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# Access Free Dont Know Much About The Civil War Everything You Need To Americas Greatest Conflict But Never Learned Kenneth C Davis

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**KEY=C - EMILIO ZAYDEN**

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**DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR**

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**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AMERICA'S GREATEST CONFLICT BUT NEVER LEARNED**

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[Harper Perennial](#) Why did Abraham Lincoln sneak into Washington for his inauguration? Was the Gettysburg Address written on the back of an envelope? Where did the Underground Railroad run? Can you answer these questions? If not, you're not alone! New York Times bestselling author Kenneth C. Davis comes to the rescue, deftly sorting out the players, the politics, the key events -- Emancipation and Reconstruction, Shiloh and Gettysburg, Generals Grant and Lee, Harriet Beecher Stowe -- and providing little-known facts that will enthrall even learned Civil War buffs. Vivid, informative, and hugely entertaining, **Don't Know Much About® the Civil War** is the only book you'll ever need on "the war that never ended."

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[Harper Collins](#) "Highly informative and entertaining...propels the reader light years beyond dull textbooks and *Gone with the Wind*." —San Francisco Chronicle It has been 150 years since the opening salvo of America's War Between the States. New York Times bestselling author Ken Davis tells us everything we never knew about our nation's bloodiest conflict in **Don't Know Much About® the Civil War**—another fascinating and fun installment in his acclaimed series.

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**DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING**

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**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BUT NEVER LEARNED ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES, EVENTS, AND MORE!**

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[Harper Collins](#) In his wildly entertaining, winningly irreverent, New York Times bestselling **Don't Know Much About®** series, author Kenneth C. Davis has amused and edified us with fascinating facts about history, mythology, the Bible, the universe, geography, and the Civil War. Now, the sky's the limit in his latest irresistible installment—a grand tour of knowledge that carries us from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Berlin Wall, from the Salem Witch Trials to Watergate, from Michelangelo to Houdini. Brimming with busted myths, gripping true stories, and peculiar particulars about a plethora of people, places, and events, this captivating compendium is guaranteed to delight information lovers everywhere as it feeds our insatiable appetite to know everything!

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[Turtleback](#) Explains the causes, politics, and key events of the War between the States, from the introduction of slavery, through Gettysburg, to Reconstruction

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**DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY**

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[Harper Collins](#) Presents, in question and answer format, a history of the United States from the exploration of Christopher Columbus to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Simultaneous.

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**101 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR**

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## PLACES, BATTLES, GENERALS--ESSENTIAL FACTS ABOUT THE WAR THAT DIVIDED AMERICA

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[Simon and Schuster](#) **The Lowdown on America's Bloodiest War! Do you know: The name of the first state to secede from the Union? The individual who could be considered the Mata Hari of the Civil War? The Bible passage Southerners used most often to justify slavery? You'll find answers to these intriguing questions and more in 101 Things You Didn't Know about the Civil War. Packed with fascinating details about the people, places, and events that defined our nations most contentious conflict, this tell-all guide reveals the inside scoop on the: Issue of slavery and its impact on the war Great—and not-so-great—leaders and generals Battles fought and lost—and fought again Particular horrors of this war Women, children, and African Americans in the war Complete with a helpful timeline, 101 Things You Didn't Know about the Civil War is your go-to guide for facts of the war that dramatically altered the course of American history.**

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## DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT GEOGRAPHY

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## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD BUT NEVER LEARNED

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[Harper Collins](#) **Who Killed The Dead Sea? Where was the Garden of Eden? What's So Bad About the Badlands? Get on board as Kenneth C. Davis, author of the acclaimed national bestseller Don't Know Much About® History, takes us on a fascinating, breathtaking, and hilarious grand tour of the planet Earth -- opening our eyes and imaginations to a wide, wild, and wonderful world we never knew.**

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## DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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[HarperCollins](#) **Examines the childhood and youth, education, law career, family life, and presidency of Abraham Lincoln.**

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## WHAT THEY DIDN'T TEACH YOU ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR

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[Presidio Press](#) **Instant coffee was invented during the Civil War for use by Union troops, who hated it; holding races between lice was a popular pastime for both Johnny Reb and Billy Yank; 13% of the Confederate Army deserted during the conflict. These are three of the hundreds of bits of knowledge that Mike Wright makes available in his informative and entertaining What They Didn't Teach You About the Civil War, which focuses on the lives and ways of ordinary soldiers and of those they left behind.**

