



1861: The Civil War Awakening

By Adam Goodheart

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A gripping and original account of how the Civil War began and a second American revolution unfolded, setting Abraham Lincoln on the path to greatness and millions of slaves on the road to freedom.

An epic of courage and heroism beyond the battlefields, *1861* introduces us to a heretofore little-known cast of Civil War heroes—among them an acrobatic militia colonel, an explorer's wife, an idealistic band of German immigrants, a regiment of New York City firemen, a community of Virginia slaves, and a young college professor who would one day become president. Their stories take us from the corridors of the White House to the slums of Manhattan, from the waters of the Chesapeake to the deserts of Nevada, from Boston Common to Alcatraz Island, vividly evoking the Union at its moment of ultimate crisis and decision. Hailed as “exhilarating...Inspiring...Irresistible...” by *The New York Times Book Review*, Adam Goodheart's bestseller *1861* is an important addition to the Civil War canon.

Includes black-and-white photos and illustrations.

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1861: The Civil War Awakening By Adam Goodheart Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Goodheart, a historian and journalist who will be writing a column on the Civil War for the New York Times online, makes sophisticated use of a broad spectrum of sources for an evocative reinterpretation of the Civil War's beginnings. Wanting to retrieve the war from recent critics who dismiss the importance of slavery in the Union's aims, he reframes the war as "not just a Southern rebellion but a nationwide revolution" to free the country of slavery and end paralyzing attempts to compromise over it. The revolution began long before the war's first shots were fired. But it worked on the minds and hearts of average whites and blacks, slaves and free men. By 1861 it had attained an irresistible momentum. Goodheart shifts focus away from the power centers of Washington and Charleston to look at the actions and reactions of citizens from Boston to New York City, from Hampton Roads, Va., to St. Louis, Mo., and San Francisco, emphasizing the cultural, rather than military, clash between those wanting the country to move forward and those clinging to the old ways. War would be waged for four bitter years, with enduring seriousness, intensity, and great heroism, Goodheart emphasizes. 15 illus. (Apr.)

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Review

A *New York Times* Notable Book

Praise for Adam Goodheart's *1861*

"Exhilarating. . . . Inspiring. . . . Irresistible. . . . *1861* creates the uncanny illusion that the reader has stepped into a time machine."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"A huge contribution. . . . Hardly a page of this book lacks an insight of importance or a fact that beguiles the reader."

—*The Boston Globe*

"Adam Goodheart is a Monet with a pen instead of a paintbrush."

—James M. McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*

"Goodheart writes with precision, beauty and understanding. The books will renew one's excitement about reading history."

—*The Albuquerque Journal*

"Rich, multitiered history."

—*The New York Review of Books*

"Goodheart shows us that even at 150 years' distance there are new voices, and new stories, to be heard about the Civil War, and that together they can have real meaning. . . . He takes what is known, breaks it down to its elemental parts and rearranges it, giving us a different view entirely of something we thought we understood entirely."

—*The Boston Globe*

“*1861* is the best book I have ever read on the start of the Civil War. . . . Penetrating, eloquent, and deeply moving, this is a classic introduction to the nation’s greatest conflict.”

—Tony Horwitz, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author of *Confederates in the Attic*

“Eloquent. . . . Gripping. . . . Goodheart gives readers a sense of what it was like to have been there.”

—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

“Marvelous. . . . Goodheart brings us into the world of mid-nineteenth-century America, as ambiguous and ambitious and fractured as the times we live in now, and he brings to pulsing life the hearts and minds of its American citizens.”

—*The Huffington Post*

“Exceptional historical reporting. . . . Enlightening, insightful, and yes, entertaining.”

—*The Tucson Citizen*

“Doing what David McCullough’s *1776* did for the American Revolution, Goodheart’s book delivers a remarkably original and gripping account of the year the Civil War began.”

—History Book Club

“Goodheart is an elegant writer and this is a highly readable introduction to America’s great civil conflict.”

—*The Seattle Times*

“A compelling look at the country’s dawning realization that this would be much more than a quickly resolved conflict over slavery, through the experiences of a fascinating cast of characters given short shrift (if any shrift at all) in previous Civil War books.”

—*The Star-Ledger*

“Goodheart’s book stands out . . . for the author’s deft narrative style and vivid description. . . . [He] conjures a remarkable cast of individual Americans—from slaves and foot soldiers to the occupant of the Oval Office—using their stories to evoke a national watershed.”

—*The Times-Picayune*

“An impressive accomplishment, a delightful read, and a valuable contribution that will entertain and challenge popular and professional audiences alike.”

—*Harvard Magazine*

“With boundless verve, Adam Goodheart has sketched an uncommonly rich tableau of America on the cusp of the Civil War. The research is impeccable, the cast of little-known characters we are introduced to is thoroughly fascinating, the book is utterly thought-provoking, and the story is luminescent. What a triumph.”

—Jay Winik, author of *April 1865* and *The Great Upheaval*

From the Inside Flap

As the United States marks the 150th anniversary of our defining national drama, *1861* presents a gripping and original account of how the Civil War began.

1861 is an epic of courage and heroism beyond the battlefields. Early in that fateful year, a second American revolution unfolded, inspiring a new generation to reject their parents' faith in compromise and appeasement,

to do the unthinkable in the name of an ideal. It set Abraham Lincoln on the path to greatness and millions of slaves on the road to freedom.

The book introduces us to a heretofore little-known cast of Civil War heroes--among them an acrobatic militia colonel, an explorer's wife, an idealistic band of German immigrants, a regiment of New York City firemen, a community of Virginia slaves, and a young college professor who would one day become president. Adam Goodheart takes us from the corridors of the White House to the slums of Manhattan, from the mouth of the Chesapeake to the deserts of Nevada, from Boston Common to Alcatraz Island, vividly evoking the Union at this moment of ultimate crisis and decision.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sammy McManus:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one having theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The 1861: The Civil War Awakening is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Bridget Dell:

The publication untitled 1861: The Civil War Awakening is the publication that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to a person. The language that author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of analysis when write the book, and so the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of 1861: The Civil War Awakening from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Joan McCorkle:

1861: The Civil War Awakening can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to put every word into joy arrangement in writing 1861: The Civil War Awakening yet doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

Frank Moore:

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