that underpin their making The narrative roughly chronological begins before the arrival of Europeans and concludes at the outset of the First World War and includes an introduction on the history and significance of map making as well as an afterword summarizing subsequent cartographic developments Also included are an index endnotes a list of cartographic sources and a glossary

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