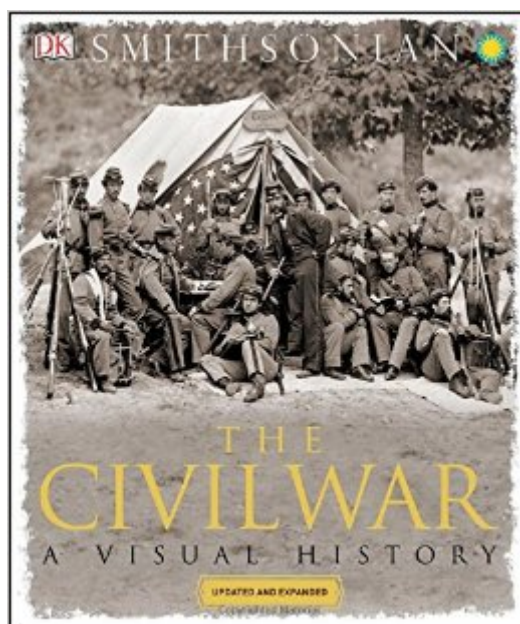


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The Civil War: A Visual History



Synopsis

A fascinating and complete guide to the Civil War, this book includes compelling information on the War between the States, Abraham Lincoln, slavery in America, the Confederacy and the Union. Every effort has been made to make Civil War reliable and complete – the book was created with The Smithsonian Institution, using artifacts and photographs from its unparalleled collections. Even 150 years after the end of the Civil War, the effects of this war are still relevant, but because the war ended so long ago, its events can seem very far away. With Civil War, striking photographs bring the time period back to life. We feel as if we're walking through American history, standing at the side of Abraham Lincoln as he talks about slavery, or walking through the battle camps of the Confederacy. Matthew Brady's personality-filled portraits and battlefield landscapes bring the Civil War to life, and images of artifacts belonging to soldiers, families, and field hospitals make the Civil War story intensely personal. With new photography and updated battleground and historic site information, Civil War is truly an important portrait of a transformative time in American history.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (89 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The ongoing commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War has become an occasion for reflection. There are many new books with widely varying levels of focus that are joining an already vast literature. People with different levels of interest can find books and other means to learn and think about America's great conflict with itself. Among the new books is this large, coffee-table like volume "The Civil War: a Visual History" (2011) produced under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution. The book is bulky and not easily portable. It offers a good basic history of the Civil War

beginning with the origins of the conflict and concluding with Reconstruction. Although there is substantial text of varying quality, the appeal of this book lies in its extensive pictorial record. The book is full of paintings, engravings, lithographs, photographs, maps and other representations of the battles, individuals, flags, weapons, and other paraphanelia that made up the Civil War. The book uses glossy paper. The reproductions, especially the colors, are bright and clear. The book is in seven chapters, each of which is divided into many sections of only a page or so. The opening chapter "An Imperfect Union" focuses on the years leading up to the conflict. The years 1861 -- 1865 each receive a separate extended chapter while the final chapter "Legacies of the War" touches upon Reconstruction. Each chapter begins with an introduction and a detailed timeline which I found useful. Short sections then cover each significant event of the period in a manner which makes up in breadth and comprehensiveness for what it may lack in detail.

Wow. The Civil War: A Visual History (Updated and Expanded) is amazing. In our homeschool, I'm not a big fan of the typical, dry textbook presentation of history. For that reason, I often use living literature to put us in the time and place and find really good informational books to take us on a factual journey through the event or era. This book perfectly fulfills that role of a "really good informational book." Honestly, it goes way above and beyond what I typically find. It's 384 pages y'all. That's 384 full-color pages that cover the Civil War from beginning to end in brilliant images, illustrations, maps, timelines - and, of course, factual text. Important people and important events - nothing is left out. Even intriguing info about things such as methods of espionage, the use of prosthetic limbs and random factoids are covered. I love how the book is written in readable chunks with a lot of visual cues to aid in comprehension. This is important for one of my children who is very much a visual learner and needs to "see" to fully grasp what he's reading. Don't take that to mean the book isn't meaty. Quite the opposite - it covers A LOT of ground! I would put this book alongside any middle or high school level text about the Civil War and I bet this one might actually contain MORE information. Almost every two-page spread includes at least one pertinent quote and/or primary document from which to learn. Also included on each two-page spread is a small reminder about important things that preceded the particular event and another note about pertinent things that followed it. This type of "timeline" is in addition to large and small typical timelines spread all throughout the book.

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