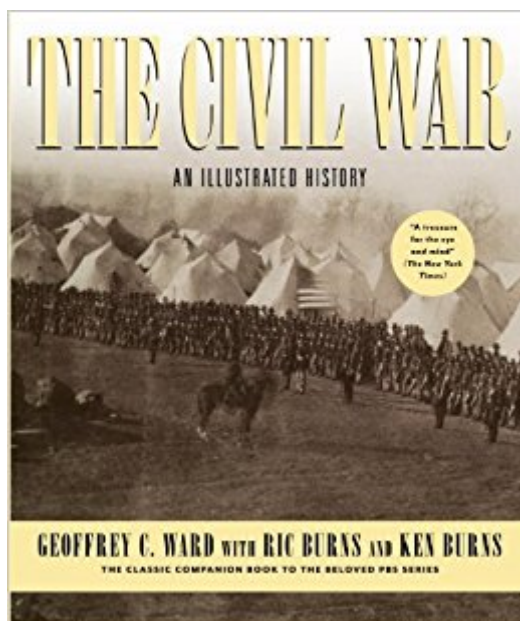


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The Civil War: An Illustrated History



Synopsis

The companion volume to the celebrated PBS television series, with a new preface to mark its twenty-fifth anniversary. With more than 500 illustrations: rare Civil War photographs—many never before published—as well as paintings, lithographs, and maps reproduced in full color. It was the greatest war in American history. It was waged in 10,000 places—from Valverde, New Mexico, and Tullahoma, Tennessee, to St. Albans, Vermont, and Fernandina on the Florida coast. More than 3 million Americans fought in it and more than 600,000 men died in it. Not only the immensity of the cataclysm but the new weapons, the new standards of generalship, and the new strategies of destruction—“together with the birth of photography”—were to make the Civil War an event present ever since in the American consciousness. Thousands of books have been written about it. Yet there has never been a history of the Civil War quite like this one. A wealth of documentary illustrations and a narrative alive with original and energetic scholarship combine to present both the grand sweep of events and the minutest of human details. Here are the crucial events of the war: the firing of the first shots at Fort Sumter; the battles of Shiloh, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg; the siege of Vicksburg; Sherman’s dramatic march to the sea; the surrender at Appomattox. Here are the superb portraits of the key figures: Abraham Lincoln, claiming for the presidency almost autocratic power in order to preserve the Union; the austere Jefferson Davis, whose government disappeared almost before it could be formed; Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant, seasoned generals of fierce brilliance and reckless determination. Here is the America in which the war was fought: The Civil War is not simply the story of great battles and great generals; it is also an elaborate portrait of the American people—individuals and families, northerners and southerners, soldiers and civilians, slaves and slaveowners, rich and poor, urban and rural—caught up in the turbulence of the times. An additional resonance is provided by four essays, the work of prominent Civil War historians. Don E. Fehrenbacher discusses the causes of the war; Barbara J. Fields writes about emancipation; James M. McPherson looks at the politics of the 1864 election; C. Vann Woodward speculates on how the war has affected the American identity. And Shelby Foote talks to filmmaker Ken Burns about wartime life on the battlefield and at home. A magnificent book. In its visual power, its meticulous research, its textual brilliance, and the humanity of its narrative, The Civil War will stand among the most illuminating and memorable portrayals of the American past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Companion volume to a forthcoming PBS series, this is an extraordinary collection of photos, engravings and paintings, many published for the first time, conveying military and political events of the Civil War, accompanied by a pungent text that avoids sentimentality in depicting "the most horrible, necessary, intimate, acrimonious, mean-spirited, and heroic" war in our history. Typical illustrations include a photo of a pile of amputated feet, four pages of clinical portraits of maimed soldiers, photos of nurses at work in hospitals and rare studio portraits of slaves among some 500 illustrations which, in combination with the text, present a memorable record of the War Between the States. The book, assembled by Ward, author of *A First Class Temperament: The Emergence of Franklin Roosevelt*, and historians Ken and Ric Burns, also includes original essays by distinguished historians James M. McPherson and C. Vann Woodward among others, and an edifying interview with historian Shelby Foote. BOMC main selection. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

YA-- A glowing companion volume to the celebrated PBS television series that is informative and poignant. After exhausting research in museums, libraries, and newspapers, 475 images were selected to show readers what people, places, and events looked like during this crisis that shook the foundation of American civilization. The text that accompanies these illustrations is often the voices of the men and women who lived it. Extensive use of diaries, letters, and newspaper accounts bring the world of the 1860s to life. Five Civil War historians provide essays that add a third dimension to this fascinating work. A selected bibliography that includes some of the most

noted works on the Civil War and a complete index are included. The book can be used as a companion to the PBS series or as a valuable resource on its own. It should be included in all Civil War collections.-Dolores M. Steinhauer, Jefferson Sci-Tech, Alexandria, VACopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

well I guess I need to "read the fine print" next time. I previously owned a copy of the real companion book which was printed in large format, glossy and contained hundreds of photos from the war and lots of descriptions accompanying the pics. This "thing" I would compare to either a Cliff's Notes or a thick pamphlet. It's a joke, a total waste of money. I'd send it back but it's just not worth the effort.

Great pickup for a fan of this revolutionary Civil War documentary or just the Civil War in general. It's an easy read, and follows the episodes verbatim. I love having the text, so I can use specific information or quotes for my classes that I teach which includes a course on the Civil War. The seller sent it immediately, and it was in GREAT condition for "very good". LOVE IT!!!

Probably the best TV documentary ever.

AS LISTED-GREAT CW P!C'S. A+++++

Ken Burns changed the country when he released on PBS, "The Civil War". Viewers were captivated not only by the content, but by the special way Burns presented his series. This book is essentially the screen play for the series. It has most of the narration and the pictures found in the series. This book is high quality glossy with color as well as black and white images. A fine addition to any library or coffee table.

Great book with wonderful pictures.

For history buffs that are interested in the Civil War this is a must read. I loved it.

Reading this makes the film more touching. However, a bit disappointed that some parts were missing (compared with the film) - the narrative of what happened to the people after the war. It is I. The film but not in this book.

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