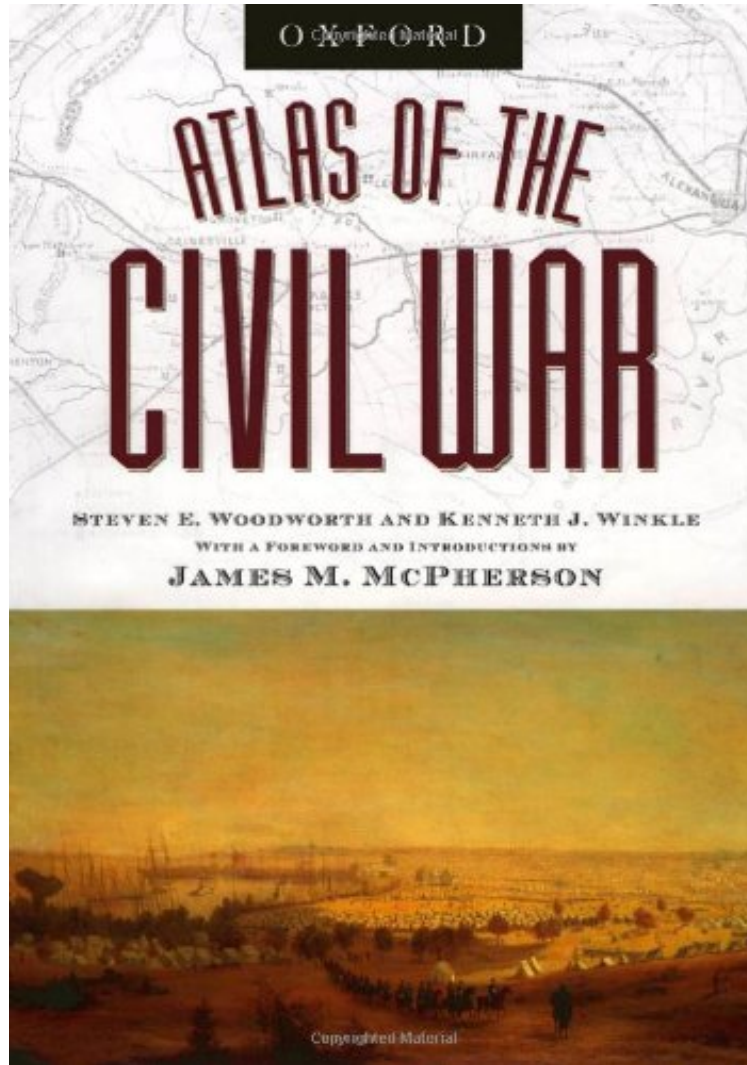


The Oxford Atlas of the Civil War

Steven E. Woodworth, Kenneth J. Winkle

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Steven E. Woodworth, Kenneth J. Winkle : The Oxford Atlas of the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Atlas of the Civil War:

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have noted, there are some annoying errors in the text. However, it provides an accessible introduction to Civil War battles and maneuvers, and--as such--has some value. That said, the maps and text do not always elucidate matters so well. For instance, the battle of Logan's Crossroads (or Mill Springs). This was a nasty early battle, in which Confederate generalship was inept and Union General George Thomas began to separate himself from Union mediocrities among general officers. The map on page 98 details the larger theater, but is not illuminating, given the lack of text. The map of the battle of Logan's Crossroads itself is useful, because the text accompanying it provides enough detail to make sense of things. On occasion, some errors creep in. The discussion of Chancellorsville speaks of Howard's 6th Corps being outflanked and "rolled up." It was, of course, the 11th Corps that was so roughly handled, with Sedgwick's 6th Corps still at Fredericksburg. At the same time, the volume does provide context. The first section focuses on "The Coming of War," and provides intelligible background, from issues of slavery to economics to demographics. All these trends began to create tensions between north and south. Graphics helpfully portray some of these sectional differences. On pages 56-57, we see how manufacturing differed dramatically by region (in terms of number of employees in manufacturing concerns) over decades. Each section thereafter looks at a particular year during the conflict, exploring the combat, the campaigning, the state of each government and its people, economic productivity, and so on. The volume concludes with the aftereffects of war, including presidential elections, Reconstruction, and so on. The book is pretty well written. Steven Woodworth is a well known and reputable Civil War historian. Kenneth Winkle, the co-author, is also a well known historian. The format is such that only a handful of pages are devoted to a particular campaign or battle, and that means that detailed treatments of major engagements does not occur. Still, as a wide-ranging, graphically rich publication, this has a useful place in the library for those who want to get a broad introduction to the Civil War.

