Aimed at a general readership, Gary Yee’s *Sharpshooters: Marksmen through the Ages* is a short survey of sharpshooters and their weapons from the 1700s to the present. While noting the development of Europeans’ arms and tactics, Yee devotes considerable attention to the American military experience. The opening chapters, in particular, focus on conflicts in colonial North America while later chapters consider warfare in twentieth-century Europe. The non-Western military experience is excluded. Nevertheless, Yee presents a clearly written synthesis that briefly covers myriad topics: sharpshooters, firearms, military tactics, and several specific battles.

After a brief introduction, chapter 1 considers the use of flintlocks and muskets during the Seven Years’ War and the American Revolution. Focusing less on specific weapons, Yee presents a brief outline of the fighting at Fort Necessity, Fort Duquesne, and other engagements. First-hand accounts from soldiers—namely, marksmen or those facing fire—are interspersed within the battle narratives, which, at times, interrupt the flow of Yee’s argument. The author is careful, however, to consider various perspectives, including those of colonial, British, French, and Hessian forces. This work is not intended to make a historiographical intervention and some sections are more dated than others; his discussion of “Indian fighting tactics,” for example, could have benefited from additional nuance and the inclusion of recent scholarship on indigenous peoples (p. 16).

Chapter 2 explores the adoption of the rifle during the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. Opening with a discussion on Britain’s 95th Regiment “Rifle Brigade,” Yee uses a case studies approach to demonstrate the increasing importance of the rifle for European and American troops. While the included case studies are illuminating, they are not always reflective of broader trends. After briefly considering the King’s German Legion during the Napoleonic Wars, Yee turns his attention to the War of 1812, specifically addressing the Battle of New Orleans at length. Specific technological developments within the American or European arms industry are largely ignored, but Yee is careful to note the accuracy and shooting distance of each rifle employed in military combat.

Moving into the mid-nineteenth century, chapter 3 briefly addresses technological advancements, such as the percussion cap and the minie ball. Rather than provide a complete history of these inventions and inventors, Yee places his emphasis on the usage of these tools in combat. He, for example, notes several British and Russian marksmen during the Crimean War and provides their specific first-hand accounts.
The longest chapter of the work, chapter 4, exclusively covers the American Civil War. Offering a distinction between common soldiers and snipers, Yee focuses on well-known Union and Confederate sniper units, including Hiram C. Berdan's Sharpshooters. These troops were sometimes issued specialized equipment, including tree-climbing spikes and stadia sights for long-range shooting. In addition to explaining their equipment, Yee addresses sharpshooter training and tactics. This chapter, in particular, explores some of the technological developments of breech-loading rifles and lever-action repeaters. In addition to discussing the well-researched battles in the eastern theater, Yee offers such sections as "the Heartland," "Mississippi," and "Battery Wagner."

Chapter 5 briefly mentions American western frontier violence, the Boer War, and the Spanish American War before moving on to provide a more comprehensive discussion of World War I. The late nineteenth century was a period of firearms innovation, but Yee does not explore these developments. For Yee, World War I was an inflection point. “Trench warfare and machine guns characterized World War I and stagnant positional warfare allowed sniping to flourish. This allowed for the periscope rifle, a modernization of the America Civil War concept, to flourish,” he argues (p. 117). Providing a balanced perspective, Yee discusses German, British, and American forces and weaponry.

World War II is the main focus of chapter 6. The Great Depression and limited military budgets, Yee argues, had left “almost all major powers unprepared for sniping” (p. 134). The Soviet Union, however, had prioritized weapons production and sharpshooting and had even opened several training schools in the years before World War II. Yee, then, offers brief sections about snipers from each nation: the Soviet Union, Germany, Britain, and the United States. He concludes with a short section on the post-World War II era but does not fully address the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or recent events in the Middle East; these topics, no doubt, would have enriched this work.

Covering a wide range of topics related to wartime sharpshooters from the 1700s to the present, Yee's *Sharpshooters* is a solid introduction that will be of interest to general readers. The wide scope of the project is both an asset and a shortcoming; the vast coverage range prevents a detailed or nuanced analysis of most subjects. Black-and-white images of notable marksmen and weapons—the Brown Bess and Sharps rifle—are interspersed throughout each chapter, but these small images do not showcase the technological aspects of each firearm; this is not intended to be a visual guide for collectors or gun enthusiasts. Nevertheless, those interested in military history and firearms will find Yee's survey a valuable addition to their libraries.