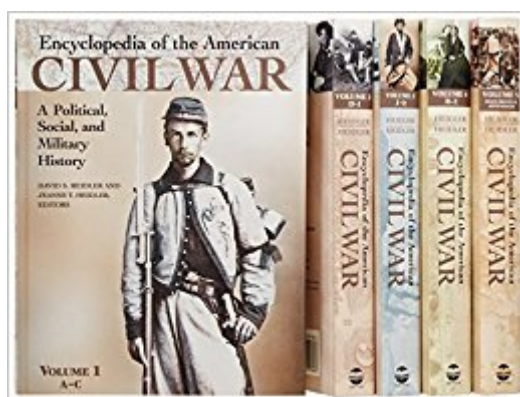


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Encyclopedia Of The American Civil War [5 Volumes]: A Political, Social, And Military History



Synopsis

An award-winning and highly recommended comprehensive reference set on the political, social, and military aspects of the American Civil War. Over 1,600 signed entries, authored by notable scholars and referenced for further reading. Over 300 contributors, including some of the leading Civil War scholars at work today. More than 500 illustrations, including contemporary photographs, lithographs, and drawings. 75 maps created specifically for this encyclopedia. A chronology, glossary, and exhaustive index. Over 250 primary source documents

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-In his foreword to this set, noted historian James M. McPherson characterizes this well-written encyclopedia as "the best" work of reference currently available on the Civil War. Many readers will concur. The editors and more than 250 distinguished contributors present some 1600 alphabetically arranged, concise articles on every aspect of the period, supplemented by informative battle maps and many of the most famous period black-and-white photographs in crisp, clear reproductions. Ranging from a few paragraphs to several pages, the entries create a comprehensive and compelling picture of the war. They include not only detailed discussions of the major and minor battles and military life in general, but also the war's effects on society, from government, politics, and technology to journalism, commerce, and home life. The first four volumes contain a wealth of cross-references, easing the way for research. The final volume offers a useful

selection of critical primary-source documents, a chronology of the war, an extensive bibliography, and an index to all volumes. An all-together excellent resource for research or general browsing interest. Starr E. Smith, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

After more than 100 years, the Civil War still attracts more public interest than any other event in U.S. history. This fact is reflected in the inordinate number of books, well over 50,000, written about the conflict. ABCCLIO has published the most comprehensive reference work, offering more than 1,600 signed entries, over 300 contributors, more than 500 illustrations and 75 maps, and over 250 primary source documents. The encyclopedia provides in A-Z format information on the war's strategic aims, diplomatic and political maneuvering, key military actions (with descriptions of more than 60 engagements), key participants (civilian and military), and impact on American society and history. Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke, a Union Army nurse; Matthew Brady, a photographer who accompanied the Union Army in the first main battle; and military leaders such as Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and James Longstreet are just a few of the individuals covered. The encyclopedia not only treats the military aspects of the war but presents full coverage of the politics, literature, art, music, and homefront events. Every conceivable subject--from Chickamauga, Battle of to Harper's Weekly to Gatling gun to Jews-- receives consideration. Entries range from less than one-half page to more than eighteen pages for Atlanta campaign . Each essay is followed by see also references to related entries elsewhere in the set, as well as extensive suggested readings for deeper research on that particular subject. The final volume compiles more than 250 topically arranged documents, including Abraham Lincoln's famous "A house divided against itself cannot stand" speech, excerpts from Frederick Douglass' "My Escape from Slavery" speech, Jefferson Davis' "Proclamation of 1861," the Battle Hymn of the Republic , and more. These primary source materials are an invaluable enhancement to the set. Following the documents, one finds five appendixes. Appendix I lists the Confederate States of America's general officers, followed by its government in appendix II. Appendix III lists the officers of the United States of America, followed by its government in appendix IV. Appendix V^A is a directory of Civil War battlefield sites with addresses, phone numbers, and maps. Following the appendixes is a "Civil War Chronology" showing relationships between military actions and political, diplomatic, and social developments. A brief glossary provides definitions for the researcher unfamiliar with such terms as cashier ("dishonorably discharge an office") and retrograde ("an orderly retreat usually designed to move away from an enemy"). An extensive bibliography lists all the resources referenced throughout the volumes. The

index indicates main entries in bold print, while illustrations are identified with italics. The index is detailed and comprehensive. For example, under African American sailors, there are references to individuals who relate to this category, such as Gideon Welles and Francis Shoup. Under Gettysburg, battle of one finds page references not only to information about the battle but also to related people, places, and events. The set is handsomely designed, with numerous period photographs complementing the text. There are some minor criticisms regarding layout, which makes maneuvering the set a bit cumbersome. The index to all volumes can only be found in volume five, which means the researcher has to use two volumes most of the time; a cumulative index in each volume would have made access easier. The index cites only page numbers, leaving the user to guess which volume a page might be in. Neither the bibliographies nor the directory to battle sites makes reference to the copious information that is available through the World Wide Web. However, these are small shortcomings. Encyclopedia of the American Civil War is the most comprehensive reference work written about its topic, providing both the novice and the expert an opportunity to expand their knowledge of this vital aspect of U.S. history. Recommended for high-school, public, and academic libraries. RBB Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Best single source I've ever found on the civil war.

As a writer and public relations practitioner where the Civil War is concerned, I've found Heider's Encyclopedia of the American Civil War to be a top-notch source of information about the War Between the States. Thorough, yet concise, there is information on all aspects of the conflict ranging from pre-war issues to its ultimate consequences. Although it's impossible to cover all skirmishes and engagements, it's amazing how many are included. The Documents section is impressive and all entries contain excellent cross-referencing. I recommend this encyclopedia to anyone interested in the conflict between the North and South.

