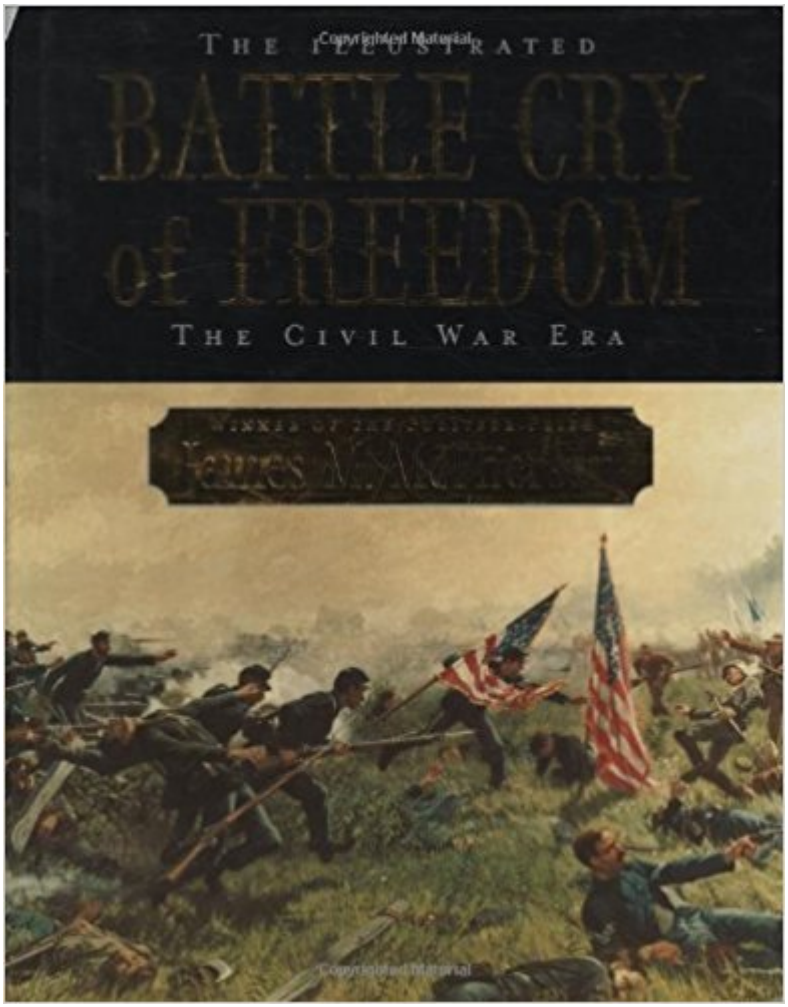
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The Illustrated Battle Cry Of Freedom: The Civil War Era



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Synopsis

Winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for History and a New York Times Bestseller, Battle Cry of Freedom is universally recognized as the definitive account of the Civil War. It was hailed in The New York Times as "historical writing of the highest order." The Washington Post called it "the finest single volume on the war and its background." And The Los Angeles Times wrote that "of the 50,000 books written on the Civil War, it is the finest compression of that national paroxysm ever fitted between two covers." Now available in a splendid new edition is The Illustrated Battle Cry of Freedom. Boasting some seven hundred pictures, including a hundred and fifty color images and twenty-four full-color maps, here is the ultimate gift book for everyone interested in American history. McPherson has selected all the illustrations, including rare contemporary photographs, period cartoons, etchings, woodcuts, and paintings, carefully choosing those that best illuminate the narrative. More important, he has written extensive captions (some 35,000 words in all, virtually a book in themselves), many of which offer genuinely new information and interpretations that significantly enhance the text. The text itself, streamlined by McPherson, remains a fast-paced narrative that brilliantly captures two decades of contentious American history, from the Mexican War to Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The reader will find a truly masterful chronicle of the war itself--the battles, the strategic maneuvering on both sides, the politics, and the personalities--as well as McPherson's thoughtful commentary on such matters as the slavery expansion issue in the 1850s, the origins of the Republican Party, the causes of secession, internal dissent and anti-war opposition in the North and the South, and the reasons for the Union's victory. A must-have purchase for the legions of Civil War buffs, The Illustrated Battle Cry of Freedom is both a spectacularly beautiful volume and the definitive account of the most important conflict in our nation's history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

