
April 1865 The Month That Saved America Jay Winik

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Blood on the
Moon St. Martin's
Press
Winner, Library

of Virginia Literary Prize of the Austin
Award for Civil War Round
Nonfiction Table Finalist,
Winner, Eugene Jefferson Davis
Feit Award in Civil Award of the
War Studies, New Museum of the
York Military Confederacy Best
Affairs Symposium Books of 2014,
Winner of the Dan Civil War Monitor
and Marilyn Laney 6 Civil War Books

to Read Now, Diane Rehm Show, NPR Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House evokes a highly gratifying image in the popular mind -- it was, many believe, a moment that transcended politics, a moment of healing, a moment of patriotism untainted by ideology. But as Elizabeth Varon reveals in this vividly narrated history, this rosy image conceals a seething debate over precisely what the surrender meant and what kind of nation

would emerge from Grant's troops war. The combatants in that debate included the iconic Lee and Grant, but they also included a cast of characters previously overlooked, who brought their own understanding of the war's causes, consequences, and meaning. In Appomattox, Varon deftly captures the events swirling around that well remembered-but not well understood-moment when the Civil War ended. She expertly depicts the final battles in Virginia, when

surrounded Lee's half-starved army, the meeting of the generals at the McLean House, and the shocked reaction as news of the surrender spread like an electric charge throughout the nation. But as Varon shows, the ink had hardly dried before both sides launched a bitter debate over the meaning of the war and the nation's future. For Grant, and for most in the North, the Union victory was one of right over wrong, a vindication of free society; for many

African Americans, paved the way not the surrender marked the dawn of freedom itself. Lee, in contrast, believed that the Union victory was one of might over right: the vast impersonal Northern war machine had worn down a valorous and unbowed South. Lee was committed to peace, but committed, too, to the restoration of the South's political power within the Union and the perpetuation of white supremacy. These two competing visions of the war's end

only for Southern resistance to reconstruction but also our ongoing debates on the Civil War, 150 years later. Did America's best days lie in the past or in the future? For Lee, it was the past, the era of the founding generation. For Grant, it was the future, represented by Northern moral and material progress. They held, in the end, two opposite views of the direction of the country-and of the meaning of the war that had changed that country forever.

They Knew Lincoln Hardpress Publishing The wide-ranging and largely misunderstood series of operations around Petersburg, Virginia, were the longest and most extensive of the entire Civil War. The fighting that began in early June 1864 when advance elements from the Union Army of the

Potomac crossed the James River and botched a series of attacks against a thinly defended city would not end for nine long months. This important—many would say decisive—fighting is presented by legendary Civil War author Edwin C. Bearss in *The Petersburg Campaign: The Western Front Battles*, September 1864 - April 1865, Volume 2, the second in a ground-breaking, two-volume compendium. Although commonly referred to as the "Siege of Petersburg," that city (as well as the Confederate capital at Richmond) was never fully isolated and the combat involved much more than static trench warfare. In fact, much of the wide-ranging fighting involved large-scale Union offensives designed to cut important roads and the five rail lines feeding Petersburg and Richmond. This volume of Bearss' study includes these major battles: - Peeble's Farm

(September 29 - October 1, 1864) - Burgess Mills (October 27, 1864) - Hatcher Run (February 5 - 7, 1865) - Fort Stedman (March 25, 1865) - Five Forks Campaign (March 29 - April 1, 1865) - The Sixth Corps Breaks Lee's Petersburg Lines (April 2, 1865) Accompanying these salient chapters are original maps by Civil War cartographer Steven Stanley, together with photos and illustrations. The result is a richer and deeper understanding of the major military episodes comprising the Petersburg Campaign. Lincoln's Last Speech W. W. Norton & Company The scene of John Wilkes Booth shooting Abraham Lincoln in Ford's Theatre is among the most vivid and indelible images in American history. The literal story of what happened on April 14, 1865, is familiar: Lincoln was killed by John Wilkes Booth, a lunatic enraged by the Union victory and the prospect of black citizenship. Yet who Booth really was—besides a killer—is less well known. The magnitude of his crime has obscured for generations a startling personal story that was integral to his motivation. My *Thoughts Be Bloody*, a sweeping family saga, revives an extraordinary figure whose name

