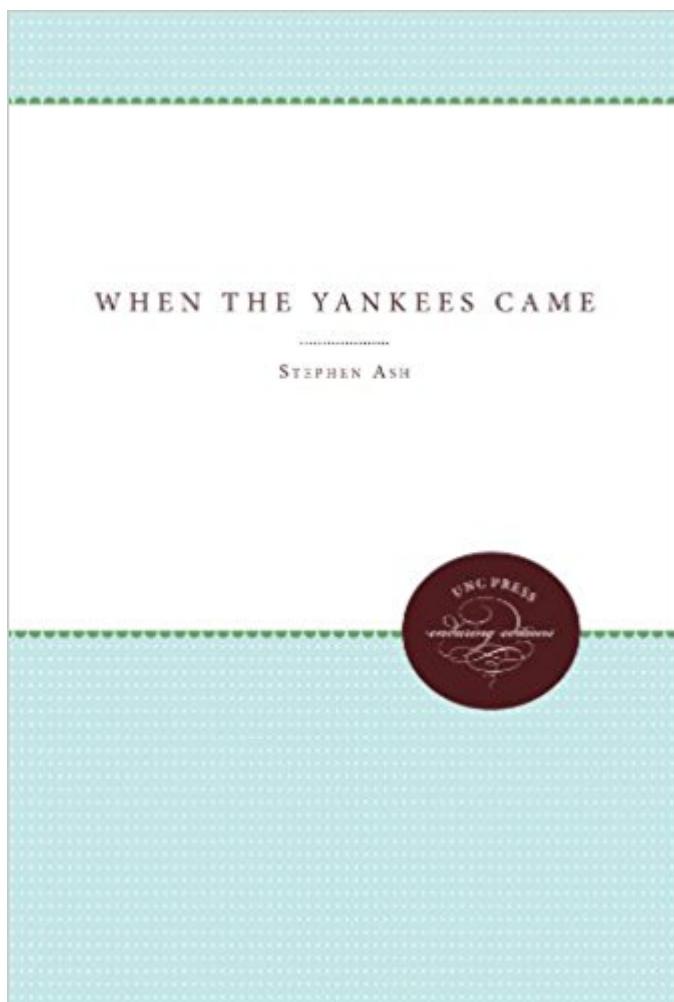


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# When The Yankees Came: Conflict And Chaos In The Occupied South, 1861-1865 (Civil War America)



## Synopsis

Southerners whose communities were invaded by the Union army during the Civil War endured a profoundly painful ordeal. For most, the coming of the Yankees was a nightmare become real; for some, it was the answer to a prayer. But as Stephen Ash argues, for all, invasion and occupation were essential parts of the experience of defeat that helped shape the southern postwar mentality. *When the Yankees Came* is the first comprehensive study of the occupied South, bringing to light a wealth of new information about the southern home front. Among the intriguing topics Ash explores are guerrilla warfare and other forms of civilian resistance; the evolution of Union occupation policy from leniency to repression; the impact of occupation on families, churches, and local government; and conflicts between southern aristocrats and poor whites. In analyzing these topics, Ash examines events from the perspective not only of southerners but also of the northern invaders, and he shows how the experiences of southerners differed according to their distance from a garrisoned town.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A basic, thoughtful, synthesizing study . . . essential reading for Civil War specialists." *Journal of American History*""An impressively researched and gracefully written study, one of great interest to all students of the Civil War." *Reviews in American History*""This excellent study is a must buy for anyone interested in social history or the Civil War." *History*"A basic, thoughtful, synthesizing study . . . essential reading for Civil War specialists." *Journal of American History*"An impressively

researched and gracefully written study, one of great interest to all students of the Civil War."Reviews in American History"One of Ash's greatest accomplishments is in providing the first broad overview of the occupation experience throughout the South."Journal of Southwest Georgia History"A very good book that combines extraordinary detail with close analysis of the encounters between Yankee soldiers and Confederate civilians."Journal of Southern History"

