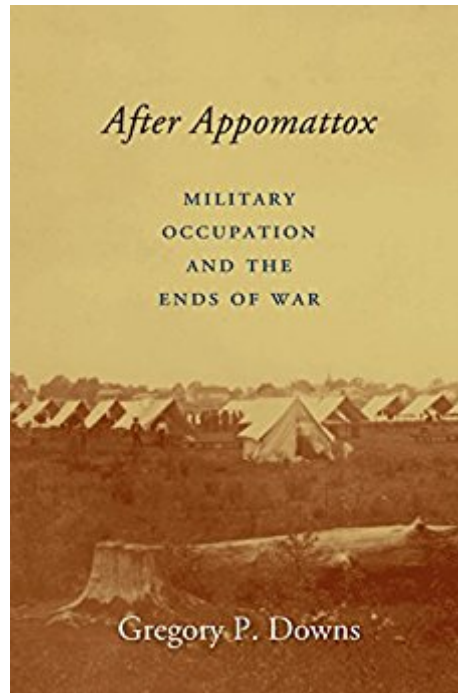




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After Appomattox



Synopsis

The Civil War did not end with Confederate capitulation in 1865. A second phase commenced which lasted until 1871 – not Reconstruction but genuine belligerency whose mission was to crush slavery and create civil and political rights for freed people. But as Gregory Downs shows, military occupation posed its own dilemmas, including near-anarchy.

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Customer Reviews

Very interesting approach and extremely detailed use of sources. The only flaw is that it is overly repetitive of details. But this is an important enough contribution that all serious amateur historians of the Civil War should read it to better understand where the country was after the end of formal hostilities, how the early years of Reconstruction proceeded across the Confederate states, and why the military part of the story matters to not only that history, but to our subsequent development.

The clearest explanation of the Reconstruction Era I have ever read and I was a history major in

college.

An interesting and not very well reported topic. The book disputes a number of generally accepted facts about the post Civil War South.

Great book on the need for military force in the south after the Civil War.

Too much detail of each and every state after the close of the war.

Very good book. I highly recommend it to any one interested in Civil War history.

ADDRESSES THE INCOMPLETELY TOLD STORY OF RECONSTRUCTION Gregory Downs
After Appomattox: Military occupation & the ends of war Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press, 2015. 320 pp. 9 longitudinal maps on military post locations. 6 images. Notes. Index. 8 statistical appendices on the number of U.S. Army posts, soldiers, & soldiers / post; mostly longitudinally with some by region. 3 TOPICS COVERED: gunpoint emancipation, reinstituting civil gov't, an illusion of peace, enfranchisement through martial law, & attempting to govern without force. An excellent book interweaving military and presidential / Congressional political history to examine the attempts to control Southern resistance to social & cultural change amidst US political factionalism, the Northern desire to end the war so soldiers could return home & the fiscal burden of the war could begin to be addressed, the struggle to institute, protect & preserve the new rights for freedMEN; and how to readmit the seceded States to the Union without granting them even greater postwar national political power in Congressional representation and the Electoral College while black suffrage was being actively suppressed within those States. The actual attainment of Union war goals was sufficiently endangered that the South was within reach of being the de facto victor.

Tedious at times, the main points could have been made in 50% fewer pages. Still, a lot of interesting details about a crucial period in the history of the South and the USA

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