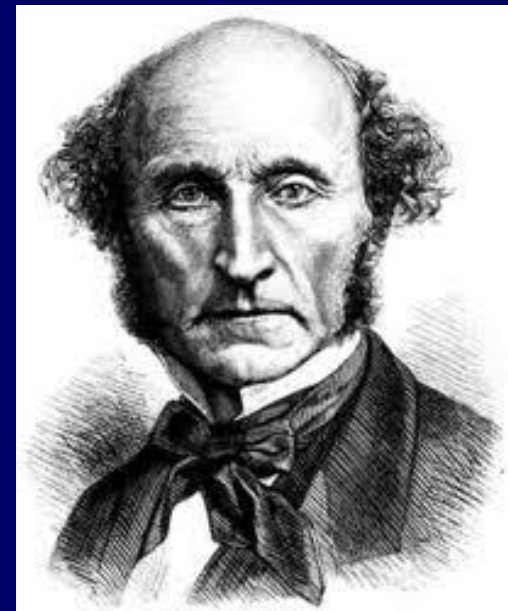


*Wartime Memories:*  
*Institutionalizing American Wars,*  
*1783-Present*

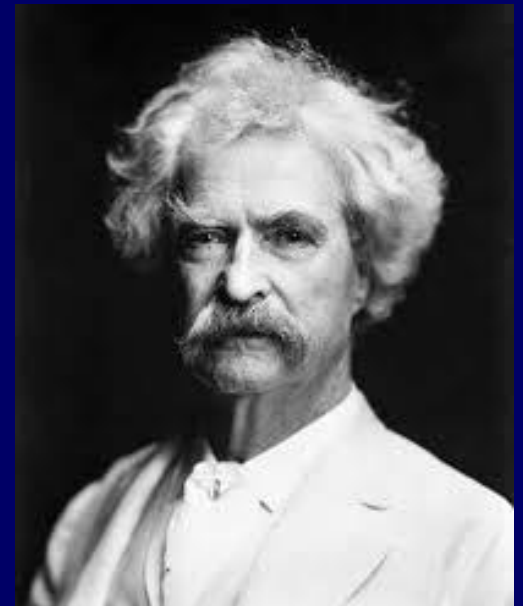
“War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse.”

**John Stuart Mill**



"God created war so that Americans would learn geography."

