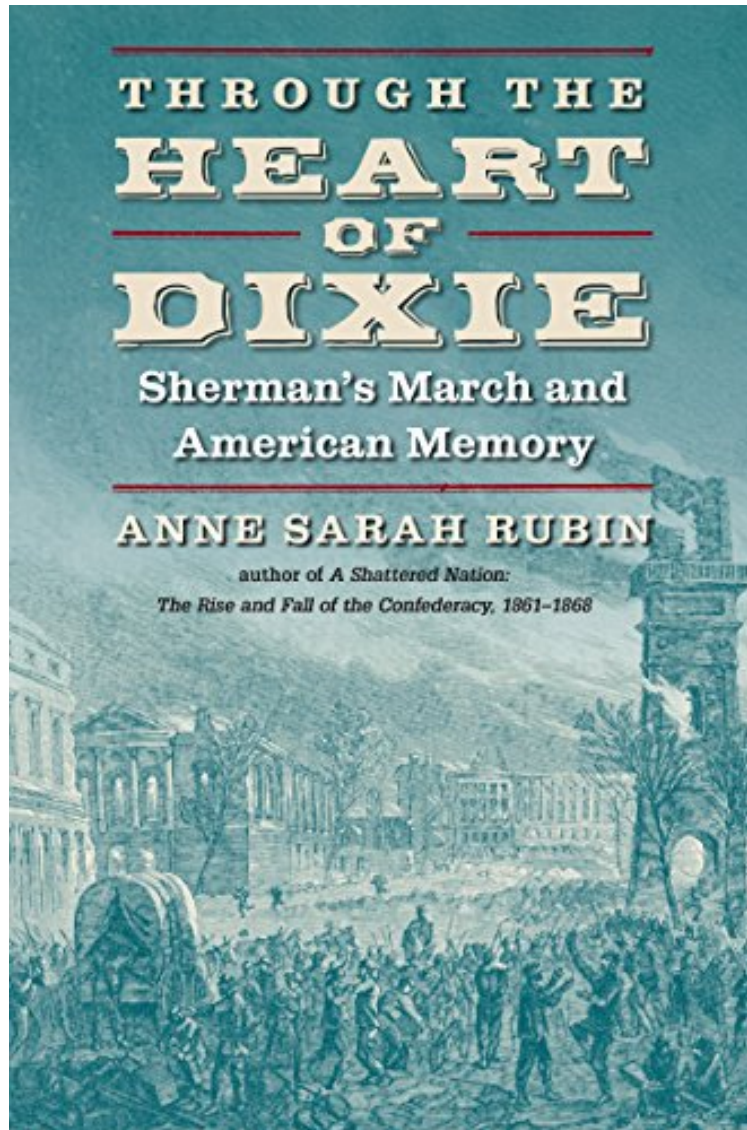


(Free download) Through the Heart of Dixie: Sherman's March and American Memory (Civil War America)

Through the Heart of Dixie: Sherman's March and American Memory (Civil War America)

Anne Sarah Rubin

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Anne Sarah Rubin : Through the Heart of Dixie: Sherman's March and American Memory (Civil War America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Through the Heart of Dixie: Sherman's March and American Memory (Civil War America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Dennis F. MillerShould be read by everyone.28 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Good study of the memory of Sherman's MarchBy WabashAdamThis book