has been missing, until now, from the story of President Lincoln's death. Edwin Booth, John Wilkes's older brother by four years, was in his day the biggest star of the American stage. He won his celebrity at the precocious age of nineteen, before the Civil War began, when John Wilkes was a schoolboy. Without an account of Edwin Booth, author Nora Titone argues, the real story of Lincoln's assassin has never been told. Using an array of private letters, diaries, and reminiscences of the Booth family, Titone has uncovered a hidden

history that reveals the reasons why John Wilkes Booth became this country's most notorious assassin. These ambitious brothers, born to theatrical parents, enacted a tale of mutual jealousy and resentment worthy of a Shakespearean tragedy. From childhood, the stage-struck brothers were rivals for the approval of their father, legendary British actor Junius Brutus Booth. After his death, Edwin and John Wilkes were locked in a fierce contest to claim his legacy of fame. This strange family history and powerful sibling rivalry were the

crucibles of John Wilkes's character, exacerbating his political passions and driving him into a life of conspiracy. To re-create the lost world of Edwin and John Wilkes Booth, this book takes readers on a panoramic tour of nineteenth-century America, from the streets of 1840s Baltimore to the gold fields of California, from the jungles of the Isthmus of Panama to the glittering mansions of Gilded Age New York. Edwin, ruthlessly competitive and gifted, did everything he could to lock his younger brother out of the theatrical game. As

he came of age, John Wilkes found his plans for stardom thwarted by his older sibling's meteoric rise. Their divergent paths—Edwin's an upward race to riches and social prominence, and John's a downward spiral into failure and obscurity—kept pace with the hardening of their opposite political views and their mutual dislike. The details of the conspiracy to kill Lincoln have been well documented elsewhere. My *Thoughts Be Bloody* tells a new story, one that explains for the first time why Lincoln's assassin decided to conspire

against the president in the first place, and sets that decision in the context of a bitterly divided family—and nation. By the end of this riveting journey, readers will see Abraham Lincoln's death less as the result of the war between the North and South and more as the climax of a dark struggle between two brothers who never wore the uniform of soldiers, except on stage. [A Campaign of Giants--The Battle for Petersburg](#) Penguin Gotham at War is an accessible, entertaining account of America's biggest and most powerful

urban center during the Civil War. New York City mobilized an enthusiastic but poorly trained military force during the first month of the war that helped protect Washington, D.C., from Confederate capture. Its strong financial support for the national government may well have saved the Union. New York served as a center for manpower, military supplies, and shipbuilding. And medically, New York became a center for efforts to provide for sick and wounded soldiers. Yet, despite being a major Northern city, New York also had strong sympathy for the

South. Parts of the city were strongly racist, hostile to the abolition of slavery and to any real freedom for black Americans. The hostility of many New Yorkers to the military draft culminated in one of the greatest of all urban upheavals, the draft riots of July 1863. Edward K. Spann brings his experience as an urban historian to provide insights on both the varied ways in which the war affected the city and the ways in which the city's people and industry influenced the divided nation. This is the first book to assess the city's contributions to the Civil War. Gotham

at War examines the different sides of the city as some fought to sustain the Union while others opposed the war effort and sided with the South. This unique book will entertain all readers interested in the Civil War and New York City. About the Author Edward K. Spann is professor emeritus of history at Indiana State University. He is a specialist in nineteenth-century history and urban history. Spann has authored a number of books, including *The New Metropolis: New York City 1840-1857* and *Ideals and Politics: New York Intellectuals and Liberal Democracy*, which

was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. *The Great Upheaval* Turner Publishing Company "A masterwork [by] the preeminent historian of the Civil War era."—Boston Globe Selected as a Notable Book of the Year by the New York Times Book Review, this landmark work gives us a definitive account of Lincoln's lifelong engagement with the nation's critical issue: American slavery. A master historian, Eric Foner draws Lincoln and the broader history of the period into perfect balance. We see Lincoln, a pragmatic politician grounded in

principle, deftly navigating the dynamic politics of antislavery, secession, and civil war. Lincoln's greatness emerges from his capacity for moral and political growth.

