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William Wright, *A British Lion in Zululand: Sir Garnet Wolseley in South Africa*. Stroud: Amberley, 2017. 384pp. ISBN: 978-1-445-66548-1. Price £25.00.

Publishing his edition of Wolseley's South African Journal for 1879-80 in 1973, Adrian Preston remarked that the period between May 1879 and May 1880 was the least known and the most neglected of Wolseley's career. Uncharacteristically for an author who generally substituted length for understanding, Preston's introduction spent little time on the journal's actual contents; instead, he continued the general assault on Wolseley's achievements that he had begun in the introduction to his earlier edition of Wolseley's 1875 Natal diary first published in 1971. Not surprisingly, in covering his whole career, Wolseley's biographers, most recently Halik Kochanski, have not been able to devote that much attention to the period in question either. It is also true, as William Wright suggests, that beyond Wolseley's controversial settlement of Zululand following the defeat of the Zulu at Ulundi and Cetshwayo's capture, the subsequent campaign against the baPedi chief, Sekhukhune, has received little notice. Wolseley, indeed, had a struggle to convince the authorities to grant a clasp to the South Africa Medal for the operations in Zululand between Ulundi and Cetshwayo's surrender, and failed to secure one for the operations against Sekhukhune.

Following his study of Wolseley's 1882 campaign in Egypt, *A Tidy Little War* (2009), therefore, Wright has set out to tell the story of Wolseley's experiences in South Africa. He follows a chronological path, with Wolseley's journal, supplemented by his correspondence, providing the bedrock of the narrative. Of course, the joy for anyone covering any aspect of Wolseley's career is the sheer volume of his correspondence. That covering this period is by no means as unknown as Wright believes. In addition, Wright has consulted a range of other primary sources including Owen Lanyon's papers in the National Archives of South Africa in Pretoria, and one or two previously unused collections in private hands. As with his earlier study of the 1882 campaign, however, Wright falls well short of academic requirements. While footnotes citing printed primary sources and secondary sources are given page numbers, any primary archive material is only identified by location. Thus, he simply footnotes HPL for Wolseley's papers at the Hove Public Library without identifying whether from Wolseley's correspondence with his wife, the 'autograph' collection, or the official and demi-official letter books relating to South Africa. Similarly, only GRO is given for the Hicks Beach papers at the Gloucestershire Record Office. Wright has also consulted the Cambridge papers in the Royal Archives and, given their usual scrupulousness, it is surprising that he has got away with RAW and not the full reference. To those familiar with the sources this presents no great difficulty

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but for those who are not or for the general reader such footnoting is so worthless as to render the exercise pointless.

Having said that, Wright deals efficiently enough with Wolseley's South African interlude. Wright also catches Wolseley's character well. He does make a significant contribution in arguing that the Zululand settlement was influenced more by Sir Henry Bulwer, Sir Theophilus Shepstone and, especially, John Wesley Shepstone than previously suggested. He finds no evidence that it was modelled on George Colley's Indian experience, as is usually contended. The most original section is that devoted to the Sekhukhune campaign, Wright correctly asserting that it is the first full account beyond a few articles. John Laband only touched on it briefly in his recent *Zulu Warriors: The Battle for the South African Frontier* (2014). It was a campaign in which the British took the offensive and Wright's own viewing of the terrain emphasises the physical difficulties to be overcome in doing so. Nonetheless, apart from the desire of the Duke of Cambridge and other enemies to denigrate Wolseley's achievements, it is understandable that 56 white dead did not appear worthy of a clasp for all that the campaign also probably cost the lives of 600 Swazi allies and perhaps 1,000 baPedi.

There are a few errors. It is generally accepted, for example, that Pulleine was not killed in his tent at Isandlwana. Overall, however, Wright has provided a lively account for the general reader.

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Xu Guoqi, *Asia and the Great War: A Shared History*. With a foreword by Jay Winter. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. Xviii + 275pp. Acknowledgments, List of Abbreviations, Bibliography, Index. ISBN: 978-0-199-65819-0. Price £35.00.

World War I or the Great War (1914-1918) has in recent years become a topic of great interest among non-western historians and although most of the fighting occurred in Europe and the Middle East, there were significant campaigns fought elsewhere. In East Asia, Japan dramatically enhanced its strategic position by acquiring German possessions there and, by acquiring a number of Pacific islands, this expanded Japan's geographical reach and laid the groundwork for a larger Japanese maritime empire. The war also afforded Japan the opportunity to deliver its "Twenty-One Demands" to China in 1915 and demonstrated Japan's interest in realising its continental ambitions. But everywhere, the end of the war brought change, not just because of the disruptions to global commerce, the spread of influenza, and the emergence of Communism as a serious political force in Asia