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## THE NEXT CIVIL WAR

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## DISPATCHES FROM THE AMERICAN FUTURE

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[Simon and Schuster](#) **The United States is coming to an end. The only question is how. "Should be required reading for anyone interested in preserving our 246-year experiment in self-government." —The New York Times Book Review \* "Well researched and eloquently presented." —The Atlantic \* "It's not a matter of if but when: A civil war is on the way...In a time of torment, this is a book well worth reading." —Kirkus Reviews In this deeply researched work of speculative nonfiction that reads like Ezra Klein's Why We're Polarized crossed with David Wallace-Wells's The Uninhabitable Earth, a celebrated journalist takes a fiercely divided America and imagines five chilling scenarios that lead to its collapse, based on in-depth interviews with experts of all kinds. On a small two-lane bridge in a rural county that loathes the federal government, the US Army uses lethal force to end a standoff with hard-right anti-government patriots. Inside an ordinary diner, a disaffected young man with a handgun takes aim at the American president stepping in for an impromptu photo-op, and a bullet splits the hyper-partisan country into violently opposed mourners and revelers. In New York City, a Category 2 hurricane plunges entire neighborhoods underwater and creates millions of refugees overnight—a blow that comes on the heels of a financial crash and years of catastrophic droughts— and tips America over the edge into ruin. These nightmarish scenarios are just three of the five possibilities most likely to spark devastating chaos in the United States that are brought to life in The Next Civil War, a chilling and deeply researched work of speculative nonfiction. Drawing upon sophisticated predictive models and nearly two hundred interviews with experts—civil war scholars, military leaders, law enforcement officials, secret service agents, agricultural specialists, environmentalists, war historians, and political scientists—journalist Stephen Marche predicts the terrifying future collapse that so many of us do not want to see unfolding in front of our eyes. Marche has spoken with soldiers and counterinsurgency experts about what it would take to control the population of the United States, and the battle plans for the next civil war have already been drawn up. Not by novelists, but by colonels. No matter your political leaning, most of us can sense that America is barreling toward catastrophe—of one kind or another. Relevant and revelatory, The Next Civil War plainly breaks down the looming threats to America and is a must-read for anyone concerned about the future of its people, its land, and its government.**

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## DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY

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[HarperCollins](#) **Was Columbus the first European in the Americas? What sport became more popular after the Civil War? Were the Little Rock Nine a rock-and-roll band? As best-selling author Kenneth C. Davis knows, history can be fun, fascinating, and memorable. When his don't know much about® history was published in 1990, it was a sensation. The book delivered a fresh take on history with its wit and unusual detail. Davis now does for young people what his earlier book did for adults. In his trademark question-and-answer style -- peppered with surprising facts, historic reproductions, and Matt Faulkner's lively illustrations -- Davis introduces our ancestors who settled the East and expanded the West, as well as those who had been living here all along. His sure touch brings the drama and excitement of the American story vividly to life.**

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## HOW CIVIL WARS START

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### AND HOW TO STOP THEM

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**Crown** **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • A leading political scientist examines the dramatic rise in violent extremism around the globe and sounds the alarm on the increasing likelihood of a second civil war in the United States “Required reading for anyone invested in preserving our 246-year experiment in self-government.”—The New York Times Book Review **ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF 2022 SO FAR:** Esquire, Financial Times Political violence rips apart several towns in southwest Texas. A far-right militia plots to kidnap the governor of Michigan and try her for treason. An armed mob of Trump supporters and conspiracy theorists storms the U.S. Capitol. Are these isolated incidents? Or is this the start of something bigger? Barbara F. Walter has spent her career studying civil conflict in places like Iraq, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka, but now she has become increasingly worried about her own country. Perhaps surprisingly, both autocracies and healthy democracies are largely immune from civil war; it’s the countries in the middle ground that are most vulnerable. And this is where more and more countries, including the United States, are finding themselves today. Over the last two decades, the number of active civil wars around the world has almost doubled. Walter reveals the warning signs—where wars tend to start, who initiates them, what triggers them—and why some countries tip over into conflict while others remain stable. Drawing on the latest international research and lessons from over twenty countries, Walter identifies the crucial risk factors, from democratic backsliding to factionalization and the politics of resentment. A civil war today won’t look like America in the 1860s, Russia in the 1920s, or Spain in the 1930s. It will begin with sporadic acts of violence and terror, accelerated by social media. It will sneak up on us and leave us wondering how we could have been so blind. In this urgent and insightful book, Walter redefines civil war for a new age, providing the framework we need to confront the danger we now face—and the knowledge to stop it before it’s too late.