Claremont War

History: April, 1861, to April, 1865 Da Capo

Press, Incorporated
Examines the final days of the Civil War from the fall of Richmond to the official end of the war at Appomattox and the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

The Petersburg Campaign Open

Road Media
On the bright

Sunday morning of August 17, 1862, four Sioux warriors emerged from the Big Woods northwest of St. Paul, Minnesota, on their way home from an unsuccessful hunt. When they came upon the homestead of Robinson Jones, a white man who ran a post office and general store and offered lodging for travelers, the Indians opened fire on the settlers, killing almost all of them. Soon bands of Sioux were rampaging

across southwestern Minnesota, attacking farms and trading posts and murdering everywhere they went—splitting the skulls of men; clubbing children to death; raping daughters and wives before disemboweling them; cutting off hands, breasts, and genitals; and looting whatever could be taken before setting fire to what remained. Perhaps as many as two thousand settlers were brutally massacred, although the

number has never been firmly established. Once the uprising was suppressed, 303 Sioux warriors were sentenced to death. The people of Minnesota called for their immediate execution, a sentiment that matched the national mood. Abraham Lincoln suspected that most of those convicted were marginal players in the rebellion and that the worst culprits had escaped, and he carefully reviewed each

case before selecting the 39 later reduced to 38 men to hang whom he believed to be guilty of the worst crimes. The remainder were committed to life in prison. "I could not hang men for votes," he later explained. On December 26 the 38 were simultaneously hanged on a gallows construction especially for them. The Sioux Uprising of 1862, also known as the Dakota War, sounded the first shots of a war

that continued for another 28 years, culminating in the massacre of Indian women and children at Wounded Knee in 1890. Lincoln's death at the hands of John Wilkes Booth ended his intention to reform the government's Indian policy, and both political parties continued to use the system to reward their supporters, a practice that largely continues to this day. **After Appomattox**
UNC Press

Books
In 1864 General Ulysses S. Grant decided to strangle the life out of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia by surrounding the city of Petersburg and cutting off General Robert E. Lee's supply lines. The ensuing siege would carry on for nearly ten months, involve 160,000 soldiers, and see a number of pitched battles including the Battle of the Crater, Reams Station,

Hatcher's Run, and White Oak Road. After nearly ten months, Grant launched an attack that sent the Confederate army scrambling back to Appomattox Court House where it would soon surrender. Written by an expert on the American Civil War, this book examines the last clash between the armies of U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. **Founders' Son** University Press of Kentucky Grinding, bloody, and ultimately

decisive, the Petersburg Campaign was the Civil War's longest and among its most complex. Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee squared off for more than nine months in their struggle for Petersburg, the key to the Confederate capital at Richmond. Featuring some of the war's most notorious battles, the campaign played out against a backdrop of political drama and crucial fighting elsewhere, with massive costs for soldiers and civilians alike. After failing to bull his way into Petersburg, Grant concentrated on isolating the city from its communications

with the rest of the surviving Confederacy, stretching Lee's defenses to the breaking point. When Lee's desperate breakout attempt failed in March 1865, Grant launched his final offensives that forced the Confederates to abandon the city on April 2, 1865. A week later, Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House. Here A. Wilson Greene opens his sweeping new three-volume history of the Petersburg Campaign, taking readers from Grant's crossing of the James in mid-June 1864 to the fateful Battle of the Crater on July 30. Full of fresh insights

drawn from military, political, and social history, *A Campaign of Giants* is destined to be the definitive account of the campaign. With new perspectives on operational and tactical choices by commanders, the experiences of common soldiers and civilians, and the significant role of the United States Colored Troops in the fighting, this book offers an essential reading for all those interested in the history of the Civil War. *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* Harper Collins It is an era that redefined history. As the 1790s began, a fragile America teetered

on the brink of oblivion, Russia towered as a vast imperial power, and France plunged into revolution. But in contrast to the way conventional histories tell it, none of these remarkable events occurred in isolation. Now, for the first time, acclaimed historian Jay Winik masterfully illuminates how their fates combined in one extraordinary moment to change the course of civilization. A sweeping, magisterial drama featuring the richest cast of characters ever to walk upon the world stage, including Washington, Jefferson, Louis XVI, Robespierre, and Catherine the

Great, The Great Upheaval is a gripping, epic portrait of this tumultuous decade that will forever transform the way we see America's beginnings and our world

April 1865 Open Road Media
The South As It Is is a prophetic account of the recently defeated South at the beginning of Reconstruction.

