



The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War

Bruce Catton , Bruce Catton (Narrator) , Richard M. Ketchum (Editor)

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The Epic Struggle of the Blue and Gray by the Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian Bruce Catton. Here is the true look of the war with 836 pictures including many in color that have never been printed before. The illustrations range from the superb photographs of Mathew Brady and the famous sketches of Winslow Homer to dozens of previously unknown paintings, drawings, and eye-witness battle scenes. No previous single volume on the war has even approached the magnitude and the color of this collection.

The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War Details

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Author : Bruce Catton , Bruce Catton (Narrator) , Richard M. Ketchum (Editor)

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From Reader Review The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War for online ebook

John says

I read this book growing up...it's a great book to learn about the civil war. Great words combined with great pictures to keep younger readers attention...

Ross Heinricy says

Awesome pictorial and narrative of the Civil War. There are some facts and information that I learned in this book that I have never read or seen anywhere else. Deals with leaders, officers in a very sterile but informative way. Takes the reader from pre-war to post war circumstances.

Lowell says

When I was in junior high school I used to study and study the battlefield maps in this book.

Darien says

Darien Munden
Picture Book

From elections, to famous battles, to demographic charts showing the voting polls of the Lincoln election, this book has everything! As a history buff I find any book that relates the story of the Civil War to be a priceless piece of American history. However, some books just rise above the rest to give readers the chance to not only know what happened before, during, and after the war, but also the ability to see life through the lens of those that experienced the war that reunited the nation. There are photos of generals, lead cabinet officers, and even soldiers from both the Confederate and Union armies. And with every photograph Catton tells the story behind that photo and the lasting history attached to it. This book is over five hundred pages and takes a monumental force of will to read it. The fact that the pictures, paintings, and photographs showcased in this book help to move the reader along gives some degree of comfort in completing this daunting task. Enjoy!

Nikhil Sonawani says

Very good insider the war affairs and enthralling commentary.

R. August says

Spent most of junior highschool enthralled with the illustrations of this book then couldn't for the life of me remember what it was called. Glad to have finally found it again. Now off to buy myself a copy...

Bonnie Hayes says

Bruce Catton is a well known Civil War author. You may enjoy reading the book if you are a Civil War fan and enjoy reading about the different battles. I read it because Catton was one of Dennis' favorite authors. Also our house sits on property where the Union soldiers camped during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Chris Gager says

I think this is the book I just browsed. I picked it up from the town transfer station on Wednesday. It's a bit beat up. Some liquid spilled on it but it's definitely useable. Kind of a coffee table book with a fair amount of text by Catton. I'll just work my way through it a bit at a time I guess.

James Hilke says

great short history

Lew says

Growing up, I had the children's abridged edition of this book and was always fascinated by David Greenspan's 3D maps of the various battles. American Heritage and Bruce Catton set the bar for all picture histories of the Civil War with this book. After all these years of admiring the picture collection and 3D maps, I'm glad to have finally read Bruce Catton's text.

Paul Childs says

This was the book that got me interested in the Civil War when I was a kid. It had lots of pictures and fantastic maps of the battles. The chapters gave you an idea of what went on during the war without going into too much detail, which was just fine at the age I read it at.

Erskine says

My rating is inflated, but this book holds a special place in my heart. It was the beginning of a life-long love of Civil War history. I started checking it out of the library when I was in fourth grade. I was fascinated by

the maps, and especially by the dioramas of the battlefields. I love it so much, I bought the updated edition for my son.

Evan says

I have never in my life -- to my knowledge -- actually read a coffee table book in its entirety. There's just something about them: the ... bigness ... the bulkiness ... the way the type looks engraved on the glossy white pages like something on a marble cemetery monument; I don't know but there's just something too imposing and off-putting about them. I don't feel the intimacy of reading that I feel with a "proper" book. Yes, they always have ample pretty pictures and illustrations and maps and that's why we buy them and pick them up occasionally and peruse.

This particular entry in the "genre," though, is special. I think it's safe to say that an entire generation of Civil War buffs was born because of this book. With the preeminent Civil War historian Bruce Catton supplying the text, it's hard to go wrong with this behemoth.

The main reason I have this one around is to supplement my reading of other Civil War books. Let's say I'm reading about, for instance, the battles of Gettysburg or Chickamauga and would like to have visual references: maps, illustrations and the like. This book nicely supplements that. The book is justly famous for its 3-D style battlefield maps, which, I have to say are a bit cartoonish but still very cool. I actually prefer the way the Praeger/Osprey military series of books handles 3D maps. Those are less cartoonish and less cluttered and provide just enough information for the reader to imagine the terrain and action of the battles. The rest of the photos and illustrations in this book are mesmerizing. Some are very famous images that have been reprinted and seen *ad infinitum*; others less so.

Catton's text seems largely the same as that printed in his one-volume reduction history that was titled simply *The Civil War*, which I have read. But the text in this coffee table version offers more substantial and specific information on each of the battles. So far, I have managed to read large chunks of this book, enough to be able to assign a fair and proper rating.

Luckily, this book and its reissues have been printed in such vast quantity that its easy to find used copies in near mint condition at very cheap prices. I found an almost like new copy at Half Price Books for \$4.99, minus my "friends of the store" discount, of course.

Published in 1960, this remains the Civil War coffee table reference against which all the others are measured. It holds up nicely.

(KevinR@Ky 2016)

Frank Sullivan says

The book was well written but was hard to keep track of the characters as far as who was union and who was confederate!

Doug McGuire says

A great coffee table book.
