

Discovering the Hidden History of the Civil War in Florida



Discovering the Civil War in Florida: A Reader and Guide by Paul Taylor

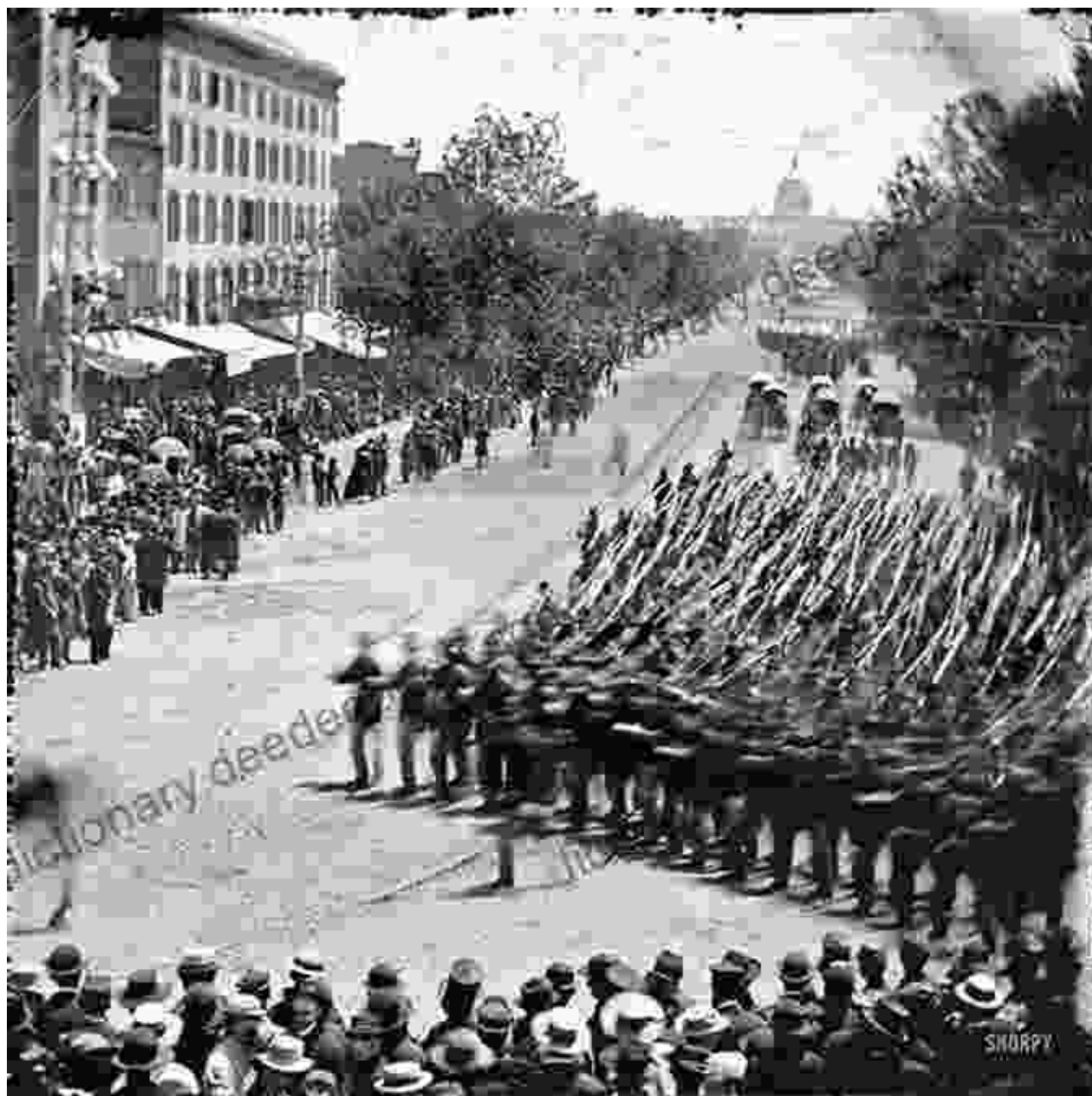
★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6797 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 282 pages

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Union soldiers marching through Florida during the Civil War.

