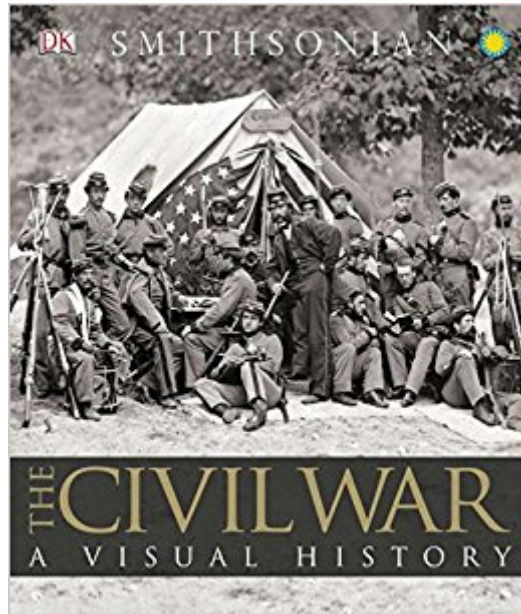




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# The Civil War: A Visual History



## Synopsis

Produced with the Smithsonian Institution and released in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the start of the war, *The Civil War* is the definitive visual history to one of the most defining moments in our country's history. Comprehensive timelines, revealing first-person accounts by soldiers and civilians, key political and military leaders, as well as examinations of broader topics, such as transportation, the economy, and the treatment of wounded soldiers, make *The Civil War* a must-have for anyone interested in the history of the Civil War.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 360 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 110 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"Drawing on Smithsonian Institution collections, this fact filled and richly illustrated history brings the war fully to life along with time lines, sidebars on particular issues, chapter introductions, lengthy captions and detailed maps...this book is for those wanting to smell the sulfur and hear the thunder of guns...For school libraries, Civil War buffs and re-enactors." --Library Journal, March 1, 2011 "[An] ocular extravaganza presenting America's Civil War...And lest the video generation, to whom the book might most appeal, assume the inevitability of Union victory, the editors cleverly deploy a before-and-after feature to underscore the contingency of events as they unfolded. Consider this lavish display as needed reinforcement for Geoffrey Ward's *The Civil War* (1990)." --Booklist, April 1, 2011 "The Smithsonian's collection is so vast, everyone can find something to like. The same could be said of a big new book produced with the institution, 'The Civil War: A Visual History.' On almost every page there's a picture that will give readers pause, whether it's a shot of the rolling-pin-like device used to code Confederate communications or an 1850 daguerreotype of

Frederick Douglass at a gathering of abolitionists and escaped slaves." --The Wall Street Journal, April 16, 2011 "A stunning, large-format pictorial history. The seven chapters are arranged chronologically, beginning with an overview of slavery in the United States, 1815 to 1860, and ending with a survey of the legacies of the conflict during the period 1865 to 1877. The narrative and illustrations highlight all of the issues surrounding the war, including the first shots fired at Bull Run, the blockade of the South, the question of border states, important battles, soldiers' uniforms and weapons, African Americans' roles, the importance of the railroad, photography, Abraham Lincoln's assassination, and Reconstruction. Chapter introductions are followed by illustrated time lines and by short topical divisions that include biographies, maps, original documents or eyewitness accounts, illustrations, historical photographs, artifacts, and reproductions of paintings. Page layouts and the use of color are superb, and sidebars abound, adding to this extraordinary book. An awesome resource for commemorations of the Civil War sesquicentennial." --School Library Journal, June 1, 2011

My husband and I fell in love with DK (especially the Smithsonian line) during a trip to the Smithsonian museums. The books are filled with an immense amount of information which is presented in a fascinating, readable way. Of course the author couldn't include absolutely every single detail about the subject at hand, but they still did a wonderful job. The photos are gorgeous and a perfect complement to the information being presented. The books themselves have sturdy binding and stout construction.

I've only skimmed through this book so far, but it is visually stunning. Like the Smithsonian Definitive Guide on World War II, this book delivers lots of timelines, sidebars profiles and a remarkable mix of paintings, period photos and layouts on weapons and accoutrements of mid 19th century warfare to excite Civil War buffs and novices alike. And, like the World War II book, it may shed some new light on the causes of the war, the battles and the personalities -- but it's strength lies in telling a straight-line narrative complemented by lots of great eye candy. A great addition to any Civil War library.

Very vivid photos. The content is very good as well. The dust jacket was damaged during packaging, as it was not on the book correctly when it was shoved into the box. That said, it gets five stars for the content of the book.

An excellent book. Buy one every year for a grandson who loves learning about the Civil War. Not my favorite topic and even I was impressed with book. It was big hit and he said of all the ones I have bought him, this one if by far his favorite.

I have always enjoyed DK's "Visual Histories" which pack a lot of info into a reasonably-sized book, and I particularly love it when they finally reappear in the lower-priced, smaller softbound editions, since the space on my shelves is limited. Admittedly, the smaller page (and print) size makes it a bit harder to read, but I still manage to do so. I wish DK would reissue ALL of their similar books this way, and not take years to actually do so.

I purchased this book as a gift for my son. He has an MBA, but his first love is history. He really enjoyed looking at the pictures. He has recently started reading several books by Shelby Foote on the Civil War, and this book helps him understand the battle topography.

## LOVE THE PICS OF THE PAST

Fascinating text and photographs. DK books are always good.

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