The Gettysburg Address

Bloomsbury Publishing

At the stroke of noon on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, ravaged by almost a year of near daily combat with Ulysses S. Grant's

Union armies, has tried one last time to wage battle and escape to fight on. But the blue-coated soldiers bound the Confederates to their east, west, and south. Vastly outmanned and with no escape possible, Lee, ever dutiful, feels the verdict of arms has spoken with finality and his only course is surrender. But Grant, riding around the armies, isn't available to agree to a truce and his commanders are ordered to attack. Yet at noon Lee's plea reaches Grant, and the terrible headache that's been plaguing the Union commander for the past twenty-four hours instantly disappears. A dignified and

solemn surrender conference takes place that afternoon in the little village of Appomattox Court House. Union President Abraham Lincoln, after two weeks with the army in Virginia, is sailing up the Potomac toward Washington, hoping for word of Lee's surrender. Confederate President Jefferson Davis and the rump of his cabinet, a government in exile in Danville, Virginia, fear the worst, but Davis cannot believe the South could fail to achieve independence and clings to the delusional hope that the demands of his own personal will must triumph. The elation of the men on the victorious

side, and the bitterness and defiance of the defeated are fully plumbed as the evening hours go forward. "Palm Sunday: April 9, 1865 - Post Meridian" unfolds, hour by hour, from noon to midnight, interweaving the true events of one of the most important days in the history of America with the stories of a small handful of fictional characters, most prominently an African-American Union soldier and his former master in Confederate Gray. Grant, Lee, Lincoln, Davis, and the great generals of both sides, Longstreet, Sheridan, and Custer, all make significant

appearances in the second volume of this unforgettable novel of the day the American Civil War effectively ended. John Wilkes Booth Harper Collins Many people continue to believe that the Civil War ended with Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, yet it took three more months to end the bloodiest of all American wars. *Out of the Storm* is a remarkable portrait of this turbulent closing phase of the war. Photos. **The Atlantic Monthly, Volume 15, No. 90, April, 1865 a Magazine of Literature, Art, and Politics** Simon and Schuster One month in

1865 witnessed the frenzied fall of Richmond, a daring last-ditch Southern plan for guerrilla warfare, Lee's harrowing retreat, and then, Appomattox. It saw Lincoln's assassination just five days later and a near-successful plot to decapitate the Union government, followed by chaos and coup fears in the North, collapsed negotiations and continued bloodshed in the South, and finally, the start of national reconciliation. In the end, April 1865 emerged as not just the tale of

the war's denouement, but the story of the making of our nation. Jay Winik offers a brilliant new look at the Civil War's final days that will forever change the way we see the war's end and the nation's new beginning.

Uniquely set within the larger sweep of history and filled with rich profiles of outsize figures, fresh iconoclastic scholarship, and a gripping narrative, this is a masterful account of the thirty most pivotal days in the life of the United States. [The Confederate Alamo](#) Oxford University Press

In the spring of 1861, Richmond, Virginia, suddenly became the capital city, military headquarters, and industrial engine of a new nation fighting for its existence. A remarkable drama unfolded in the months that followed. The city's population exploded, its economy was deranged, and its government and citizenry clashed desperately over resources to meet daily needs while a mighty enemy army laid siege. Journalists, officials, and everyday residents recorded these events in great detail, and the Confederacy's foes and friends watched closely from across

