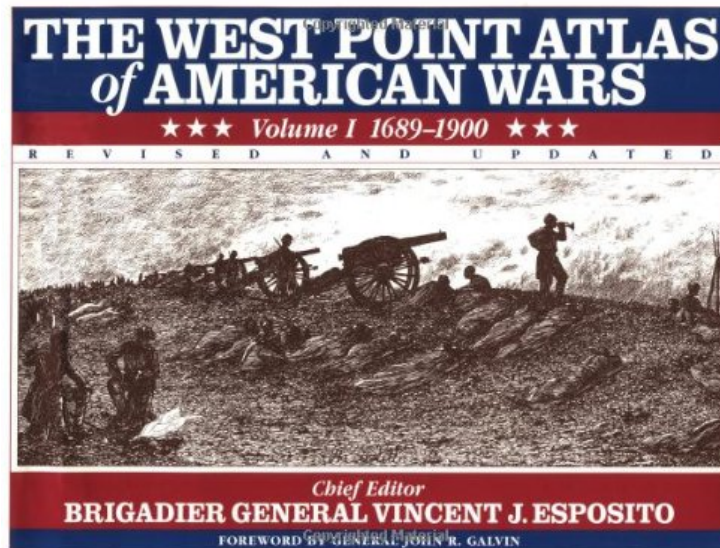


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The West Point Atlas of American Wars: Vol. 1, 1689-1900

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From Brand: Henry Holt n Company : The West Point Atlas of American Wars: Vol. 1, 1689-1900 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The West Point Atlas of American Wars: Vol. 1, 1689-1900:

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. THE cohesive survey of the civil war featuring outstanding cartographyBy Matthew Suttonthis book is the best compilation of maps relating to the 19th cent US military engagements--in terms of erudition, exhaustive thouroughness in handling specific battles, excellent cartography, and clarityso why only 4 stars? I fully expected an emphasis on the civil war, but not such an overwhelming proportion--this book, exhaustive as it is, could be longer. I purchased this book having first picked up the Esposito/Elting Napoleonic Wars (Greenhill Press?) which is flawless and totally indispensable in my opinion if you really want to understand Napoleon's campaign's. I then bought the Vol II of this pair (1900-1918) featuring WW1 exclusively and better than anywhere else I have seen--but totally lacking in coverage of the occupation of the Phillipines which was marked by years of brutal guerrilla suppression, or the american punitive raid into Mexico to hunt down Pancho Villa--both intriguing episodes in us military history.The first volume commits even more grievous omissions--not a single map of the Barbary pirates conflict, the Texas revolution, the Creek and Seminole wars waged by A. Jackson, the military occupation of the ex-Confederate states during Reconstruction, or any of the Indian wars waged after the civil war.90% of the book is devoted, perhaps rightly so, to the civil war, but here too there are some major omissions--what about the Kansas, Missouri, New Mexican, Texas, Oklahoma engagements?, or Admiral Farrugut's naval actions?, Confederate naval exploits? I don't remember seeing the monitor and the merrimac even mentioned. Looking through this book you might forget the US had a navy--although since these maps were prepared for instructional use at west point (army) this is forgivable. What isn't forgivable is the fact that Little Big Horn isn't in here, nor is Tippecanoe or the battle of Horseshoe Bend--which broke the Creek confederacy.As much as I can fault this book for these lapses, it can not be all things to all people. Although I was hoping for any and all maps of the more obscure wars, 1812, Mex-Am, Span-Am--this is still the only book I know of with any at all (and the ones in here are

magnificent in quality.) They are tantalizingly scant however. I can't find any fault with the authorship or draftsmanship, but instead with some of the editing and perhaps the publishing house itself. The Napoleonic Wars featured an extremely helpful index at the end with biographical and professional information on the generals opposing Napoleon and his Marshalate: there is nothing of the kind here. There is no real segue between topics--one page is Sherman's march to the sea, the next a series of maps of Span Imperial forces in Cuba 1898--there isn't any contextual synopsis of the political and diplomatic environments any of these wars took place in. It is also a shame this crucial book has been allowed to go out of print. Still the Esposito/Elting maps are the best I have seen and there is no other collection of military maps covering 19th century American warfare to the extent of detail this does. This is an incomparable reference for the seriously interested, and has provided me with a much better grasp of the conflicts. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is the one you want By Customer Though the time period covered by this title is 1699 to 1900, most of the volume is focused on the Civil War, which is why I purchased it. I own several Civil War atlas titles. For understanding topography and troop movements, this is my favorite. The text accompanying the maps is succinct and excellent. In summary, if I had to choose only 1 Civil War atlas, this would be it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Christina Tremblay thank you for passing this on to someone who will treasure it

Out of print for nearly a decade, this newly revised and updated, definitive atlas of American wars covers the every major conflict in which the United States participated from 1869 to 1900, including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. "A work of tremendous importance . . . a brilliantly concise and lucid history of each war."-- Boston Herald. 158 maps.

From Booklist Originally published in 1959 and unavailable for many years, this atlas has long been considered a classic. Prepared by distinguished members of the Department of Military Art and Engineering at the U.S. Military Academy, it has been used as an instructional tool at the academy. This new edition covers every military campaign from 1689 to 1900. During this period the Civil War was the major conflict; therefore, approximately 90 percent of the 158 maps are devoted to that war. As in the previous edition, all maps are in three or four colors; red signifies the enemy; blue, U.S. forces, and gray, topographic features. This new edition uses white paper instead of buff, which makes the topographical features stand out better. Approximately 41 errors noted by footnotes in the previous edition have been corrected. Most of these corrections concern names of people or places, but several show significant changes in troop movement and geographic features. For example, map 12c corrects the name Pakenham, map 5a notes the correct location of Harlem Heights, and map 94 adds a railroad and corrects troop locations. As in the former edition, the format is uniform with text on left-hand pages and maps on the right, which makes for very little turning of pages to match text and map. A comparison of the present and previous editions shows the text to be almost identical. The introduction, chronology of events of the Civil War, and table of symbols are all the same. The bibliography at the end of the volume has been totally revised and contains about 230 monographs. Many of the titles have publication dates in the 1990s and reflect the latest scholarship. The brief annotations accompanying many entries in the first edition have been eliminated in this one. There are a few minor criticisms. Occasionally, place-names are obscured by other material. For example, on map 4b the name Lexington is cut in half by a directional arrow. Also, sometimes the map scales are difficult to read because of the small numerals. It is odd that there is the subject heading "The Indian Wars" in the bibliography, but no materials listed on the Seminole War or on the numerous Indian campaigns after the Civil War. The excellent design of this unique atlas facilitates use by scholars and the general public. Because it has been an extremely popular work, libraries may find their copy damaged by heavy use and will want to replace it. Those lacking copies should give serious consideration to acquiring one. Because this is a History Book Club featured selection, it may be in demand by history buffs.