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# A History Of US: War, Terrible War: 1855-1865



## Synopsis

Recommended by the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy as an exemplary informational text. Riveting, moving, and impossible to put down, *War, Terrible War* takes us into the heart of the Civil War, from the battle of Manassas to the battle of Gettysburg and on to the South's surrender at Appomattox Court House. Follow the common soldiers in blue and gray as they endure long marches, freezing winter camps, and the bloodiest battles ever fought on American soil. Off the war fields, *War, Terrible War* captures the passion and commitment of abolitionists and slaveowners alike in their fiery debates throughout the land. With profiles of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, John Brown, Harriet Tubman, Jefferson Davis, soldiers on both sides, slave owners, abolitionists, average citizens, and others, *War, Terrible War* is the compelling story of a people affected by the horrors of war during this tragic and dramatic period in A History of US. About the Series: Master storyteller Joy Hakim has excited millions of young minds with the great drama of American history in her award-winning series *A History of US*. Recommended by the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy as an exemplary informational text, *A History of US* weaves together exciting stories that bring American history to life. Hailed by reviewers, historians, educators, and parents for its exciting, thought-provoking narrative, the books have been recognized as a break-through tool in teaching history and critical reading skills to young people. In ten books that span from Prehistory to the 21st century, young people will never think of American history as boring again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

About the series - A History of US: I wish I'd had Joy Hakim's series when I was in school. As a kid, I hated history. Until I began to connect with the personalities who made it all happen, I would have agreed with Henry Ford's assessment - "History is Bunk." I've learned that history is the story of people who made choices that have lasting consequences. It's not just about the past: it's about learning to look to the future and weighing the outcomes of today's choices. Joy Hakim underlines the importance of the individual's choices by weaving history around the stories of some surprising players - not all of whom are famous. Most reviewers assume she was writing for children, and the style and layout of the books are surely accessible to kids, but her books are great for anyone of any age who would like to re-discover the fascinating story of American History. Since we started reading this series, my home-schooled daughter has become a self-starter in History class. I myself have read the whole series just for pleasure. I've read some critiques of Hakim's bias, particularly in the later volumes. As a home-schooling parent, I want my daughter to learn to think critically, so I am not afraid to have her encounter bias and controversy. In any case, the news is full of it today, and so much of it is the outworking of historical forces. I'm there to help her think things through from cause to outcome. I believe that's one of the main reasons for studying history in the first place. I certainly wouldn't avoid this series for that reason. A suggestion for other home-schoolers: Instead of giving quizzes and tests, I'm having my daughter do the opposite. She is interested in becoming a teacher, so I'm having her make up quizzes and tests from the material.

"War, Terrible War: 1855-1865," the sixth volume in Joy Hakim's A History of US series, tells the story of the Civil War, although the author points out that there was nothing civil about it. Instead, Hakim favors Lincoln's notion that the purpose of the war was to give the nation a "new birth of freedom," and that becomes the thesis of the volume. Within these pages young readers will learn about the bloody conflict, beginning with the attack on Fort Sumter and the battle of Manassas to Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House and the assassination of President Lincoln. However, I have to admit I was a bit distracted because while I understood 1865 was the year the Civil War ended I was not sure what 1855 was supposed to signify as a starting point. The previous volume in

the series, "Liberty for All?" set up the slavery issue and created some overlap in covering the years 1820-1860. But why the year 1855? The Compromise of 1850 was in 1850, Harriet Beecher Stowe published "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in 1852, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was in 1854, the Dred Scott decision in 1857, the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, and John Brown's attack on Harpers Ferry in 1859. Off the top of my head I would say that the Republican Party might have been founded in 1855, since they put up their first candidate in 1856, but that is not mentioned in this volume. In fact, after a preface that sets the stage for the Civil War by recalling the infamous dinner in 1830 when President Andrew Jackson and his Vice President John C. Calhoun quarreled over the issue of Union, the first chapter of this book is devoted Southern states leaving the Union after Lincoln's election in 1860.

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