This volume analyzes the cultural and intellectual impact of the war, considering how the war reshaped Americans' spiritual, cultural, and intellectual habits. The Civil War engendered an existential crisis more profound even than the changes of the previous decades. Its duration, scale, and intensity drove Americans to question how they understood themselves as people. The chapters in the third volume distinguish the varied impacts of the conflict in different places on people's sense of themselves. Focusing on particular groups within the war, including soldiers, families, refugees, enslaved people, and black soldiers, the chapters cover a broad range of ways that participants made sense of the conflict as well as how the war changed their attitudes about gender, religion, ethnicity, and race. The volume concludes with a series of essays evaluating the ways Americans have memorialized and remembered the Civil War in art, literature, film, and public life.

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The Cambridge History of the American Civil War provides the most comprehensive analysis to date of the American Civil War. With contributions from over seventy-five leading historians of the Civil War, the three-volume reference work investigates the full range of human experiences and outcomes in this most transformative moment in American and global history. Volume I is organized around military affairs, assessing major battles and campaigns of the conflict. Volume II explores political and social affairs, conveying the experiences of millions of Americans who lived outside the major campaign zones in both the North and South. Volume III examines cultural and intellectual affairs, considering how the war’s duration, scale, and intensity drove Americans to question how they understood themselves as people. The volumes conclude with an assessment of the legacies of the Civil War, demonstrating that the war’s impact on American life shaped the country in the decades long after the end of the war.

VOLUME I
Military Affairs
EDITED BY AARON SHEEHAN-DEAN

VOLUME II
Affairs of the State
EDITED BY AARON SHEEHAN-DEAN

VOLUME III
Affairs of the People
EDITED BY AARON SHEEHAN-DEAN
THE CAMBRIDGE
HISTORY OF
THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

VOLUME III
Affairs of the People

Edited by
AARON SHEEHAN-DEAN
Louisiana State University
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Note on the Text

In nearly all cases in these volumes, military officers are identified with the highest rank they earned during the war. In addition, all spelling, punctuation, and varying forms of emphasis in quotations from primary sources are in the originals.