the continent and around the world. In [Rebel Richmond](#), Stephen V. Ash vividly evokes life in Richmond as war consumed the Confederate capital. He guides readers from the city's alleys, homes, and shops to its churches, factories, and halls of power, uncovering the intimate daily drama of a city transformed and ultimately destroyed by war. Drawing on the stories and experiences of civilians and soldiers, slaves and masters, refugees and prisoners, merchants and laborers, preachers and prostitutes, the sick and the wounded, Ash delivers a captivating new

narrative of the Civil War's impact on a city and its people. **April 1865** Grub Street Publishers "Engrossing . . . A lengthy review of the events of the final days of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and the road to Appomattox" (Mark Silo, author of *The 115th New York in the Civil War*). The Battle of Five Forks broke the long siege of Petersburg, Virginia, triggered the evacuation of Richmond, precipitated the Appomattox Campaign, and destroyed the careers and

reputations of two generals. Michael J. McCarthy's Confederate Waterloo is the first fully researched and unbiased book-length account of this decisive Union victory and the aftermath fought in the courts and at the bar of public opinion. When Gen. Phil Sheridan's forces struck at Five Forks on April 1, the attack surprised and collapsed Gen. George Pickett's Confederate command and turned General Lee's right flank. An attack along the entire front the following morning

broke the siege and forced the Virginia army out of its defenses and, a week later, into Wilmer McLean's parlor to surrender at Appomattox. Despite this decisive Union success, Five Forks spawned one of the most bitter and divisive controversies in the postwar army when Sheridan relieved Fifth Corps commander Gouverneur K. Warren for perceived failures connected to the battle. McCarthy's Confederate Waterloo is grounded upon extensive research and a

foundation of primary sources, including the meticulous records of a man driven to restore his honor in the eyes of his colleagues, his family, and the American public. The result is a fresh and dispassionate analysis that may cause students of the Civil War to reassess their views about some of the Union's leading generals. "A detailed, scholarly analysis of one of the final battles of the American Civil War . . . A studious, unbiased account of the entire affair."

—Midwest Book Review
Rebel Richmond
Oxford University Press
What did Abraham Lincoln envision when he talked about "reconstruction?"
Assassinated in 1865, the president did not have a chance to begin the work of reconciling the North and South, nor to oversee Reconstruction as an official postwar strategy. Yet his final speech, given to thousands gathered in the

rain outside the White House on April 11, 1865, gives a clear indication of what Lincoln's postwar policy might have looked like—one that differed starkly from what would emerge in the tumultuous decade that followed. In Lincoln's Last Speech, renowned historian and author Louis P. Masur offers insight into this critical address and its vision of a reconstructed United States. Coming two days after Robert E. Lee's surrender

at Appomattox and a week after the fall of Richmond, Lincoln's speech was expected to be a victory oration. Instead, he looked to the future, discussing how best to restore the seceded states to the national government, and even endorsing limited black suffrage. Delving into the language and arguments of Lincoln's last address, Masur traces the theme of reconstruction as it developed throughout his presidency,

starting with the very earliest days of the war. Masur illuminates the evolution of Lincoln's thinking and the national debate around reconstruction, touching on key moments such as the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction on December 8, 1863, and Lincoln's pocket veto of the Wade-Davis bill in July 1864. He also examines social reconstruction, including the plight of freedmen and the debate over

the place of blacks in society; and considers the implications of Lincoln's speech after April 1865, when Andrew Johnson assumed office and the ground was laid for the most radical phases of the postwar policy. A nuanced study of Lincoln's views on national reconciliation, this work gives us a better understanding of the failures that occurred with postwar Reconstruction and the eventual path that brought the country to

reunion.
To Appomattox
Rowman &
Littlefield
Publishers
"Chronicles the
events of 1944 to
reveal how nearly
the Allies lost
World War II,
citing the pivotal
contributions of
FDR, Churchill,
and
Stalin,"--Novelist.
*I Am Abraham: A
Novel of Lincoln
and the Civil War*
UNC Press Books
A narrative portrait
of Abraham Lincoln
in his own voice
reflects on his
major life events,
from his picaresque
youth in Illinois and
improbable
marriage to
Kentucky belle
Mary Todd through
his visit to war-

shattered Richmond
days before his
assassination.
Gotham at War
Yale University
Press
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.