**Mark Twain**



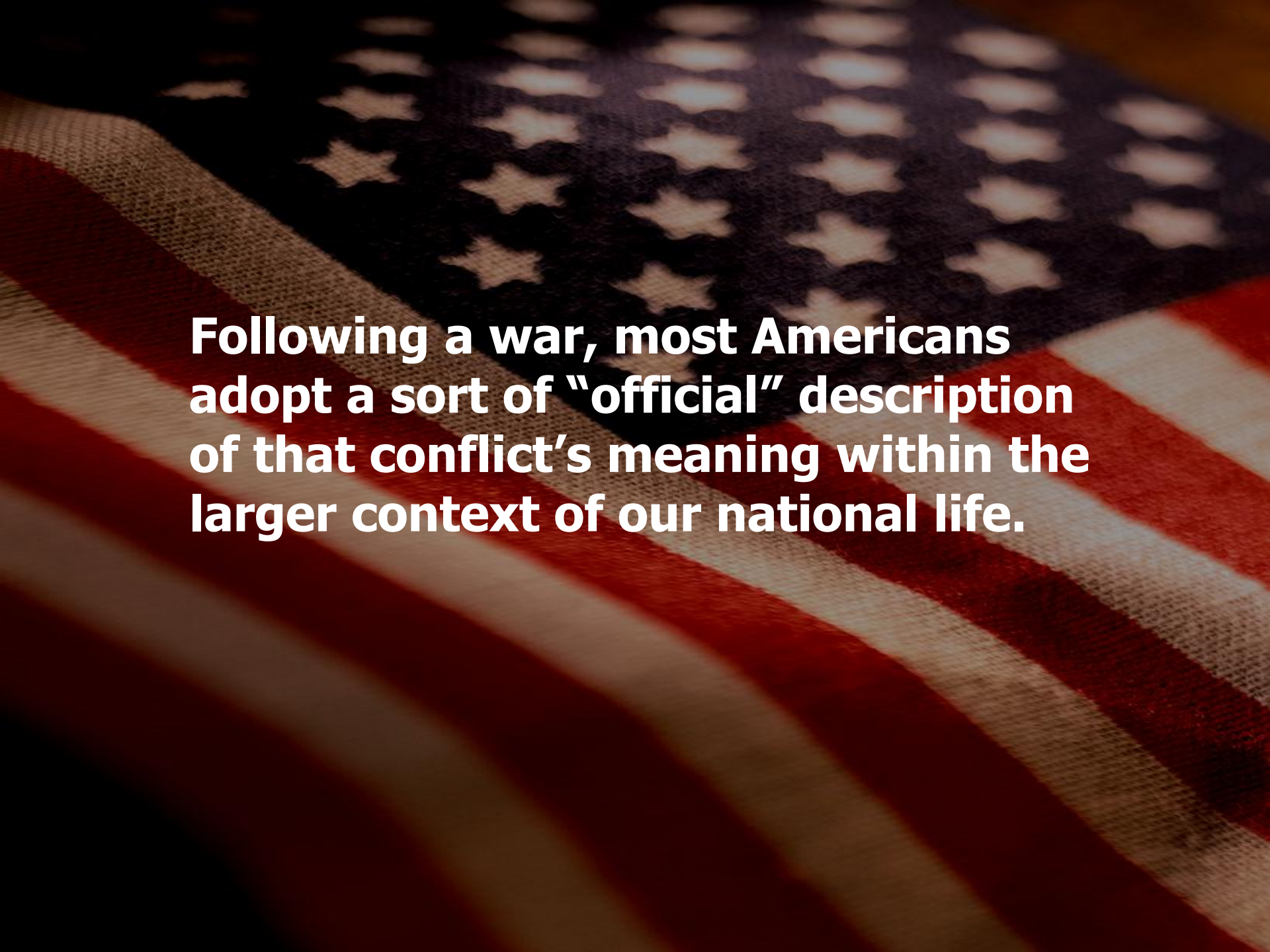
“War is not nice.”

**Barbara Bush**




**generalizations,  
generalizations.  
generalizations**



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the stars in the upper left and stripes extending towards the bottom right. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a somber or reflective mood.

**Following a war, most Americans adopt a sort of “official” description of that conflict’s meaning within the larger context of our national life.**

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**Although disagreements occur about a war's true meaning, a majority consensus emerges very quickly.**

**President John F. Kennedy  
American University  
June 10, 1963**





**George Carlin (1992)**

# AMERICA'S WARS

## **Definition of “War” for the U.S.**

Presidential or Congressional authorization of military force against an enemy

# American Wars

The American Revolution  
1775-1783

The Indian Wars  
1775-1890

Inter-State War (Rebellion)

Shay's Rebellion  
1786-1787  
Rebellion

The Whiskey Rebellion  
1794  
Rebellion

Quasi-War With France  
1798-1800  
Inter-State War

Fries's Rebellion "The Hot Water War"  
1797-1799  
Rebellion

The Barbary Wars  
1800-1815  
Inter-State War

The War of 1812  
1812-1815  
Inter-State War

War of Texas Independence  
1838  
Inter-State War

Mexican-American War  
1846-1848  
Inter-State War

## American Wars (2)

U.S. Slave Rebellions  
1800-1865

“Bleeding Kansas”  
1855-1860  
Civil War (Kansas)

U.S. Civil War  
1861-1865  
Civil War

Hawaiian Revolution  
1893  
Rebellion & Foreign Intervention

Spanish-American War  
1898  
Inter-State War

Samoaan Civil War  
1898-1899  
Civil War & Foreign Intervention

U.S. Philippine War  
1899-1902  
Civil War & Foreign Intervention

Boxer Rebellion  
1900  
Rebellion & Foreign Intervention

The Moro Wars  
1901-1913  
Civil War & Foreign Intervention

Panamanian Revolution  
1903  
Revolution & Foreign Intervention

## American Wars (3)

The Cuban Revolution

1906-1909

Civil War & Foreign Intervention

The Banana Wars

1909-1933

Civil Wars & Foreign Intervention

U.S. Occupation-Vera Cruz

1914

Inter-State War

Raid into Mexico

1916-1917

Inter-State War

World War I

1917-1918 (U.S. involvement)

