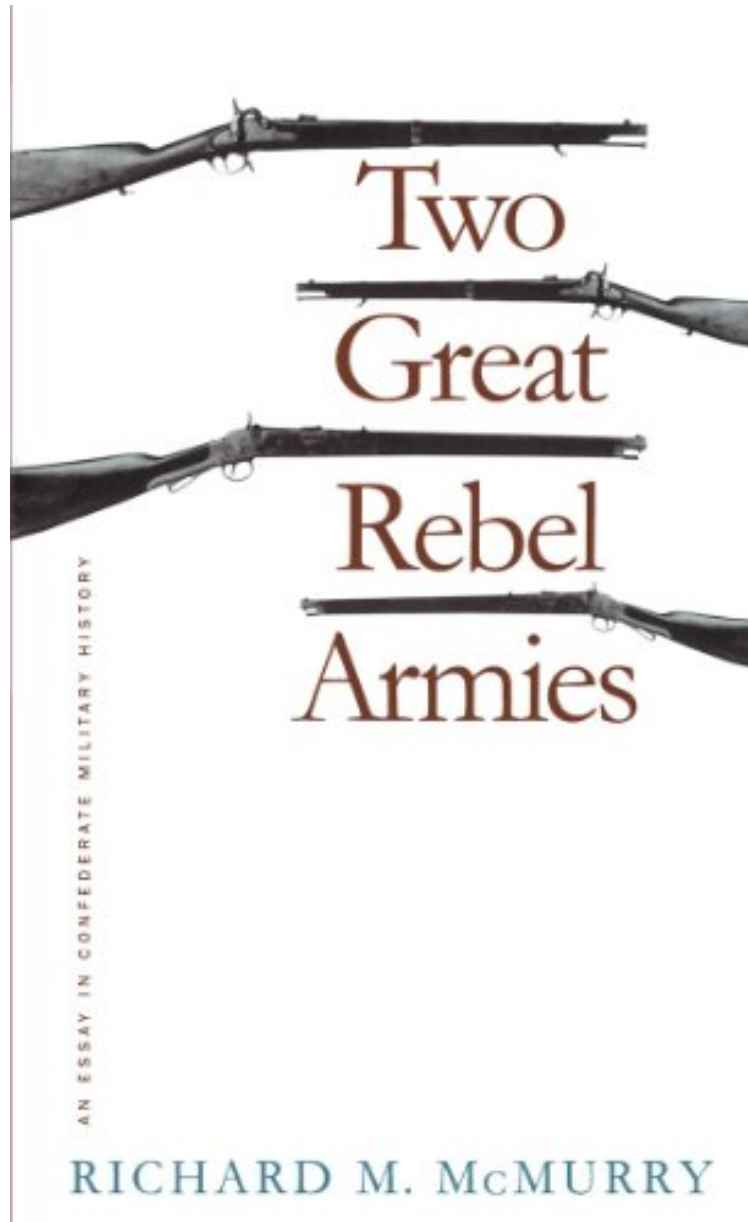


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Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History (Civil War America)

Richard M. McMurry

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Richard M. McMurry : Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History (Civil War America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History (Civil War America):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly informative, poorly organized. By Marius This book was really able to open my mind to the troubles of the western theatre of the U.S Civil War. It brought together great examples of evidence as to why the South finally lost due to their ignorance about the conditions, the threats faced and the necessities needed to keep the Army of Tennessee supplied throughout the war. Comparing it with the Army of Northern Virginia, the author hoped to find a connection as to why one prospered and the other failed. I felt like he made several great connections in regards to supply, troop experience, and Davis' disregard for the state of things in the West. However, he could never really seem to get control of his thoughts. He stated from the start that this book was an attempt to figure out exactly where he stood on the issue and to really figure things out, he failed at this quest. Each step seemed to be "the leading cause!" of failure. It was the generals, no wait it was their personality, no wait, it was their training, no wait it was just Lee. Etc. The last chapter itself was more likely intended to be an epilogue, as it really did not seem to fit into the rest of the book itself. Overall, I'd rate this 3 out of 5 stars. I'd recommend it to anyone looking to gain knowledge about the two main armies of the Civil War, but I would warn that you should be ready to be bored to death by ramblings in certain sections.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Essay! By Kindle Customer I thoroughly enjoyed this essay comparing the Army of Northern Virginia with the Army of Tennessee. The author discusses the differences in origin, leadership, logistics, geography, officers and men. In a final chapter the author gives a good summary of the debate over Robert E. Lee and the so-called "western concentration bloc" that argues that Lee squandered men in fruitless battles in the East while letting the Confederate defense of the West wither. This is a great book to focus one's thoughts -- a well balanced beginning, not an end!

10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Christopher Cook Great Product!

Richard McMurry compares the two largest Confederate armies, assessing why Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was more successful than the Army of Tennessee. His bold conclusion is that Lee's army was a better army--not just one with a better high command. "Sheds new light on how the South lost the Civil War.--American Historical Review" McMurry's mastery of the literature is impressive, and his clear and succinct writing style is a pleasure to read. . . . Comparison of the two great rebel armies offers valuable insights into the difficulties of the South's military situation.--Maryland Historian

From Library Journal The Confederacy's two major combat units were the formidable Army of Northern Virginia and the lesser-known Army of Tennessee. Lee's army was justly famous; the other lost nearly every battle it ever fought. McMurry studies the military, political, geographical, and logistical factors and decides that the Army of Northern Virginia was simply a better fighting force, even without Lee's tactical genius. This conclusion will be no surprise to Civil War students but his book does a careful job of confirming a widespread historical view. Recommended for academic and large public collections. History Book Club selection.- Raymond L. Puffer, U.S. Air Force History Prog., Los Angeles Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. Indispensable for all future studies of Confederate military history. "Choice" Sheds new light on how the South lost the Civil War. "American Historical" ""Two Great Rebel Armies" is that rare treat, a scholarly book that makes for enjoyable reading. "Ohio History" ""McMurry's mastery of the literature is impressive, and his clear and succinct writing style is a pleasure to read." Maryland Historian ""Two Great Rebel Armies" is that rare treat, a scholarly book that makes for enjoyable reading. "Ohio History" McMurry's mastery of the literature is impressive, and his clear and succinct writing style is a pleasure to read. "Maryland Historian" McMurry's mastery of the literature is impressive, and his clear and succinct writing style is a pleasure to read. . . . Comparison of the two great rebel armies offers valuable insights into the difficulties of the South's military situation.--Maryland Historian Sheer delight. . . . McMurry's splendidly crafted essay is erudite, balanced, witty, and wise.--Raleigh News Observer Two Great Rebel Armies is that rare treat, a scholarly book that makes for enjoyable reading.--Ohio History Sheds new light on how the South lost the Civil War.--American Historical An entirely competent comparative study of the strategy, tactics, and generalship of the two mightiest Confederate hosts--the Army of Tennessee and the Army of Northern Virginia--together with an account of the melCes concerning their fates. . . . McMurry has done well, particularly by those who want to know why the Army of Tennessee did so poorly.--Kirkus s McMurry offers creative ideas on an old question: why was the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia so much more successful than the Army of Tennessee? . . . Indispensable for all future studies of Confederate military history.--Choice [McMurry] is one of those remarkable people who combine the talents of a skilled and diligent researcher, a witty and graceful literary style, and a keen appreciation of the milieu of the 1860s.--Florida Historical Quarterly