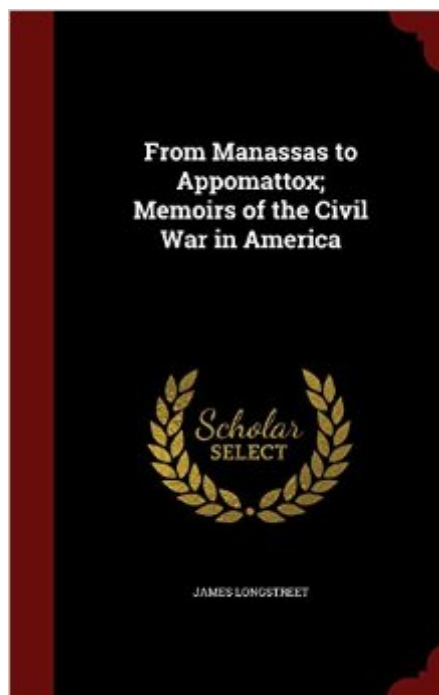


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# From Manassas To Appomattox; Memoirs Of The Civil War In America



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The war of northern aggressionâthe War between the Statesâthe Civil Warâcall it what you will, the conflict that took more American lives than any other war and more than almost all of our other wars combined, changed the United States from a collection of, mostly independent, states into a nation. Without the Civil War, the history of this continent would have been vastly different. For the record, I am a southerner, born in Georgia. I am not an apologist for slavery or the plantation society

that made the south of the 19th century one of the richest places on earth at the expense of the terrible bondage of other human beings. There is no doubt that many of the rank and file felt that they were fighting for freedom from the aggression of the Federal government, intent on preserving the union of states. Most southerners, in fact, did not own slaves. But, for those of my southern friends who try to justify the war on the basis of state's rights, make no mistake about it: the state's right they were trying to preserve was the right to own slaves. Having said that, I have respect for my forebears who, misguided and wrong as they were, fought against overwhelming odds to secure what they mistakenly and ironically thought was their freedom to enslave others. James Longstreet's memoirs of the war is, perhaps, one of the finest and most detailed accounts of a great portion of the conflict that tore the country apart and resolved the issue of slavery that the Founding Fathers had put aside during the writing of the U.S. Constitution.

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