Ash's scholarship is impeccable, as he has refreshingly applied to the war years recent southern historiography on race and gender relations, on notions of honor, and on community structure. . . . This is a very good book that combines extraordinary detail with close analysis of the experiences and the meanings of the encounters between Yankee soldiers and Confederate civilians during the Civil War.--Journal of Southern HistoryA basic, thoughtful, synthesizing study . . . essential reading for Civil War specialists.--Journal of American HistoryShould have an immediate and profound impact on our understanding of the Civil War and how it affected the Confederate homefront. . . . A valuable and enlightening discussion that adds much to our understanding of the occupied South. Even when historians have addressed the Confederate homefront, they seldom focus on the lives and circumstances of Southerners who remained loyal to the Union. Ash does much to fill that void.--Civil War HistoryA thoughtful and provocative work on the world of the occupied South.--HistorianA work of prodigious research that includes many new insights on a neglected subject. Ash views the occupied South from several different angles in a most creative and enlightening way. When the Yankees Came fills an important gap in our knowledge of the interaction between northerners and southerners during the war. A distinguished contribution to Civil War literature.--George C. Rable, author of *The Confederate Republic: A Revolution Against Politics*This excellent study is a must buy for anyone interested in social history or the Civil War.--HistoryOne of Ash's greatest accomplishments is in providing the first broad overview of the occupation experience throughout the South.--Journal of Southwest Georgia HistoryAn impressively researched and gracefully written study, one of great interest to all students of the Civil War.--Reviews in American History

This is an excellent book and one of my favorite books about the War Between the States. It is altogether heartbreaking to think our country was at war with itself. If only this had never happened. We lost most of our best people on both sides but especially in the South. What was left was further deflated by the horrid treatment of the south by the harsh northern attitude toward the southern people which sadly in many ways remains to this day. After the war, many that could, moved away

to places like Brazil or to the promise of a better future in the booming California. It's hard to imagine what the south would be like if everyone had remained. I really enjoyed this book as heartbreaking as it was to read, I came away with a greater understanding of the times and of what really happened. There was certainly nothing romantic about this time in our history. It makes you wonder how our country ever survived this especially with the added tragedy of Lincoln's death. I feel for the people who were starved for any good news at all and there wasn't any ever for far too long. I would highly recommend this book for further understanding the day to day harsh reality of this sad time in our history.

I enjoyed this one so much I read it twice. I'm an avid reader of Civil War history, this work by Stephen V. Ash is one of my absolute favorites. His meticulous research is complemented by his elegant writing. This book is both accessible & brilliant--a rare combination indeed--and it's great choice for historians and all lovers of history!

Excellent read. A must for graduate students and any student of the Civil War at any age. I read it in grad school and ordered it for my father as a gift. He's no slouch when it comes to reading but some secondary historical works I have given him have been a bit too erudite (and for me too!). My dad is well-read and versed in Civil War and World War II and Cold War History and this was perfect for him. Ash writes for fellow scholars both professional and amateur and for the educated masses (this is NOT a mass popular history work! Yuck!). It is just very approachable and readable while still maintaining the high standards of research, details, and arguments of scholarly works.

Interesting take on the subject

In this book, Ash analyzes the Southern experience in areas invaded by Union troops during the Civil War. Whereas most other studies on this subject deal with a specific town or locality, Ash's book presents an inclusive synthesis that examines the commonalities of the occupation throughout the South. Three main themes direct his study of occupation. One examines how Northern policies regarding the South during occupation developed over the course of the war. Another theme appraises how three different geographical segments of the South experienced occupation (garrison towns, the Confederate frontier, and no-man's land). Finally, Ash looks at how occupation by Federal forces led to internal conflicts between Southerners of varied political, social, and economic groups. In Ash's study, three important hallmarks of the South were its social hierarchy, its rural

communalism, and its race relations. These elements worked in combination to create a unique society that Northern invaders perceived as both backward and foreign. Because of the cultural disparities between the North and the South, the arrival of Union occupying troops was a greatly feared occurrence by Southerners. However, initial Southern interactions with Union troops proved to be less volatile than was originally thought. Despite Northern attempts to remain equitable and lenient within occupied areas, Southern recalcitrance persisted. The continuation of these rebellious attitudes forced Union troops to adopt a harsher policy in their administration of the occupied South, leading to further antagonism between the Union military and Southerners. The "hard policy" of Union occupation also increased existing internal conflicts in the South, such as those between slaves and their masters, Unionists and their secessionist neighbors, and poor whites and the propertied elites. Thus, with the Union control of the South and the disruption caused by this occupation, the established elements of Southern culture (social hierarchy, rural communalism, race relations) could no longer provide a completely cohesive society.

A very interesting view of the other side of the Civil War. Ash takes the reader on a trip to the South and shows how life changed after the Union Army invaded. The book gives an overall look at the entire South, showing exactly how different regions were effected. Also includes many quotes from actual residents and cites from Southern newspapers, each giving the reader a true vision of what it was like to live there during the Civil War. A wonderful addition to a Civil War collection, especially if you are interested in the South.

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