I probably shouldn't be posting this, but I just got my books today and already have a minor problem and I'm anything but an expert on the Civil War. Opened the A-C book to a picture of 'Alonzo Cushing' only I'm pretty sure that's Alonzo's brother. Opened the R-Z book to a page showing a picture of John Reynolds, only the caption said it was Joseph Reynolds. Maybe it's just me, but if they've messed up things as simple as that, it sort of makes me wonder what else they've got wrong..... I'm not giving up on these books, but messing up the obvious can tend to give one

pause.....

This encyclopedia helps me research the topic of Vermont in the American Civil War for a Community Access Television show that I am making.

Over the last 20 years, I have spent thousands of dollars on Civil War reference materials covering anything from individual biographies, to in-depth analysis of battles, to the roles of Chaplains and Civil War medicine. There are a lot of good references out there, many of which are in my personal collection. Yet the one I keep using the most often is this one. It is far superior to anything else that is out there. If you are a serious scholar of the American Civil War, this is right up your alley. It's thick. It's heavy (make sure you have a reinforced bookshelf to put this on) and not a page is wasted. Whether you buy it used, or pay for a collectible version of it, you will find it money well spend. I don't know how I got by this long without it.

My library of American Civil War books is still on the small side but constantly growing. One reason I do not feel compelled to add to it at an even faster pace is the fact that I am fortunate enough to own this comprehensive work. The Encyclopedia of the American Civil War is the finest book of its kind that I have ever seen on any subject at a price that most people can afford. I cannot imagine anyone with a substantial interest in the Civil War who would not thoroughly enjoy this book. It is amazingly broad in its coverage, and I often find it surprisingly deep as well. It never fails to fascinate regardless of whether I am looking for specific information or simply flipping through it randomly when I have a few idle minutes. For example, while looking for information on Charleston, SC, I stumbled upon a multi-page article on Charleston, IL, a small town 20 miles away from where I grew up. It turns out that this small community in rural America was not only home at one time to the Lincoln family, which I knew, but it was also the site of one of the bloodiest riots in the Civil War. I had no idea of the latter until I came across the article in this book. My only regret is that I have never found affordable encyclopedias covering World Wars I and II that are this comprehensive. The Oxford Companion to World War II is very good, and its size is more manageable, but it is not in the same league as the Encyclopedia of the American Civil War. I cannot recommend this highly enough for Civil War "fans".

Whenever I want to do very much research on the Civil War my principle resources begin with the books of Bruce Catton. Following extremely close on their heels is this one. I used to refer to

"Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History" as an arm killer even before I got it. This came from finding it in a local bookstore several years back and sitting down with it. It's a big book, over 2,730 pages long. Get the picture? This isn't the type of book you get if you have only a passing interest in the war. If you have a passing interest in the war, this is the type of book you hope your local library has in its reference room while if you're serious about studying the war it's the type you want in your personal library. And believe me, you'll be happy it's in your personal library because it literally is an encyclopedia on the war. As you might expect there is info in here on the major battles of the war as well as key military and political figures. Battles and individuals you've probably had to learn about since grade school. But this also goes into detail on lesser or unknown battles and individuals. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Subjects covered by this book includes music, newspapers, Union and Confederate railroads, Union and Confederate navies, Union and Confederate rations, female soldiers, the Trent Affair, the suspension of Habeas Corpus, states themselves, the formation of the Congressional Medal of Honor, prisons, etc. Articles are divided by alphabetically, as should be expected in an encyclopedia. On top of this, the book is also divided into the encyclopedia section, a section on documents from the war and just before, five different appendices, a chronology of the war, and a glossary. All of which, naturally, adds to why this will become one of your principle resources. The documents cover several hundred pages of the book. The section is divided in two, a listing of the documents featured which serves as a kind of table of contents that is divided by subject matter and then the documents themselves. Subjects are each divided into the principle subject and a sub-sets of subjects. For example, the very first principle subject is "The Political Crisis" and sub-sets of this subject include "The Harper's Ferry Raid," "The Election of 1860," and "Secession- The First Wave." Each sub-set within a subject includes at least one document. Some sub-sets may themselves be broken even further into sub-sub-sets. The "Secession- The First Wave" is such a sub-set, being broken into A-G sub-sub-sets which cover the secession documents of the first seven Confederate states to secede before the shelling of Fort Sumter. The appendices are pretty straight forward. The first two are for the Confederacy, one on its officers and one its government. The next two are the same as the first but for the Union. And the fifth is a listing of Civil War battlefields and state maps helping to locate them. On the officers appendices, these are basically just lists of generals with the highest rank they achieved during the war. The government appendices include the presidents (Buchanan, Lincoln and Davis), Senators, Representatives, presidential cabinet members, and Congresses and their sessions. Like the appendices, the chronology and the glossary are also straightforward. The chronology offering dates and events that occurred on those dates while the glossary offers

definitions of terms one might not understand. An example from the chronology, maybe you want to see what might have occurred on February 7, 1862. You look it up and find the book lists this as the start of the Battle of Roanoke Island, NC which you can then look up the main article on the battle in the encyclopedia. An example from the glossary, maybe you've heard the term panada in reference to the war but don't know what it is. The book's glossary specifically explains panada is a "mush consisting of corn meal, crackers, and boiling water, often flavored with seasoning and wine." Is this book worth the price? Well, it may seem a bit steep. But in the end the book ends up paying for itself as it becomes, as has already been noted, a principle resource for studying the war.

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