McPherson’s Pulitzer Prize-winning opus is by now the standard one-volume treatment of the Civil War. Encyclopedic in scope, it synthesizes political and military history into a sweeping narrative of America’s national epic, one that paints the North’s victory as the triumph of a "revolutionary future" of "competitive, egalitarian, free-labor capitalism" over the tradition-bound and hierarchical society of the South. This new edition eliminates the footnotes and trims a fifth of the text to make way for color maps of major battles and campaigns and hundreds of photographs, cartoons and artist’s depictions from the period. McPherson’s accompanying captions sometimes overdo the characterological readings (in one portrait of a Confederate general we can supposedly "almost see Breckinridge’s handlebar mustache twitching in anger"), but they provide interesting biographical background as well as piquant details and an indelible period feel. Serious Civil War buffs will delight in this magisterial treatment. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"In this impressive book, famed Civil War historian McPherson revises his Pulitzer Prize-winning Battle Cry of Freedom, reducing the text by one-fifth in order to add a stunning array of over 700 illustrations from the Civil War era--photographs, cartoons, lithographs, etchings, woodcuts, and paintings--that give new life to an already vivid, engrossing history.... Real value is added not only by the illustrations, which are neatly woven into the narrative, but also by the copious captions (which add some 35,000 words), which introduce new material and expand on subjects sometimes lightly touched in the original.... One can smell the sweat and sulfur from McPherson’s riveting narrative and can see the dangerous age as those who lived in it. Essential."--Library Journal"If you read only one general history of the Civil War, McPherson’s book should be it."--Houston Chronicle"A handsome volume, much appreciated by any American history buff."--Seattle Times"I could go on, but by now you get the point: The Illustrated Battle Cry of Freedom presents an outstanding set of images that will enrich anybody’s understanding of the Civil War."--National Review Online"Serious Civil War buffs will delight in this magisterial treatment."--PW Online"For history buffs, the coffee-table book of the year."--Weekly Standard"It would seem hard to improve upon a book that won a Pulitzer Prize, made bestseller lists and is widely considered the finest

one-volume treatment of its subject, but McPherson’s history of the Civil War has gained significantly from being reissued with illustrations. Except for being trimmed by about 20 percent and shorn of its notes, the text is virtually identical to that of 15 years ago. But the photographs, paintings, blueprints, cartoons and other illustrations--along with the author’s lucid captions--add materially to the overall effect."--Washington Post Book World

I was reading this book on my Kindle. The maps were impossible to see, so I found this one used with shipping around $11.00. The pictures and maps are very well done. As far as the book itself, nothing short of outstanding. It is very readable, easy to follow, and gives a sense of what it was like to live during this period. Personally, I enjoyed reading it on my Kindle. The feature "x-ray" makes the Kindle a viable reading tool.

Big, big hard cover book, FULL of illustrations, photographs, maps, and information.

I bought this book as a gift for a civil war lover---He saw it at the library, loved it and wanted his own copy. It is a huge book and very nice quality. He loves it.

One of the premier history of the American Civil War. Probablky if you own one book on the CW - this is it.

If I could only read one book about The Civil War, this would be it.

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An excellent and well-written book covering the Civil War era. Great illustrations, too. I’m impressed that Mr. McPherson wrote all the captions for the illustrations. I keep hoping it will be reprinted with new material for the 150th anniversary.

Wonderful book for a one volume history of the Civil War. Writing is so well done. It is a wonderful addition to the Oxford Press series on American History.

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