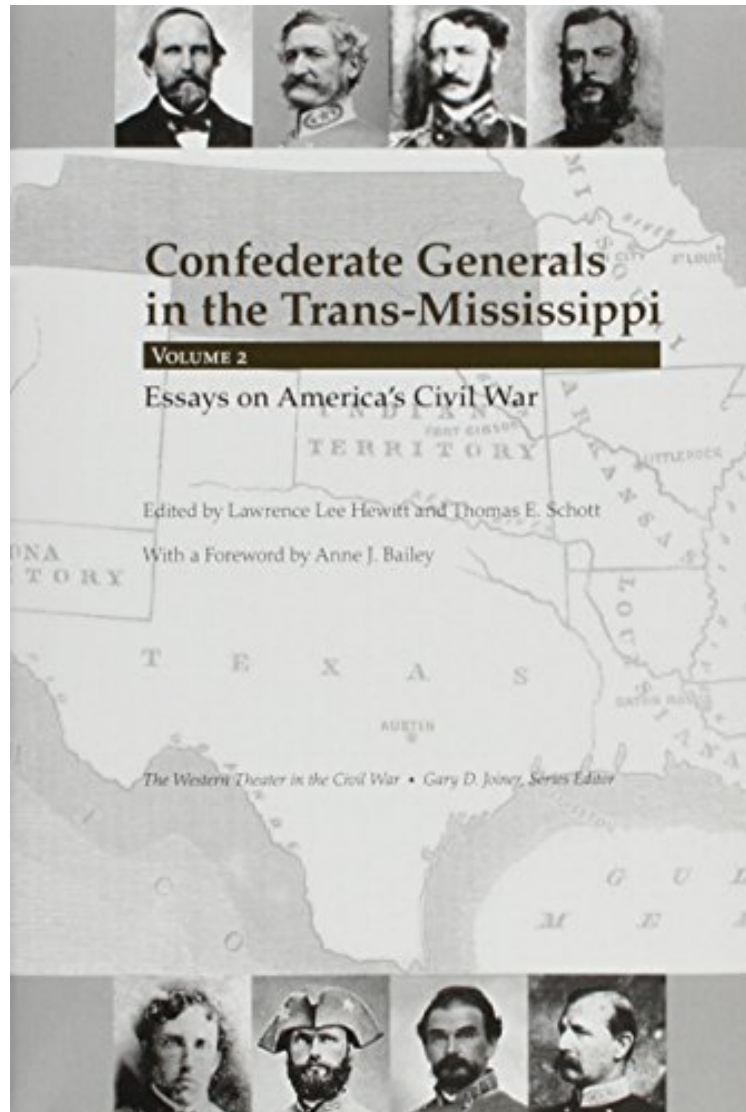


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## Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi, vol. 2 (Western Theater in the Civil War)

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**From Univ Tennessee Press : Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi, vol. 2 (Western Theater in the Civil War)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi, vol. 2 (Western Theater in the Civil War):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. eight essays on Confederate generals give a comprehensive view of the Civil War west of the Mississippi By Henry Berry Unlike most books of collected essays, rather than a mostly

patchy view of the broader subject, the eight collected essays of this book give the reader a coherent and comprehensive, though not thorough, view of the Civil War in the West. The editorial focus set by the editors along with the subject of each chapter—namely the top general of a group of Confederate forces in the Trans-Mississippi region—and the chronological order of their treatment allows for this. Hewitt and Schott are both steeped in Civil War history and authors and editors of previous books on it. Authors of the essays are present or former academics in the field of history or military historians from various fields. Though the Confederate generals are the central subject of each chapter, chapter content ranges to descriptions and often discussions of battles and maneuvering and reasons for victory or defeat and import of this on the general tide of Confederate forces in the Trans-Mississippi. Especially insightful and relevant are the analyses of each general's personality and strengths and weaknesses accounting for his victories or defeats. Where applicable, the general's previous military experiences and accomplishments or shortcomings before taking over in the Trans-Mississippi are covered. In most cases however, the generals were "homegrown" having a connection with their area of action and forces they commanded. The aim of explaining both the person and the operations of each general lends itself to tying together the course of the Civil War in the region. The Confederate Trans-Mississippi generals found themselves in a situation created partly by geographical distance from the capital of the Confederacy in Richmond and partly by the reality that the fate of the Confederacy would be determined by the outcome of the conflict in the East. Nonetheless, the Confederate Trans-Mississippi armies and their generals had a strategic job to do in their region—and for the time of the War, they performed it sufficiently, if not finally successfully. The civilian populations had to be protected as genuine members of the Confederacy of Southern states; and the Trans-Mississippi was a needed source of food provisions for the Confederate armies. At no time did the Confederate leaders either military or political contemplate abandoning the Trans-Mississippi region—and therein lies the importance of these Confederate generals and interest in assessing them for understanding of the Civil War as undertaken in this outstanding collection of essays.

In contrast to Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, the armies and events of the Civil War's Trans-Mississippi Theater have received scant historical attention, to the detriment of our understanding not only of individuals and events west of the Mississippi River, but also to the east of it. In *Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi*, Volume 2, noted Civil War historians offer fresh scholarship on eight generals who made names for themselves in the region, providing intriguing insight into important wartime issues in the Trans-Mississippi and beyond. Contrary to popular belief, the Trans-Mississippi did not serve as a dumping ground for generals who had failed in Virginia. Instead, the majority of generals who served in the region were homegrown and faced challenges unknown to their counterparts in the East—expansive territory, few men, and limited transportation for the meager supplies available. Superior Union numbers in the West, however, did not guarantee Union victory. As these essays show, southern generals often beat themselves because of personal failings or an inability to work together. Sterling Price and Ben McCulloch refused to cooperate, Henry Sibley combined alcoholism with cowardice, and the able French-born Prince de Polignac faced language barriers. The war ended before Joseph Brent, a visionary regarding tank warfare, could make his name as a brigadier, and "Prince John" Magruder's achievements in Texas remain overshadowed by his earlier career in Virginia. The Cajun Alfred Mouton, a superior leader, died on a battlefield in his native Louisiana, while Mosby Parsons survived the war only to be murdered by Mexican cavalry. While some of these generals breathed life into the Confederacy, others hastened its downfall. By chronicling the lives and careers of these eight generals, this welcome volume integrates the Trans-Mississippi more fully with the Western Theater and illuminates critical issues vital to understanding the South's ultimate defeat.

About the Author Lawrence Lee Hewitt is professor of history emeritus at Southeastern Louisiana University. He is the author of *Port Hudson: Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi* and coeditor of six anthologies dealing with America's Civil War. Thomas E. Schott worked as a historian for the Department of Defense. He is the author of *Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia: A Biography*, winner of the Jefferson Davis Award, and coeditor with Lawrence Hewitt of *Lee and His Generals: Essays in Honor of T. Harry Williams*.