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## THE BLACK FLOWER

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### A NOVEL OF THE CIVIL WAR

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**Open Road Media** A Confederate soldier confronts the horror of battle and the power of grace in this “poignant, haunting, and important” novel of the Civil War (*The Tennessean*, Nashville). A New York Times Notable Book and Winner of the William Boyd Award for Best Military Novel In November 1864, Gen. John Bell Hood’s Army of Tennessee prepares to launch an assault on Union forces near Franklin, Tennessee. Dirty, exhausted, and hungry, the Confederate soldiers form a line of battle across an open field. Among them stands Pvt. Bushrod Carter, a twenty-six-year-old rifleman from Cumberland, Mississippi. Against all odds, Bushrod has survived three years of war unscathed—but his luck is about to run out. Wounded in the battle, Bushrod is taken to a makeshift hospital on a nearby plantation. There, he falls under the care of Anna Hereford, who bears her own scars from years of relentless bloodshed and tragedy. In the grisly aftermath of one of the Confederate army’s most disastrous campaigns, Anna and Bushrod seek salvation and understanding in each other. Their fragile bond carries with it the hope of a life beyond the war, and the risk of a pain too devastating to endure. Written with profound empathy and meticulous attention to historical detail, *The Black Flower* brilliantly portrays the staggering human toll of America’s bloodiest conflict. In his award-winning debut novel, “Howard Bahr casts a tale of war as powerful as any you’ll ever find” (*Southern Living*).

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## DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

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### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MOST POWERFUL OFFICE ON EARTH AND THE MEN WHO HAVE OCCUPIED IT

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Charts the course of each U.S. president's term, presenting biographical information, administration milestones, and an analysis of each leader's legacy as commander-in-chief.

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## DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE BIBLE

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### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE GOOD BOOK BUT NEVER LEARNED

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**Harper Collins** With wit, wisdom, and an extraordinary talent for turning dry, difficult reading into colorful and realistic accounts, the creator of the bestselling *Don't Know Much About®*, series now brings the world of the Old and New testaments to life as no one else can in the bestseller *Don't Know Much About® The Bible*. Relying on new research and improved translations, Davis uncovers some amazing questions and contradictions about what the Bible really says. Jericho's walls may have tumbled down because the city lies on a fault line. Moses never parted the Red Sea. There was a Jesus, but he wasn't born on Christmas and he probably wasn't an only child. Davis brings readers up-to-date on findings gleaned from the Dead Sea Scrolls and Gnostic Gospels that prompt serious scholars to ask such serious questions as: Who wrote the Bible? Did Jesus say everything we were taught he did? Did he say more? By examining the Bible historically, Davis entertains and amazes, provides a much better understanding of the subject, and offers much more fun learning about it.

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## THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TRIVIA BOOK

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## INTERESTING AMERICAN CIVIL WAR STORIES YOU DIDN'T KNOW

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[Lak Publishing](#) **The American Civil War Trivia Book** is an entertaining, instructive and interesting Trivia & Facts book about the American Civil War. This book will lead you, step-by-step, through the causes of the Civil War, and the effects. Each chapter ends with a bonus of trivia and some quick questions to test your knowledge.

