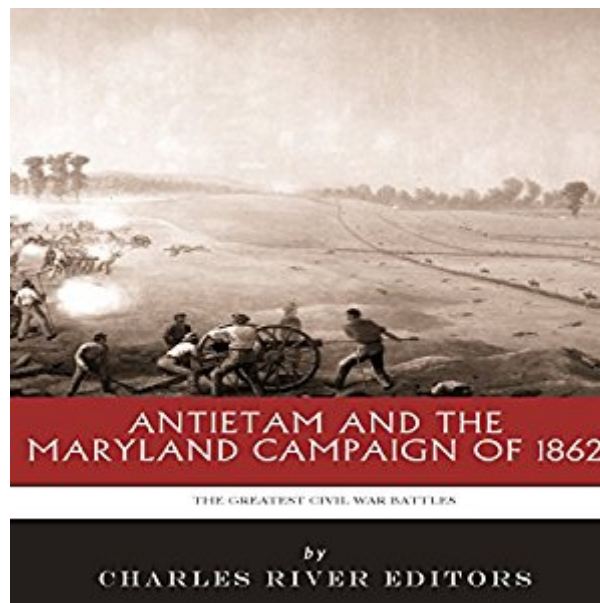




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The Greatest Battles In History: Antietam And The Maryland Campaign Of 1862



Synopsis

Comprehensively covers the entire Maryland campaign and its aftermath. Analyzes the generalship of the battle's most important commanders, including Lee, McClellan, and others. "Those in whose judgment I rely tell me that I fought the battle splendidly and that it was a masterpiece of art.... I feel I have done all that can be asked in twice saving the country.... I feel some little pride in having, with a beaten & demoralized army, defeated Lee so utterly." (George McClellan) The names of history's most famous battles still ring in our ears today, their influence immediately understood by all.

Marathon lent its name to the world's most famous race, but it also preserved Western civilization during the First Persian War. Saratoga was won by one of the colonists' most renowned war heroes before he became his nation's most vile traitor. Hastings ensured the Normans' success in England and changed the course of British history. Waterloo, which marked the reshaping of the European continent and Napoleon's doom, has now become part of the English lexicon. In Charles River Editors' Greatest Battles in History series, listeners can get caught up to speed on history's greatest battles in the time it takes to finish a commute, while learning interesting facts long forgotten or never known. The bloodiest day in American history took place on the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. On September 17, 1862, Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia fought George McClellan's Union Army of the Potomac outside Sharpsburg, along Antietam Creek. That day, nearly 25,000 would become casualties, and Lee's army would barely survive fighting the much bigger Northern army. Although the battle was tactically a draw, it resulted in forcing Lee's army out of Maryland and back into Virginia, making it a strategic victory for the North.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book depicts the bloodiest day in American history, the Battle of Antietam. The battle is told in vivid detail along with interesting portraits of Robert E. Lee, George McClellan, Stonewall Jackson and other less well known, but equally important, personalities. This bloody struggle had far reaching results: forcing Lee's army out of Maryland and back into Virginia, and President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. I especially enjoyed the author's discussion of the strategy and tactics of the generals involved. All aspects of the narrative is presented with scrupulous balance, allowing the reader to form an objective opinion. Pictures and maps provide the reader with context and perspective. However, as sometimes happens with certain Charles River editions, the author pads the narrative with extremely long quotes and documentation that is neither pertinent nor illustrative. For example, General Lee's entire plan of campaign, as well as President Jefferson's reply in its entirety are included. I found these to be distracting, and most passages irrelevant. Excerpts of key sections would have been more useful and would have freed up additional space for the author to utilize on more critical parts of the actual campaign. Otherwise, a pretty good read!

First of all, there was a major error: the intelligence agent for the Union was Pinkerton not Pleasonton. While the discussion of the actual lead-up to and battle itself was okay, the authors showed their prejudices against certain officers, Longstreet especially. McClellan, however, deserved criticism. His failings caused so many deaths and allowed more years of war. This is a disappointing entry in a usually excellent series.

It is very interesting to hear about the Maryland campaign in the civil war. I enjoyed learning the interesting fact though the information of both the north and the south.

A very enjoyable read.

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