Inter-State War

Russian Civil War

1919-1921

Civil War & Foreign Intervention

World War II

1941-1945 (U.S. involvement)

Inter-State War

The Cold War

1945-1991

Inter-State War

## American Wars (4)

The Korean War  
1950-1953  
Inter-State War

The Mayaguez Rescue Operation  
May 1975  
Inter-State Conflict

The Vietnam War  
1956-1975  
Civil War, Inter-State War

Iranian Hostage Rescue-"Desert One"  
April 1980  
Inter-State Conflict

U.S. in Lebanon  
1958  
Civil War & Foreign Intervention

U.S. Libya Conflict  
1981, 1986  
Inter-State War

Dominican Republic War  
1965  
Civil War & Foreign Intervention

U.S. in Lebanon  
1982-1984  
Civil War, Foreign Intervention,  
Inter-State War

## American Wars (5)

Invasion of Grenada  
1983  
Inter-State War

“No-Fly-Zone” War-Iraq  
1991-2003  
Inter-State War

The Tanker War  
1984-1988  
Inter-State War & Foreign  
Intervention

U.S. in Somalia  
1992-1994  
Civil War & Foreign Intervention

Invasion of Panama  
1989  
Inter-State War

U.S. (NATO) in Bosnia  
1994-1995  
Civil War, Foreign Intervention &  
Inter-State War

“Operation Desert Storm”  
1991  
Inter-State War

Occupation of Haiti  
1994  
Foreign Intervention

## American Wars (6)

Strikes on Afghanistan, Sudan  
August 1998  
Terrorist Conflict

Attack on World Trade Center & Pentagon  
September 2001  
Terrorist Conflict  
(Response to)

“Desert Fox” (Iraq)  
December 1998  
Inter-State War

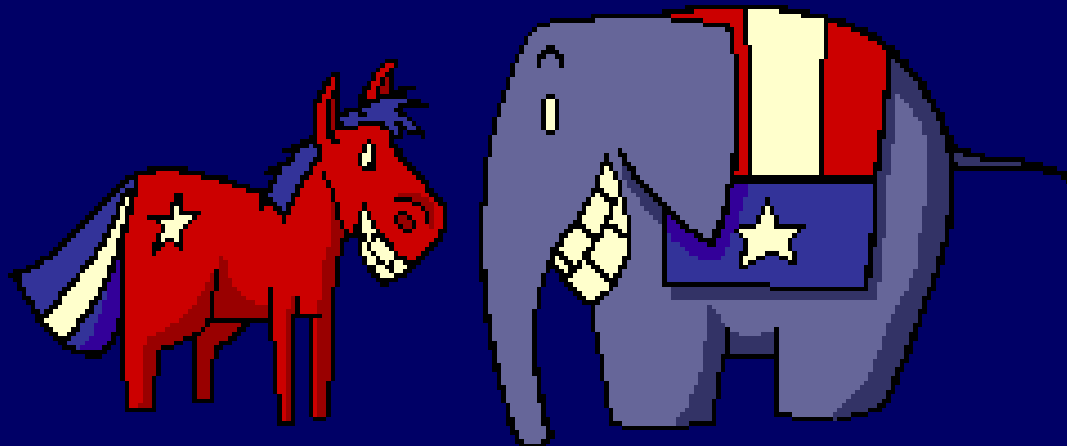
Afghanistan War  
2001-Present  
War Against Terrorism

Kosovo War  
1999  
Civil War, Foreign Intervention,  
Inter-State War

“Operation Iraqi Freedom”  
2003-Present  
Inter-State War

Attack on U.S.S. Cole  
(Response to)  
October 2000  
Terrorist Conflict

“Republicans and Democrats prepare to battle over deficits and budget.”



“Packers and Steelers go to war in Super Bowl”



“The battle will be won or lost in the trenches”



# 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Centuries American “Wars”

“War on Drugs”

“War on Crime”

“War on Abortion”

“War on Poverty”

“War on Homosexuality”

“War on Alcohol”

“War on Gun Politics”

“War on Smoking”

“War on Obesity”

“War on Terrorism”



**WAR IS NOT  
THE ANSWER**

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But, if

**“War Is Not The Answer”**

**Doesn't it depend on  
what the question is?**

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the stars in the upper left and the stripes extending towards the bottom right. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a somber or reflective mood.