Offering the clearest and most comprehensive examination of the conflict that transformed the United States, the Atlas of the Civil War reveals the full dimensions of this historic confrontation. Surpassing the scope of any previously published single-volume work, this atlas pairs expert scholarship with bold mapping to vividly depict the ebb and flow of destruction and reconstruction. Divided chronologically into five sections, the Atlas of the Civil War illustrates every significant battle and military campaign while simultaneously considering the important social themes that shaped the country during the same time period. All theaters of war in which armies fought and maneuvered will be covered in detail and, marking a major departure from other atlases, this volume will devote substantial attention to the nonmilitary elements of the struggle between North and South. Maps of population, economic development, elections, transportation networks and patterns of enlistment illuminate the intersections between the home front and the battlefield, demonstrating with specially commissioned cartography that no war is fought in isolation from the rest of society. Approximately forty three-dimensional maps of terrain and troop movements add yet another unique element to this ambitious reference. Written by two esteemed Civil War historians, Kenneth Winkle and Steven Woodworth, the pithy text is accented with black and white photography and illustrations that bring key characters and settings to life. Pulitzer-prize winning author James McPherson, guides the project, setting the tone of the atlas with a foreword and five shorter essays the open each of the sections.

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up This visually stunning atlas presents a plethora of information about the War Between the States and America in the mid-19th century. The book is divided into five chronological sections, one for each year of the war. Each section begins with an overview of the year: "1861: The Coming of War" includes text and maps delineating westward expansion, the spread of slavery, political maneuverings such as the Compromise of 1850, immigration data, population statistics, railroad maps, the election of 1860, secession, and the early battles. For each year, military, political, and social issues are discussed. Topics are presented over two to three pages with an introductory essay and captioned reproductions, archival photographs, and colorful, detailed maps that are easy to read. Battlefield maps use distinctive colors and precise markings, explained in the legend at the beginning of the book. For some of the battles, locations and positions are amplified with additional maps. A detailed chronology and glossary round out the volume. Students will find this a welcome and user-friendly addition. Patricia Ann Owens, Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel, IL Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist This is the latest in a long series of atlases dealing with the American Civil War. Each of five major chapters is devoted to a single year from 1861 to 1865. In addition to every important battle, there is coverage of nonmilitary topics, such as population, the economy, transportation, elections, and the home front. For example, the chapter "1862: The Struggle for Union" has a section on the Emancipation Proclamation (with a table showing the number of slaves per county in 1862). The chapter "1863: The Turning of the Tide" has a section on Confederate trade. Each chapter covers around 60 pages. The work ends with a list of major battle sites, a chronology, a glossary, a short bibliography, and an index, which provides access to illustrations and maps as well as names. The most stunning feature of this atlas is the full-color maps that depict not just battles but the value of farmland, the spread of slavery, the construction of railroads, and more. Approximately 40 specially commissioned three-dimensional maps show terrain and troop movements. The western campaigns, such as the invasion of New Mexico by

Texas, receive full coverage even though they are not as widely known as the more famous battles in the East. Even smaller battles, such as Pleasant Hill and Mansfield, which are important to Louisiana but not well known outside the state, are included. Illustrations, many of them reproductions of period photographs, add still another dimension to this work. What sets this atlas apart from others on the Civil War is the inclusion of the social, cultural, economic, and political facets of the war. Its scope and reasonable price recommend it to high-school, public, school, and academic libraries. Abbie Vestal Landry Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Offers a nice cartographic overview of campaigns and battles, enhanced with concise text descriptions and well-chosen illustrations. The maps are excellent and easily interpretable."--Atlas of the Civil War"Capable of answering just about any question that might arise about the War Between the States.... The 400-page volume covers every significant battle and military campaign while considering the social, economic, and political developments of the period."--Associated Press"What sets this atlas apart from others on the Civil War is the inclusion of the social, cultural, economic, and political facets of the war. Its scope and reasonable price recommend it to high school, public, school, and academic libraries."--Booklist"This visually stunning atlas presents a plethora of information about the War Between the States and America in the mid-19th century.... Student will find this a welcome and user-friendly addition." --School Library Journal" This is the most comprehensive examination of the war and illustrates every important battle."--Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" The Oxford Atlas of the Civil War is a wonderful coffee table-sized book full (and I mean "full") of maps, charts, illustrations, and photographs if you're a Civil War enthusiast and especially if you love maps, then this book is for you." -- Brian Williams, Military History Online