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## DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MYTHOLOGY

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## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE GREATEST STORIES IN HUMAN HISTORY BUT NEVER LEARNED

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[Harper Collins](#) In this fascinating installment of the New York Times bestselling Don't Know Much About® series, **Kenneth C. Davis** explores the great myths of the world and their implications for art, science, religion and culture throughout history. What is an Egyptian pyramid doing on the U. S. dollar bill? • Did a pharaoh inspire Moses to worship one God? • What's a Canaanite demoness doing at a rock concert? Since the beginning of time, people have been insatiably curious. They've asked questions about where we come from, why the stars shine and the seasons change, and what constitutes evil. The imaginative answers crafted by our ancestors have served as religion, science, philosophy, and popular literature. In an engaging and delightfully irreverent question-and-answer style, Davis tackles the epic of Gilgamesh; Achilles and the Trojan War; Stonehenge and the Druids; Odin, Thor, and the entire Norse pantheon; Native American myths, and much more, including the dramatic life and times of the man who would be Buddha. From Mount Olympus to Machu Picchu, here is an insightful, lively look at the greatest stories ever told.

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## THE WAR WITHIN

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### A NOVEL OF THE CIVIL WAR

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[Simon and Schuster](#) In 1862, after Union forces expel Hannah's family from Holly Springs, Mississippi, because they are Jews, Hannah reexamines her views regarding slavery and the war.

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## TWO MISERABLE PRESIDENTS

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## EVERYTHING YOUR SCHOOLBOOKS DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR

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[Roaring Brook Press](#) **May 22, 1856: A MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA WALKS INTO THE SENATE CHAMBER, LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.** That Congressman, Preston Brooks, was ready to attack Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts over remarks Sumner made slamming senators who supported slavery in Kansas. Brooks lifted his cane to beat Sumner, and here the action in the book stops, so that Steve Sheinkin can explain just where this confrontation started. In the process, he unravels the complicated string of events - the small things, the personal ones, the big issues- that led to The Civil War. It is a time and a war that threatened America's very existence, revealed in the surprising true stories of the soldiers and statesmen who battled it out. *Two Miserable Presidents* is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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## THE FIELD OF BLOOD

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## VIOLENCE IN CONGRESS AND THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR

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[Farrar, Straus and Giroux](#) The previously untold story of the violence in Congress that helped spark the Civil War In *The Field of Blood*, Joanne B. Freeman recovers the long-lost story of physical violence on the floor of the U.S. Congress. Drawing on an extraordinary range of sources, she shows that the Capitol was rife with conflict in the decades before the Civil War. Legislative sessions were often punctuated by mortal threats, canings, flipped desks, and all-out slugfests. When debate broke down, congressmen drew pistols and waved Bowie knives. One representative even killed another in a duel. Many were beaten and bullied in an attempt to intimidate them into compliance, particularly on the issue of slavery. These fights didn't happen in a vacuum. Freeman's dramatic accounts of brawls and thrashings tell a larger story of how fisticuffs and journalism, and the powerful emotions they elicited, raised tensions between North and South and led toward war. In the process, she brings the antebellum Congress to life, revealing its rough realities—the feel, sense, and sound of it—as well as its nation-shaping import. Funny, tragic, and rivetingly told, *The Field of Blood* offers a front-row view of congressional mayhem and sheds new light on the careers of John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, and other luminaries, as well as introducing a host of lesser-known but no less fascinating men. The result is a fresh understanding of the workings of American democracy and the bonds of Union on the eve of their greatest peril.

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## SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

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## THE RE-ENSLAVEMENT OF BLACK AMERICANS FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO WORLD WAR TWO

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[Icon Books](#) A Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the mistreatment of black Americans. In this 'precise and eloquent work' - as described in its Pulitzer Prize citation - Douglas A. Blackmon brings to light one of the most shameful chapters in American history - an 'Age of Neoslavery' that thrived in the aftermath of the Civil War through the dawn of World War II. Using a vast record of original documents and personal narratives, Blackmon unearths the lost stories of slaves and their descendants who journeyed into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation and then back into the shadow of involuntary servitude thereafter. By turns moving, sobering and shocking, this unprecedented account reveals these

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stories, the companies that profited the most from neoslavery, and the insidious legacy of racism that reverberates today.

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### **IF THE CREEK DON'T RISE**

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[Houghton Mifflin Harcourt](#) A niece of an African-American widow and sharecropper describes how she was placed in her aunt's custody at the age of four, the racial factors that compromised their family's efforts to find freedom and independence in the west, and her witness to her aunt's triumphant self discovery in the Colorado Rockies. Reprint.