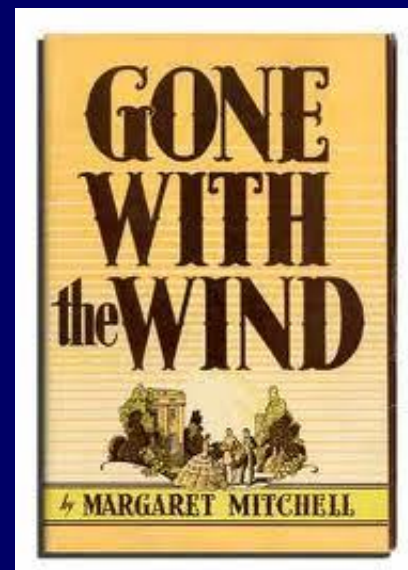
**American popular culture embraces war in both abstract and concrete ways, and always has. Why?**



1939



Margaret Mitchell



1<sup>st</sup> edition 1936

## Report of the Special Committee on Investigation of the Munitions Industry (The Nye Report) 1936

“The committee finds, further, that the very quality which in civilian life tends to lead toward progressive civilization, namely the improvements of machinery, has been used by the munitions makers to scare nations into a continued frantic expenditure for the latest improvements in devices of warfare. . . .

While the evidence before this committee does not show that wars have been started solely because of the activities of munitions makers and their agents, . . . the committee finds it to be against the peace of the world for selfishly interested organizations to be left free to goad and frighten nations into military activity.”

## War and Historical Memory—4 Questions

1. How do reasons for going to war affect our beliefs about who we are?
2. Which actions during a war most contribute to historical memories of that war?
3. In what ways do war's outcomes underscore or challenge our historical beliefs?
4. What effect does historical distance have on our memories of a war?

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**American popular culture embraces war in both abstract and concrete ways, and always has. Why?**

# Wars mark the boundaries of American literary history

## TIME PERIOD

## LITERARY GENRE

Antebellum U.S.

Romanticism

Post-Civil War

Realism

Post-World War I

Modernism

Post-World War II

Post-Modernism

**MANUFACTURING MEANING FROM  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

# The First Respected History of the Revolution



*History of the Rise, Progress, and  
Termination of the American  
Revolution (3 vols., 1805)*