Florida, often overlooked in discussions of the Civil War, played a significant role in this pivotal conflict. From the first shots fired at Fort Sumter to the final battles in the swamps of the Everglades, the Sunshine State was a major battleground.

Union and Confederate forces clashed on Florida soil in numerous engagements, including the Battle of Olustee, the Battle of Natural Bridge, and the Battle of Marianna. These battles helped shape the course of the war and left a lasting legacy on the state.

Florida was also home to several important Confederate leaders, including David Levy Yulee, John Gorrie, and Edward Perry. These men played key roles in the secession of Florida from the Union and the establishment of the Confederate States of America.

After the war, Florida underwent a period of Reconstruction, which saw the abolition of slavery and the establishment of new political and social institutions. The state also experienced a period of economic growth and development, as new industries and businesses emerged.

Today, Florida's Civil War history is preserved in a number of historic sites and museums. Visitors can explore the battlefields where Union and Confederate soldiers fought, and learn about the lives of the people who lived through this tumultuous period.

Key Battles of the Civil War in Florida

The Battle of Olustee, fought on February 20, 1864, was the largest Civil War battle fought in Florida. The battle resulted in a Confederate victory, and helped to secure Florida for the Confederacy for the remainder of the war.

The Battle of Natural Bridge, fought on March 6, 1865, was another important Confederate victory in Florida. The battle helped to prevent Union forces from advancing into the interior of the state.

The Battle of Marianna, fought on July 27, 1864, was a Union victory that helped to secure western Florida for the Union. The battle also led to the capture of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith.

Confederate Leaders from Florida

David Levy Yulee was a prominent Florida politician and Confederate leader. He served as a U.S. Senator from 1845 to 1861, and was a strong advocate for the secession of Florida from the Union.

John Gorrie was a physician and inventor who is best known for his work on refrigeration. He also served as a Confederate surgeon during the Civil War.

Edward Perry was a lawyer and politician who served as the first Governor of the Confederate States of America. He later served as a Confederate general during the war.

Civil War Sites and Museums in Florida

Fort Clinch, located on Amelia Island, is a well-preserved Civil War fort that offers visitors a glimpse into the life of soldiers during the war. The fort was built in 1847 and was used by both Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War.

Fort Zachary Taylor, located in Key West, is another well-preserved Civil War fort. The fort was built in 1845 and was used by Union forces throughout the war.

Fort Jefferson, located on the Dry Tortugas, is a massive Civil War fort that was never completed. The fort was built in 1846 and was intended to be

the largest fort in the United States.

Castillo de San Marcos, located in St. Augustine, is a Spanish fort that was built in the 17th century. The fort was used by both Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War.

The Old Capitol Building, located in Tallahassee, is the former state capitol building of Florida. The building was used by both Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War.

The Museum of Florida History, located in Tallahassee, has a large collection of Civil War artifacts and documents. The museum tells the story of Florida's role in the war.

The Florida Museum of Natural History, located in Gainesville, has a collection of Civil War weapons and uniforms. The museum also has a diorama of the Battle of Olustee.

The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Historic Site, located in Cross Creek, is the former home of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. The site includes a museum that tells the story of Rawlings's life and work.

The Cedar Key Museum State Historic Site, located in Cedar Key, is a museum that tells the story of Cedar Key's role in the Civil War. The museum includes a collection of Civil War artifacts and documents.

The Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, located in White Springs, is a park that celebrates the life and work of Stephen Foster, the composer of such well-known songs as "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Oh!

Susanna." The park includes a museum that tells the story of Foster's life and work.

The Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, located near Lake City, is a park that preserves the site of the Battle of Olustee. The park includes a museum that tells the story of the battle.

The Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park, located near Tallahassee, is a park that preserves the site of the Battle of Natural Bridge. The park includes a museum that tells the story of the battle.

Florida's Civil War history is a rich and complex one. The state was a major battleground during the war, and its people played a significant role in both the Union and Confederate causes. Today, Florida's Civil War history is preserved in a number of historic sites and museums. Visitors can explore the battlefields where Union and Confederate soldiers fought, and learn about the lives of the people who lived through this tumultuous period.



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