focuses on memories of Sherman's March rather than the March itself. It is an academic study more interested in social history rather than military history, and the author is very up front about this. Rubin's goal is to "unpack the many myths and legends that have grown up around the March, using them as a lens into the ways that Americans' thoughts about the Civil War have changed over time." She is less interested in historicity than the memories themselves and how they evolved amongst different social groups - former bummers, African Americans, Confederates, and the Southern survivors. The book's chapters focus on the different social groups she studies, with the exception of the first chapter, which is a very cursory summary of the March. Rubin shows how impressions of Sherman, his army, and the destruction associated with the March changed from group to group as well as over time. For example, Sherman was not hated by some Southern proponents of the New South in the immediate aftermath of the War since they saw his "urban renewal efforts" as allowing for the birth of the New South. However, a backlash against the New South put Sherman in a less favorable light later. Additionally, former slaves sometimes saw him as a savior figure for freeing them while at other times they remembered how he often left them behind to fend for themselves with angry slave owners and Confederates (not to mention the Ebenezer Creek incident). Rubin takes her study of memory to the recent past, discussing *Gone with the Wind*, the Civil Rights movement, and Confederates in the Attic. Throughout her study, Rubin unearths interesting gems that remind you that perceptions of the Civil War have often changed - especially in the South. The major weakness of the book is that it aims for breadth rather than depth. Rubin attempts to bring to light so many examples that she fails to make the most of her material. Many of the subsections are only two or three pages in length. For instance, her discussion of the controversy at the Bentonville battlefield concerning a proposed Union monument is fascinating, but she devoted only a page (generously defined) to it. The same is true about the Civil Rights movement, where she tells about Sherman's March was going to be referenced in a speech at the March on Washington. She relates the story in two pages. This is unfortunate, since there are so many interesting stories in Rubin's book that cry for further unpacking by the author. All that said, as long as you know what you are getting - an academic study of the memory of the Civil War - you won't be disappointed by this book. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Bob .P. Mostly a Southern view of W.T. Sherman's march.

Sherman's March, cutting a path through Georgia and the Carolinas, is among the most symbolically potent events of the Civil War. In *Through the Heart of Dixie*, Anne Sarah Rubin uncovers and unpacks stories and myths about the March from a wide variety of sources, including African Americans, women, Union soldiers, Confederates, and even Sherman himself. Drawing her evidence from an array of media, including travel accounts, memoirs, literature, films, and newspapers, Rubin uses the competing and contradictory stories as a lens into the ways that American thinking about the Civil War has changed over time. Compiling and analyzing the discordant stories around the March, and considering significant cultural artifacts such as George Barnard's 1866 *Photographic Views of Sherman's Campaign*, Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*, and E. L. Doctorow's *The March*, Rubin creates a cohesive narrative that unites seemingly incompatible myths and asserts the metaphorical importance of Sherman's March to Americans' memory of the Civil War. The book is enhanced by a digital history project, which can be found at shermansmarch.org.

An exceptionally creative and ambitious study, like nothing else that I can think of in the field of Civil War history.--
Civil War Monitor
An engrossing exploration of the ways in which the march has been recounted and understood over the years.--
The Wall Street Journal
One of the more innovative books which has been published this year on the Civil War and one of the more innovative books on the March to the Sea.--
Gettysburg Chronicle
An excellent addition to the flourishing literature on Civil War memory, and scholars and Civil War enthusiasts will find it interesting.--
H-Net
Drawing on an impressive range of source material, Rubin considers a wide variety of views and actors, from participants and witnesses to novelists and filmmakers.--
America's Civil War
Much more than another study of Sherman. . . . Rubin has made a significant contribution to the study of American memory and the history of Sherman's March.--
On Point: The Journal of Army History
A valuable contribution to the memory literature.--
Blue Gray Magazine
A fascinating consideration of how Americans have remembered [the soldiers on Sherman's March] and the events of 1864-65. . . . [A] compelling analyses of the various participants who fashioned memory of the marches and put it in the context of larger developments in national life.--
Civil War Times
Anne Sarah Rubin's *Through the Heart of Dixie* is a valuable exploration of the myriad ways Americans--from Union soldiers to freepeople to white southern women--have struggled to interpret Sherman's March through Georgia and the Carolinas, serving up a provocative assessment of its cultural legacy to the present time." --Joan Waugh, author of *U. S. Grant, American Hero, American Myth*
Through the Heart of Dixie illustrates that Sherman's March was, itself, a character in the larger narrative of the Civil War, which is why it has been the subject of nonfiction as well as fiction writers, of songsters, of artists, and of filmmakers. Rubin tells a good story. This book was a joy to read." --Karen L. Cox, author of *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South Was Created in American Popular Culture*
About the Author
Anne Sarah Rubin is professor of history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and the author of *A Shattered Nation: The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy, 1861-1868*.