The Yamasee War: 1715 - 1717

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THE YAMASEE WAR: 1715 - 1717

Thomas Nairne, "A map of South Carolina shewing the settlements of the English, French, & Indian nations from Charles Town to the River Mississippi." 1711. From Edward Crisp, "A compleat description of the province of Carolina in 3 parts." Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.

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The Yamasee resided in South Carolina for only 30 years after fleeing north of Charleston. In 1715, Charleston merchants, in a 1715 letter to his employers in London (Rodd 1928), described the attack and torture of Indian agent Thomas Norris writing, ‘I sent 50 men to the Daisy Wando, but we have seen these faces and several other parts of their bodies were painted with red and black streaks, resembling death come out of Hell. They then attacked the little village with great fury, killing, burning, plundering, burning and killing again by lethal means, with all kinds of bloodshed, with no mercy shown—no mercy shown to anyone whom they could not kill. They repeated their first attacks on the settled Port Royal—Stevens include the most important were those that were carried out by the Spanish in the battles for control of the colony’s frontiers. The Yamasee War was characterized by a series of sporadic engagements, most of which focused on political and economic objectives, rather than on the acquisition of land or resources. The war ended in 1717 with the Treaty of Monmouth, which recognized the independence of the Yamasee people and secured their rights to hunt and fish in the Carolinas. The war had far-reaching consequences on the lives of the Yamasee people and their relationship with the European powers. The war marked a turning point in the history of the region, with the Carolina colonies gaining greater control over their borders and the Spanish losing much of their influence in the area. The war also had significant implications for the Native American communities in the region, with many losing their lands and culture to the expanding European powers.