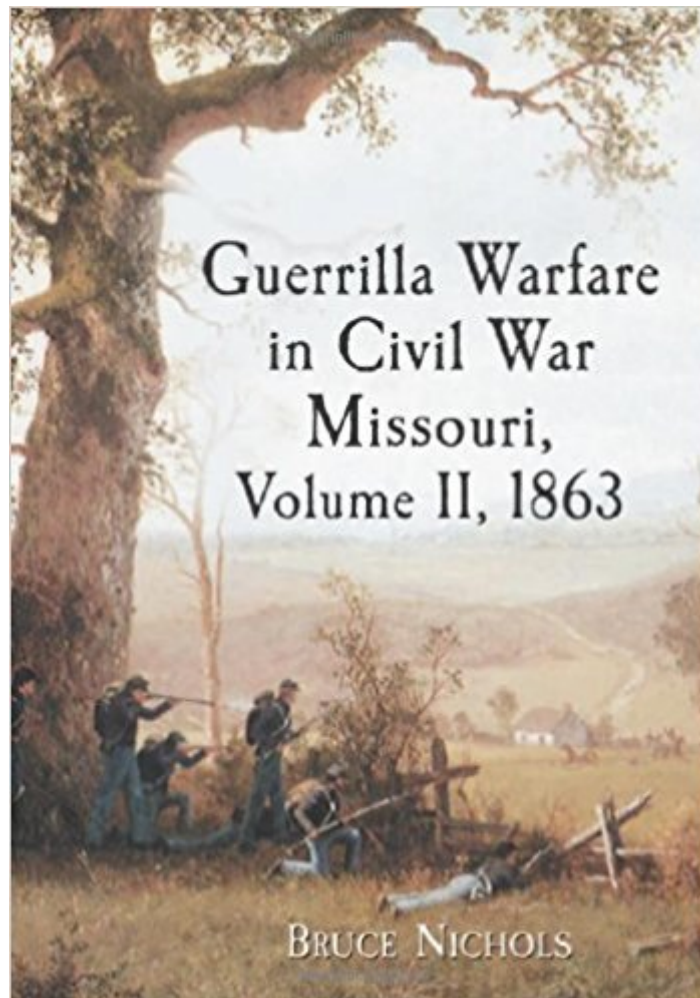




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Guerrilla Warfare In Civil War Missouri: 1863



Synopsis

This book is a thorough study of all known guerrilla operations in Civil War Missouri during 1863, the middle year of the war. This work explores the tactics with which each side attempted to gain advantage, with regional differences as influenced by the personalities of local commanders. The author utilizes both well-known and obscure sources (including military and government records, private accounts, county and other local histories, period and later newspapers, and secondary sources published after the war) to identify which Southern partisan leaders and groups operated in which areas of Missouri, and describe how they operated and how their kinds of warfare evolved. The actions of Southern guerrilla forces and Confederate behind-enemy-lines recruiters are presented chronologically by region so that readers may see the relationship of seemingly isolated events to other events over a period of time in a given area. The counteractions of an array of different types of Union troops fighting guerrillas in Missouri are also covered to show how differences in training, leadership, and experiences affected behaviors and actions in the field.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book a lot. Nichols broke it up into regions and periods of the year. It is not an academic history by any means, but I do not think Nichols was aiming for that crowd. He was writing for all those amateur historians that make up the bulk of the readers of historical works and in that regard he delivered the information well. I would have preferred footnotes, but that seems to be a

dying thing in the book publishing world. His introduction states his purpose and source work. I was particularly happy to see that he acknowledged the flawed county histories of Missouri as such. Too many county histories are colored by bad and seriously biased accounts of the Civil War period which tend to reflect how certain people in the county preferred to remember that period of time instead of letting the facts speak for themselves. I didn't detect a bias in Nichols' work at all. He wrote what happened as it happened and remained impartial which is the mark of a professional historian. His contacts with professional historical organizations and amateur ones came in helpful in the writing of this book as I see it. He does cover some material that could be expanded a bit such as why there was a guerrilla war in the first place, but then that is also the subject of larger works so the synopsis works well. I also enjoyed the detailed sources in the book of the book. I used this book to help develop information about Colonel Joseph Porter and his 1862 campaign in Northeast Missouri and found this information to be very helpful. The artwork was excellent. I will say that really sets this book apart from others.

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