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### **IF YOU LIVED AT THE TIME OF THE CIVIL WAR**

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Describes what life was like, both in the North, or Union States, and South, or Confederate States, during the Civil War

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### **THE HISTORY BUFF'S GUIDE TO THE CIVIL WAR**

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[Cumberland House Publishing](#) Presents annotated lists of facts on Civil War topics such as political issues, military life, changes in society, life on the home front, heroes and heroines, and Civil War study today.

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### **SICK FROM FREEDOM**

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### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN ILLNESS AND SUFFERING DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION**

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[Oxford University Press](#) Bondspeople who fled from slavery during and after the Civil War did not expect that their flight toward freedom would lead to sickness, disease, suffering, and death. But the war produced the largest biological crisis of the nineteenth century, and as historian Jim Downs reveals in this groundbreaking volume, it had deadly consequences for hundreds of thousands of freed people. In *Sick from Freedom*, Downs recovers the untold story of one of the bitterest ironies in American history--that the emancipation of the slaves, seen as one of the great turning points in U.S. history, had devastating consequences for innumerable freed people. Drawing on massive new research into the records of the Medical Division of the Freedmen's Bureau--a nascent national health system that cared for more than one million freed slaves--he shows how the collapse of the plantation economy released a plague of lethal diseases. With emancipation, African Americans seized the chance to move, migrating as never before. But in their journey to freedom, they also encountered yellow fever, smallpox, cholera, dysentery, malnutrition, and exposure. To address this crisis, the Medical Division hired more than 120 physicians, establishing some forty underfinanced and understaffed hospitals scattered throughout the South, largely in response to medical emergencies. Downs shows that the goal of the Medical Division was to promote a healthy workforce, an aim which often excluded a wide range of freedpeople, including women, the elderly, the physically disabled, and children. Downs concludes by tracing how the Reconstruction policy was then implemented in the American West, where it was disastrously applied to Native Americans. The widespread medical calamity sparked by emancipation is an overlooked episode of the Civil War and its aftermath, poignantly revealed in *Sick from Freedom*.

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### **DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THOMAS JEFFERSON**

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[HarperTrophy](#) Did young Thomas Jefferson like to fiddle? What sweet treat did he discover in Italy? Whom did Jefferson send to map the West? Best-selling author Kenneth C. Davis tells the story of one extraordinary man who shaped our young nation. Besides serving as president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson also made his mark in the fields of architecture, philosophy, and science. In this stellar biography, Davis weaves a smooth, flowing narrative into his trademark question-and-answer format, peppering the text with informational sidebars and compelling quotes. Maps, reproductions from the period, and striking black-and-white illustrations by Rob Shepperson help capture the amazing diversity of Jefferson's talents, as well as the vitality of these revolutionary times.

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### **DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY**

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### **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY BUT NEVER LEARNED**

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[Harper Collins](#) A new, completely revised, expanded and updated edition of the million-selling New York Times bestseller that launched the entire Don't Know Much About® series When Don't Know Much About® History first appeared thirteen years ago, it created a sensation. With humor, wit, great stories, and a trademark conversational style, the book brought Americans a fresh new take on history. Shattering myths and vividly bringing the past to life, it spent thirty-five consecutive weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Davis proved that Americans don't hate history -- they just hate the dull textbook version they were force-fed in school. The book became an instant classic, an "anti-textbook" that has sold more than 1.3 million copies. In his irreverent and popular question-and-answer style, Davis now returns with a completely revised edition that brings history right up to the moment -- covering such topics as the end of the Cold War, Clinton's impeachment, the bizarre election of 2000, and the events that led to September 11. Incorporating new research and discoveries, Davis also updates and expands on such long-standing American controversies as the Jefferson-Hemings affair, the Alger Hiss trial, and the Rosenberg spy case. And he includes an expanded "civics lesson" that examines some of America's hottest social and political issues, such as the death penalty, gun control, and school prayer. For history buffs and history-phobes alike, longtime fans who need a refresher course, and for a new generation of Americans who are still in the dark about America's past, Davis proves once more why *People* magazine said, "Reading him is like returning to the classroom of the best teacher you ever had."