**Mercy Otis Warren**

# The First American Hero

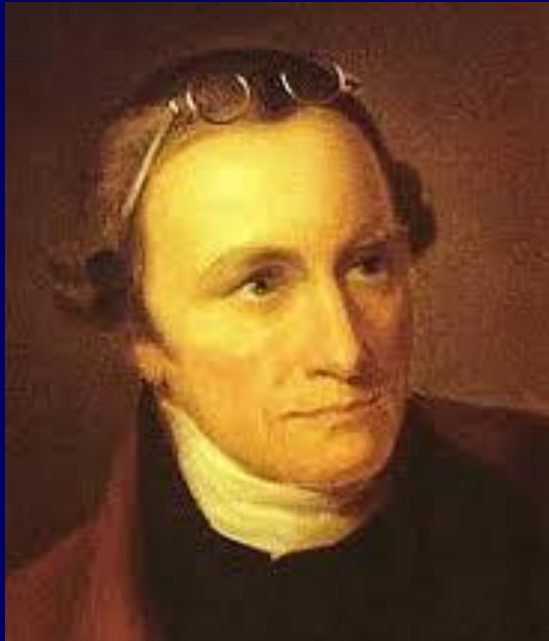


**Mason "Parson" Weems**



**George Washington  
(as pictured in  
Weems' biography)**

## Others Join the Pantheon

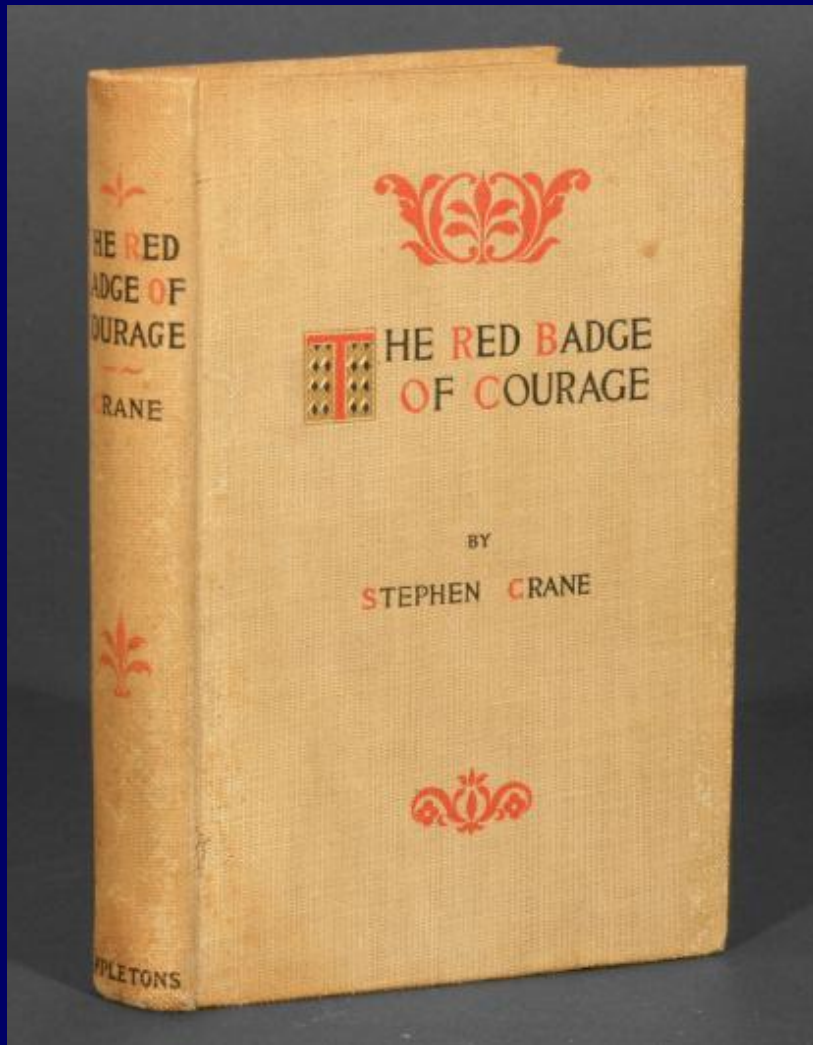


**Patrick Henry**



**James Otis**

# **THE ADVENT OF THE “BEST-SELLER”**



**Stephen Crane**

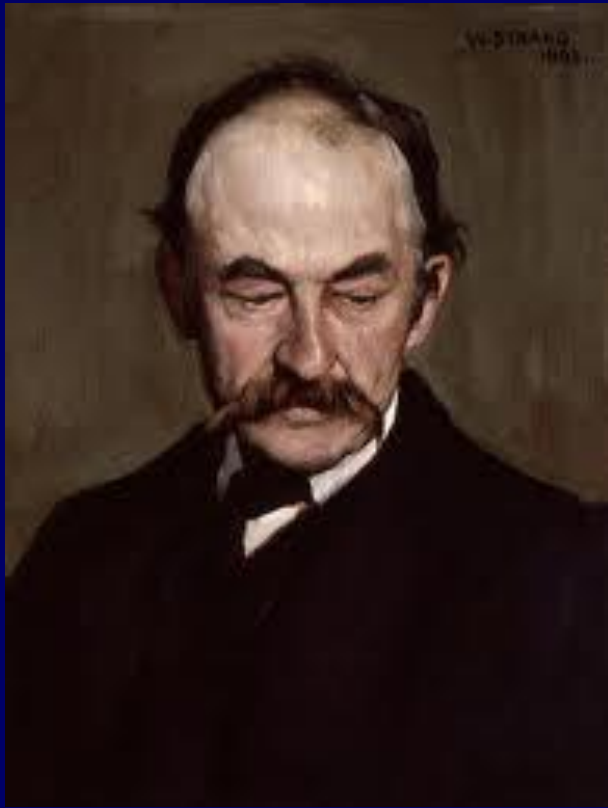
**First edition, 1895**



**First edition, 1899**



**Paul Leicester Ford**



**“My argument is that War makes rattling good history, but Peace is poor reading.”**

**Thomas Hardy,  
British poet and  
novelist, 1840-1928**

