

other regiments. He also consulted many sources from the National Archives, but, especially in the case of veterans' pension files, uses them sparingly.

This book won't change the conversation among historians about how soldiers experienced combat or dealt with trauma, and does not shed new light on the sometimes controversial discourse over the "dark turn" in Civil War historiography. But it is a thoughtful and deeply researched examination of a hard luck unit that deserves to have its story told.

The Scourge of War: The Life of William Tecumseh Sherman, by Brian Holden Reid. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. vii, 621 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Jennifer M. Murray is Teaching Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University. She is the author of *On a Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933–2013* (2014) and is currently completing a biography of Union general George Gordon Meade.

Civil War enthusiasts and scholars have not lacked for a plethora of biographies on the war's most important and famed individuals, namely Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, or William T. Sherman. In *The Scourge of War: The Life of William Tecumseh Sherman*, Brian Holden Reid, professor of American History and Military Institutions at King's College London, delivers the latest biographical treatment of William T. Sherman. Reid provides a life-to-death exploration of Sherman focusing mostly on Sherman's Civil War career and narrating the development and maturation of a battlefield commander. In doing so, Reid offers a "reappraisal" of the general's military campaigns, the efficacy of his leadership, and an assessment of Sherman's place in the pantheon of those responsible for the preservation of the Union.

Born in Lancaster, Ohio, in 1820, Sherman was a son of the Midwest and would return to the region at various points in his life. Although his brother, John Sherman, an Ohio Senator, campaigned to get his brother command of Ohio's volunteers (a position that eventually went to George McClellan), Sherman's Civil War career began on June 30, 1861, as a brigade commander in Irvin McDowell's army.

This reappraisal includes questioning some of the most popular interpretations, or canards, associated with Sherman's Civil War career. In August 1861, Sherman arrived in Louisville, Kentucky, to the Department of the Cumberland, an entity he would ultimately come to command upon the resignation of Robert Anderson. Three months later, after repeated complaints to Washington about the quality of his troops and the

prospect that the Confederates would overtake Kentucky, Sherman asked to be relieved. Such an episode resulted in questions of the general's mental stability. Reid concludes that Sherman was not yet "temperamentally suited to assume the level of responsibility required by departmental command" (106). Reid questions Michael Fellman's interpretation of this period in Sherman's life, concluding that the general emerged from it more mentally prepared to meet future command challenges.

The Scourge of War challenges the perception of Sherman's March to the Sea as unleashing unprecedented and amoral acts of destruction against Southern civilians. Reid traces the evolution of Sherman's philosophy of war, including how Sherman viewed and understood the laws of war. Importantly, Reid reminds us that the Civil War was not a total war. Global military context is important to objectively evaluate Sherman's march through Georgia. French troops in Calabria, Italy (1806–11), for instance, committed more heinous acts against the civilian population than Sherman's men in Georgia. By another measure of escalating violence, over 15,000 civilians starved to death during the siege of Genoa, Italy, in 1800 (500).

Reid does not shy away from criticizing the general. He finds Sherman's conduct during the Chattanooga Campaign "highly controversial," arguing that Sherman became prone to micromanaging the battle, focusing too much on the tactical details instead of the larger problem of crushing the Confederate right flank (244). Sherman's surrender terms given to Joseph Johnston in April 1865 reflected, according to Reid, the general's impetuosity and his "great faith in his own judgment" (406). Ultimately Washington refused to accept Sherman's terms, tarnishing what was, perhaps, the culminating moment of his Civil War career.

Although it is often customary to eschew commenting on editing errors or mistakes in captions of illustrations or maps, this book has too many errors to avoid acknowledging. Typographical errors abound and campaign maps are improperly labeled. Similar errors plague the captions of the illustrations. Most egregious is the errant photograph of a nineteenth-century individual, mistakenly labeled "Sherman in 1890," for an individual who is decidedly not William T. Sherman (insert 16). Civil War readers deserve better, particularly from Oxford University Press, a publisher widely accepted to be among the elite in academic publishing. Additionally, readers will either welcome Reid's erudite prose as evidence of a scholar with a commanding vocabulary or find it frustrating and unnecessary. Reid's efforts to explore Sherman's relationship with his subordinates succeeds in underscoring the animus felt toward John McClernand or the fickle relationship with Henry Halleck, but leaves the reader wanting more on the dynamics of other command

relations, including how Sherman's fellow officers and how "Uncle Billy's" soldiers viewed him. Still, Reid has offered a comprehensive biography that attempts a fresh, invigorated analysis of William T. Sherman. Whether or not Reid's biography stands among the magisterial works on the general, namely John Marszalek's *Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order* (1993), remains to be seen.

The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West, by Megan Kate Nelson. New York: Scribner, 2020. xx, 331. Map, notes, bibliography, index. \$28.00 hardcover.

Reviewer Courtney E. Buchkoski is Assistant Professor of History at Texas Woman's University. Her research focuses on the American West, the Civil War era, and religion. Her current project is titled, "The Evangelicals' Western Vision: Union, Emigration, and Empire in the Long Civil War Era."

In *The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West*, Megan Kate Nelson weaves the experiences of nine characters together to tell the story of the Civil War in New Mexico. She asserts that the conflict over the territory was not only between Confederates and Unionists, but also included Indigenous peoples. Their battle was not strictly ideological, as was the Civil War in the East, but it was also a struggle over the control of resources.

Examining the lesser known Southwest Theater of the war, Nelson fills in the gaps between the sporadic skirmishes of the Civil War in the West. Arguing that New Mexico was central to the federal government's plans during and after the war, she regales her readers with stories of a remote conflict, marked by poor communication and meager knowledge of the local desert environment. From the Confederate takeover of Arizona Territory and their occupation of major city centers like Santa Fe to the Union's strategic victory at Glorieta Pass, Nelson highlights the diverse perspectives of ordinary soldiers, women, Native Americans, and army officers.

Nelson presents the conflict in the West as one over the land and its Indigenous residents. She demonstrates that after the Union Army overturned the Confederate invasion of New Mexico they turned to the genocidal project of clearing the land of Apaches and Navajos. The Union's involvement in the West was not just about the short term defeat of the Confederacy, but about the long term goal of Republicans, who wanted to pave the way for the transcontinental railroads and the project of Manifest Destiny.

Nelson's project is ambitious and, at times, unclear. The nine stories weaving back and forth in time and space can be difficult for the reader