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## THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS

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### 1640-1660

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Weidenfeld & Nicolson A brilliant appraisal of the Civil War and its long-term consequences, by an acclaimed historian. The political upheaval of the mid-seventeenth century has no parallel in English history. Other events have changed the occupancy and the powers of the throne, but the conflict of 1640-60 was more dramatic: the monarchy and the House of Lords were abolished, to be replaced by a republic and military rule. In this wonderfully readable account, Blair Worden explores the events of this period and their origins - the war between King and Parliament, the execution of Charles I, Cromwell's rule and the Restoration - while aiming to reveal something more elusive: the motivations of contemporaries on both sides and the concerns of later generations.

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### DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WORLD MYTHS

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Harper Collins Offers a question-and-answer format to introduce young readers to myths and legends from around the world, including stories from the Mediterranean world, the Far East, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

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## THE SWEETNESS OF WATER (OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB)

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### A NOVEL

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Little, Brown An Instant New York Times bestseller / An Oprah's Book Club Pick In the spirit of *The Known World* and *The Underground Railroad*, an award-winning "miraculous debut" (*Washington Post*) about the unlikely bond between two freedmen who are brothers and the Georgia farmer whose alliance will alter their lives, and his, forever In the waning days of the Civil War, brothers Prentiss and Landry—freed by the Emancipation Proclamation—seek refuge on the homestead of George Walker and his wife, Isabelle. The Walkers, wracked by the loss of their only son to the war, hire the brothers to work their farm, hoping through an unexpected friendship to stanch their grief. Prentiss and Landry, meanwhile, plan to save money for the journey north and a chance to reunite with their mother, who was sold away when they were boys. Parallel to their story runs a forbidden romance between two Confederate soldiers. The young men, recently returned from the war to the town of Old Ox, hold their trysts in the woods. But when their secret is discovered, the resulting chaos, including a murder, unleashes convulsive repercussions on the entire community. In the aftermath of so much turmoil, it is Isabelle who emerges as an unlikely leader, proffering a healing vision for the land and for the newly free citizens of Old Ox. With candor and sympathy, debut novelist Nathan Harris creates an unforgettable cast of characters, depicting Georgia in the violent crucible of Reconstruction. Equal parts beauty and terror, as gripping as it is moving, *The Sweetness of Water* is an epic whose grandeur locates humanity and love amid the most harrowing circumstances. One of President Obama's Favorite Books of 2021 Winner of the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence Winner of the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize Shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize Shortlisted for the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award Longlisted for the 2022 Carnegie Medal for Excellence Longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize Longlisted for the Crook's Corner Book Prize A Best Book of the Year: Oprah Daily, NPR, Washington Post, Time, Boston Globe, Smithsonian, Chicago Public Library, BookBrowse, and the Oregonian A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice A July 2021 Indie Next Pick

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## WAYS AND MEANS

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### LINCOLN AND HIS CABINET AND THE FINANCING OF THE CIVIL WAR

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Penguin "Captivating . . . [Lowenstein] makes what subsequently occurred at Treasury and on Wall Street during the early 1860s seem as enthralling as what transpired on the battlefield or at the White House." —Harold Holzer, *Wall Street Journal* "Ways and Means, an account of the Union's financial policies, examines a subject long overshadowed by military narratives . . . Lowenstein is a lucid stylist, able to explain financial matters to readers who lack specialized knowledge." —Eric Foner, *New York Times Book Review* From renowned journalist and master storyteller Roger Lowenstein, a revelatory financial investigation into how Lincoln and his administration used the funding of the Civil War as the catalyst to centralize the government and accomplish the most far-reaching reform in the country's history Upon his election to the presidency, Abraham Lincoln inherited a country in crisis. Even before the Confederacy's secession, the United States Treasury had run out of money. The government had no authority to raise taxes, no federal bank, no currency. But amid unprecedented troubles Lincoln saw opportunity—the chance to legislate in the centralizing spirit of the "more perfect union" that had first drawn him to politics. With Lincoln at the helm, the United States would now govern "for" its people: it would enact laws, establish a currency, raise armies, underwrite transportation and higher education, assist farmers, and impose taxes for them. Lincoln believed this agenda would foster the economic opportunity he had always sought for upwardly striving Americans, and which he would seek in particular for enslaved Black Americans. Salmon Chase, Lincoln's vanquished rival and his new secretary of the Treasury, waged war on the financial front, levying taxes and marketing bonds while desperately battling to contain wartime inflation. And while the Union and Rebel armies fought increasingly savage battles, the Republican-led Congress enacted a blizzard of legislation that made the government, for the first time, a powerful presence in the lives of ordinary Americans. The impact was revolutionary. The activist 37th Congress legislated for homesteads and a transcontinental railroad and involved the federal government in education, agriculture, and eventually immigration policy. It established a progressive income tax and created the greenback—paper money. While the Union became self-

