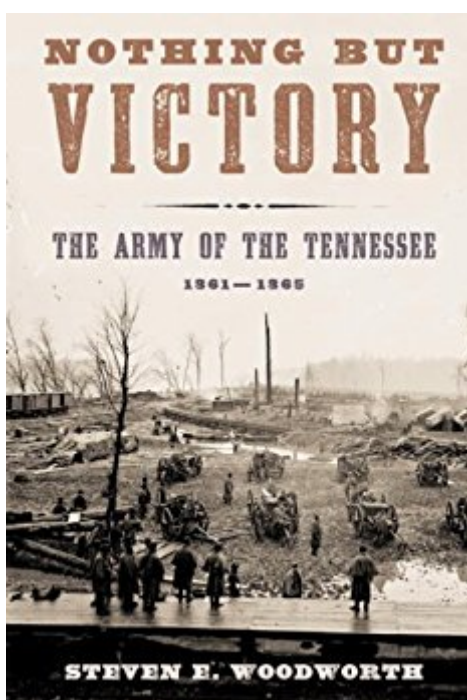


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Nothing But Victory: The Army Of The Tennessee, 1861-1865 (Vintage Civil War Library)



Synopsis

Composed almost entirely of Midwesterners and molded into a lean, skilled fighting machine by Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman, the Army of the Tennessee marched directly into the heart of the Confederacy and won major victories at Shiloh and at the rebel strongholds of Vicksburg and Atlanta. Acclaimed historian Steven Woodworth has produced the first full consideration of this remarkable unit that has received less prestige than the famed Army of the Potomac but was responsible for the decisive victories that turned the tide of war toward the Union. The Army of the Tennessee also shaped the fortunes and futures of both Grant and Sherman, liberating them from civilian life and catapulting them onto the national stage as their triumphs grew. A thrilling account of how a cohesive fighting force is forged by the heat of battle and how a confidence born of repeated success could lead soldiers to expect “nothing but victory.” From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I am a voracious reader of books about the American Civil War. Over the years, I have collected a number of superb volumes on this subject. I have found that the majority of these books deal with the war as it was fought in the eastern theater, primarily concentrating on the battles between the Army of the Potomac (Union) and the Army of Northern Virginia (Confederate). One of the few books about the Civil War in the western theater is *Nothing But Victory: The Army of the Tennessee, 1861-1865* by Steven E. Woodworth. This is an outstanding book that covers what was perhaps the most consistently successful unit of the Union army throughout the Civil War: the Army of the Tennessee. This army was created in 1861 from regiments formed in the Midwestern states of Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Illinois. Early on, it came under the command of a little-known Brigadier General named Ulysses S. Grant, who led the unit to its first victories at Forts Donelson and Henry, and at Shiloh. Grant commanded the Army of the Tennessee from 1861 until 1863. Under his leadership, this army won some of the greatest Civil War battles, including luka, Corinth, Jackson, and Vicksburg (all in Mississippi); after Grant was promoted to Departmental Commander, he relinquished command of the Army of the Tennessee to his longtime friend and confidant, Major General William Tecumseh Sherman. Sherman kept up the army's winning ways with victories in several campaigns, including Chattanooga and Knoxville (Tennessee), Meriden (Mississippi), and Atlanta (Georgia.)

Sherman's command culminated with the March to the Sea and the Carolinas Campaign. Under Grant and Sherman's leadership, the Army of the Tennessee proved itself the most successful Union Army unit, truly knowing *Nothing But Victory*. I found *Nothing But Victory* an outstanding book about a subject about which I knew little. Steven E. Woodworth, a professor of history at Texas Christian University, has written a straightforward narrative that brings the battles and the people who fought them to life. Professor Woodworth's prose is lively and did a good job maintaining my interest. He has an obvious affection for his subject, but does not allow that to cloud his historical judgment. Although *Nothing But Victory* doesn't break any new scholarly ground, it does provide a clear and concise narrative of events crucial to the overall victory of the Union in the Civil War. *Nothing But Victory* is highly readable, historically accurate, and an essential addition to any Civil War library. Highly recommended.

Nothing but Victory gives an excellent overview of the Army of the Tennessee and its accomplishments during the Civil War. At 760 pages, 119 of which are

references and acknowledgements, it cannot possibly give a detailed account of the Army but it does as well as can be expected in this space. Its great strength is its clarity and readability. It covers the main movements of the Army and its leaders while including a great deal of detail from common soldiers that give a perspective as to what was happening on the ground. It is fun to read. Like many recent Civil War histories it lacks maps. It has only one map and even that could be improved with more detail. The author, Steven E. Woodworth who is coauthor of a Civil War Atlas, is clearly aware of the importance of maps. Inclusion of adequate maps would increase the length of the already large book by about 25-50% and add expense so I expect that this is the author's/publisher's reason for omitting them. It is best to read this book with a Civil War atlas open next to it or perhaps next to a computer with a map online. The narrative is from the point of view of the Army of the Tennessee and nearly all of the quotes are from Union soldiers. The story of the opposing armies and troops are kept to the minimum required in order to understand the actions of the Union forces. The result, while consistent with the goal of writing a history of the Army of the Tennessee, is a story that will appear to some as having a Union bias. Readers bothered by this will not like this book. Most Civil War histories emphasize the War in the East. Last July we were celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg victory and paying far less notice of the victorious end of the Vicksburg Siege that happened at the same time. Gettysburg was important but Vicksburg split the Confederacy, restored navigation of the Mississippi, resulted in the surrender of Pemberton's Army and gave US Grant the prominence that would ultimately result in his being brought east to lead a push beyond the stalemate that existed in Virginia. Grant, who is not always given the respect he deserves, appears to be lionized here but the lionization is largely a result of an accurate description of his deeds. Sherman, McClernand, Logan, Mower, McPherson, and the other generals are covered in detail but it is Grant who is given credit for making the Army of the Tennessee what it was and continued to be even after his departure for the East. There are no new revelations in this book; the information in it is available elsewhere. However, I came away with an overall perspective of the Army of the Tennessee that I did not have before, and I understood where various battles fit into the sweep of history much better. For a person just beginning to read about the Civil War this is a good book to start with to gain an understanding the war in the West. For someone who has already read extensively on the Civil War in the West this is an accurate and easy to read review that gives the big picture of one of the two great Union Armies in the Civil War.

Steven Woodworth has written the definitive history of the Army of the Tennessee. Nothing But

Victory pretty much sums up the history of this great army which fought with such success for the cause of the Union in the Civil War. Of course the victories were not achieved without difficulty and mistakes were made which resulted in loss of life but Mr. Woodworth does not gloss over the problems faced by such leaders of the Army of the Tennessee as U.S. Grant and W.T. Sherman. The Army of the Tennessee was the embodiment of the western troops in the great conflict and should be on the book shelf of every student of the Civil War. Robert G. Carroon, Past Commander-in-Chief, MOLLUS and Secretary of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee.

I found this to be an excellent book. Interesting and smooth reading, loaded with detail, but the lack of maps is the reason for 4 stars. Im an educated man but after crossing countless swamps, rivers, creeks, & bayous im afraid I couldnt find my ass with both hands! I was in the book business for many years (publisher,editor,dealer) so I well know the costs of publishing a book. With that said just a few maps would have vastly improved this great book. But please dont put off reading or purchasing this book due to the lack of maps. It is well worth your \$ and time. Dispels the whole idea that the war was won in the east.

Best book on the civil war. If you like history, an want true facts.

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