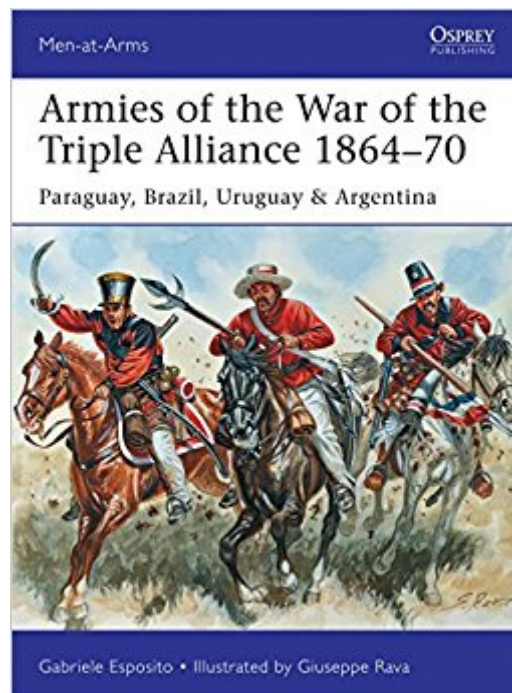




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# Armies Of The War Of The Triple Alliance 1864-70: Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay & Argentina (Men-at-Arms)



## Synopsis

Between 1864 and 1870 four nations fought in an extraordinarily bloody war - the largest in the history of South America. The powerhouses Argentina and Brazil alongside tiny Uruguay on one side, and the small but increasingly-powerful Paraguay on the other, fought a conflict that was almost contemporary with the American Civil War and Franco-Prussian War, and rivalled their very high casualty rates. The aftermath of the war saw defeated Paraguay's territory diminished, its total population reduced by a staggering 70 per cent, and its economy ruined for generations, while victorious Brazil was established as the predominant military power on the continent. Despite the extraordinary ferocity of the fighting and the significant historical consequences thereafter, little has been published in English on a war that shaped the political map of Latin America to this day. This title book in some crucial gaps by telling the story of the men who fought on both sides, using contemporary paintings, prints, and rare early photographs combined with detailed research and engaging analysis.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Those of you who read Richard Marcinko's *Rogue Warrior* are probably familiar with the problem of third world armies; peasant soldiers and playboy officers. Whether you're in Latin America, Africa, or the Middle East, you'll see that the officers get their jobs through patronage and are treated like princes, while the soldiers are from poor families and they get treated like slaves. In this book, the writers and illustrators pull no punches; they don't attempt to flatter. *Armies of the War*

of the Triple Alliance is all about the uniforms of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil during Latin America's wars of the mid-1800s. As with all Osprey books, the illustrations are perfect and well-researched, but in this one they're comical. They make the officers look like an overdressed parade crew, while the soldiers look like a biker gang. The "cetroopers," if you prefer, were probably from the Indian classes, and their uniforms are really peasant clothes, and I'd wager they were better for the climate and the terrain. Some of the lower-ranking troops had fancy uniforms, like the French Zuaves, with baggy red trousers and green jackets. You wonder how the army paid for fancy uniforms, but it doesn't say. Another issue covered in the book is the regular soldier versus the tribal fighter. The Gauchos, for instance, came into the service already trained in horsemanship, so they'd be in demand for an army that can't afford the time and money to train cavalry. Here we have a funny illustration of a Gaucho splashing two grandly-attired men as he rides through the mud, rightly oblivious to the men shaking their fists at him. I say, why wouldn't he be oblivious? Cavalry are in big demand, so the lazy officers probably have to give him whatever he wants.

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