sustaining, the South plunged into financial free fall, having failed to leverage its cotton wealth to finance the war. Founded in a crucible of anticontralism, the Confederacy was trapped in a static (and slave-based) agrarian economy without federal taxing power or other means of government financing, save for its overworked printing presses. This led to an epic collapse. Though Confederate troops continued to hold their own, the North's financial advantage over the South, where citizens increasingly went hungry, proved decisive; the war was won as much (or more) in the respective treasuries as on the battlefields. Roger Lowenstein reveals the largely untold story of how Lincoln used the urgency of the Civil War to transform a union of states into a nation. Through a financial lens, he explores how this second American revolution, led by Lincoln, his cabinet, and a Congress studded with towering statesmen, changed the direction of the country and established a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

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### WHAT THEY DIDN'T TEACH YOU ABOUT THE WILD WEST

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[Presidio Press](#) Collects little-known stories about the heroes and scoundrels of the wild West, revealing what really happened to Butch Cassidy, Calamity Jane, Buffalo Bill, Crazy Horse, Geronimo, and the Yellow Rose of Texas.

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### FOR CAUSE AND COMRADES

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### WHY MEN FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR

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[Oxford University Press](#) General John A. Wickham, commander of the famous 101st Airborne Division in the 1970s and subsequently Army Chief of Staff, once visited Antietam battlefield. Gazing at Bloody Lane where, in 1862, several Union assaults were brutally repulsed before they finally broke through, he marveled, "You couldn't get American soldiers today to make an attack like that." Why did those men risk certain death, over and over again, through countless bloody battles and four long, awful years? Why did the conventional wisdom -- that soldiers become increasingly cynical and disillusioned as war progresses -- not hold true in the Civil War? It is to this question--why did they fight--that James McPherson, America's preeminent Civil War historian, now turns his attention. He shows that, contrary to what many scholars believe, the soldiers of the Civil War remained powerfully convinced of the ideals for which they fought throughout the conflict. Motivated by duty and honor, and often by religious faith, these men wrote frequently of their firm belief in the cause for which they fought: the principles of liberty, freedom, justice, and patriotism. Soldiers on both sides harkened back to the Founding Fathers, and the ideals of the American Revolution. They fought to defend their country, either the Union--"the best Government ever made"--or the Confederate states, where their very homes and families were under siege. And they fought to defend their honor and manhood. "I should not like to go home with the name of a coward," one Massachusetts private wrote, and another private from Ohio said, "My wife would sooner hear of my death than my disgrace." Even after three years of bloody battles, more than half of the Union soldiers reenlisted voluntarily. "While duty calls me here and my country demands my services I should be willing to make the sacrifice," one man wrote to his protesting parents. And another soldier said simply, "I still love my country." McPherson draws on more than 25,000 letters and nearly 250 private diaries from men on both sides. Civil War soldiers were among the most literate soldiers in history, and most of them wrote home frequently, as it was the only way for them to keep in touch with homes that many of them had left for the first time in their lives. Significantly, their letters were also uncensored by military authorities, and are uniquely frank in their criticism and detailed in their reports of marches and battles, relations between officers and men, political debates, and morale. For Cause and Comrades lets these soldiers tell their own stories in their own words to create an account that is both deeply moving and far truer than most books on war. *Battle Cry of Freedom*, McPherson's Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the Civil War, was a national bestseller that Hugh Brogan, in *The New York Times*, called "history writing of the highest order." For Cause and Comrades deserves similar accolades, as McPherson's masterful prose and the soldiers' own words combine to create both an important book on an often-overlooked aspect of our bloody Civil War, and a powerfully moving account of the men who fought it.

