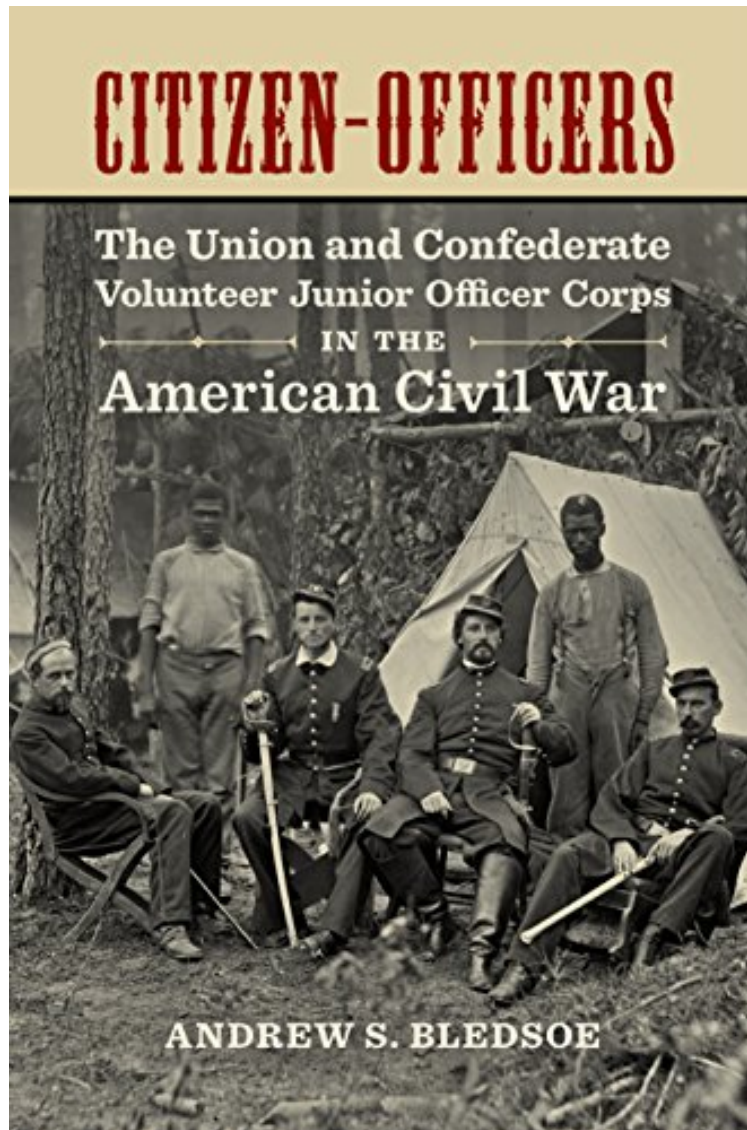


[PDF] Citizen-officers: The Union and Confederate Volunteer Junior Officer Corps in the American Civil War (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War)

## **Citizen-officers: The Union and Confederate Volunteer Junior Officer Corps in the American Civil War (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War)**

*Andrew S. Bledsoe*

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**Andrew S. Bledsoe : Citizen-officers: The Union and Confederate Volunteer Junior Officer Corps in the American Civil War (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Citizen-officers: The Union and Confederate

## Volunteer Junior Officer Corps in the American Civil War (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War):

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I appreciate this analysis of an under-explored topic. My ...By J. T. Engell appreciate this analysis of an under-explored topic. My biggest complaint is that Bledsoe repeatedly, uncritically, draws on the work of Gerald Linderman, whose book *Embattled Courage* has been massively critiqued - if not debunked - by numerous other ACW scholars. To so readily adopt Linderman's claims without discussion seems inappropriate to me. In the passage on p. 147-148, Bledsoe identifies Linderman by name and pronounces his view of courage and leadership "particularly apposite." Bledsoe also describes officers becoming hardened and embittered by their war experience (pg. 185-186 and 190-191). He doesn't namedrop Linderman in those passages, but I found them so strikingly Linderman-esque, so reminiscent of *Embattled Courage*, that I was driven to check the endnotes and sure enough, Bledsoe cites Linderman for his claims in those passages. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very Satisfied. Highly Recommended By Richard A Maloney Very Satisfied. Highly Recommended. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By W. Wadford Solidly researched and well written.

From the time of the American Revolution, most junior officers in the American military attained their positions through election by the volunteer soldiers in their company, a tradition that reflected commitment to democracy even in times of war. By the outset of the Civil War, citizen-officers had fallen under sharp criticism from career military leaders who decried their lack of discipline and efficiency in battle. Andrew S. Bledsoe's *Citizen--Officers* explores the role of the volunteer officer corps during the Civil War and the unique leadership challenges they faced when military necessity clashed with the antebellum democratic values of volunteer soldiers. Bledsoe's innovative evaluation of the lives and experiences of nearly 2,600 Union and Confederate company-grade junior officers from every theater of operations across four years of war reveals the intense pressures placed on these young leaders. Despite their inexperience and sometimes haphazard training in formal military maneuvers and leadership, citizen-officers frequently faced their first battles already in command of a company. These intense and costly encounters forced the independent, civic-minded volunteer soldiers to recognize the need for military hierarchy and to accept their place within it. Thus concepts of American citizenship, republican traditions in American life, and the brutality of combat shaped, and were in turn shaped by, the attitudes and actions of citizen-officers. Through an analysis of wartime writings, post-war reminiscences, company and regimental papers, census records, and demographic data, *Citizen--Officers* illuminates the centrality of the volunteer officer to the Civil War and to evolving narratives of American identity and military service.

"...[N]o other book better captures the challenges of command during the Civil War and the transformation of volunteers into a cadre of effective officers." -Civil War History