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### LINCOLN AND THE FIGHT FOR PEACE

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[Simon and Schuster](#) A groundbreaking, revelatory history of Abraham Lincoln's plan to secure a just and lasting peace after the Civil War—a vision that inspired future presidents as well as the world's most famous peacemakers, including Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a story of war and peace, race and reconciliation. As the tide of the Civil War turned in the spring of 1865, Abraham Lincoln took a dangerous two-week trip to visit the troops on the front lines accompanied by his young son, seeing combat up close, meeting liberated slaves in the ruins of Richmond, and comforting wounded Union and Confederate soldiers. The power of Lincoln's personal example in the closing days of the war offers a portrait of a peacemaker. He did not demonize people he disagreed with. He used humor, logic, and scripture to depolarize bitter debates. Balancing moral courage with moderation, Lincoln believed that decency could be the most practical form of politics, but he understood that people were more inclined to listen to reason when greeted from a position of strength. Ulysses S. Grant's famously generous terms of surrender to General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox that April were a direct expression of the president's belief that a soft peace should follow a hard war. While his assassination sent the country careening off course, Lincoln's vision would be vindicated long after his death, inspiring future generations in their own quests to secure a just and lasting peace. As US General Lucius Clay, architect of the post-WWII German occupation, said when asked what guided his decisions: "I tried to think of the kind of occupation the South would have had if Abraham Lincoln had lived." *Lincoln and the Fight for Peace* reveals how Lincoln's character informed his commitment to unconditional surrender followed by a magnanimous peace. Even during the Civil War, surrounded by reactionaries and radicals, he refused to back down

from his belief that there is more that unites us than divides us. But he also understood that peace needs to be waged with as much intensity as war. Lincoln's plan to win the peace is his unfinished symphony, but in its existing notes, we can find an anthem that can begin to bridge our divisions today.

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## **DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE**

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### **EVEN MORE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BUT NEVER LEARNED ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES, EVENTS, AND MORE!**

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[Harper Perennial](#) For years, Kenneth C. Davis has enlightened and enthralled us, opening our minds and tickling our fancies with his wonderfully irreverent, fun, and factual Don't Know Much About® books. He has carried readers on wild and edifying rides through history, mythology, geography, the Bible, the Civil War, even across the universe. Now, following on the heels of his triumphant New York Times bestseller Don't Know Much About® Anything, comes Don't Know Much About® Anything Else, his latest one-stop potpourri of intriguing information. Chock-full of delightful historical snippets and fascinating people, remarkable milestones and boneheaded blunders, and eye-opening, brain-boggling facts about simply anything and everything in the world, here is the ideal companion for those long car rides, plane flights, quality family hours, or relaxing downtime.

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## **THE BOOK OF GENERAL IGNORANCE**

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[Crown Archetype](#) **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • Misconceptions, misunderstandings, and flawed facts finally get the heave-ho in this humorous, downright humiliating book of reeducation based on the phenomenal British bestseller. Challenging what most of us assume to be verifiable truths in areas like history, literature, science, nature, and more, *The Book of General Ignorance* is a witty “gotcha” compendium of how little we actually know about anything. It'll have you scratching your head wondering why we even bother to go to school. Think Magellan was the first man to circumnavigate the globe, baseball was invented in America, Henry VIII had six wives, Mount Everest is the tallest mountain? Wrong, wrong, wrong, and wrong again. You'll be surprised at how much you don't know! Check out *The Book of General Ignorance* for more fun entries and complete answers to the following: How long can a chicken live without its head? About two years. What do chameleons do? They don't change color to match the background. Never have; never will. Complete myth. Utter fabrication. Total Lie. They change color as a result of different emotional states. How many legs does a centipede have? Not a hundred. How many toes has a two-toed sloth? It's either six or eight. Who was the first American president? Peyton Randolph. What were George Washington's false teeth made from? Mostly hippopotamus. What was James Bond's favorite drink? Not the vodka martini.

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## **IT WASN'T ABOUT SLAVERY**

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### **EXPOSING THE GREAT LIE OF THE CIVIL WAR**

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[Simon and Schuster](#) **The Great Lie of the Civil War** If you think the Civil War was fought to end slavery, you've been duped. In fact, as distinguished military historian Samuel Mitcham argues in his provocative new book, *It Wasn't About Slavery*, no political party advocated freeing the slaves in the presidential election of 1860. The Republican Party platform opposed the expansion of slavery to the western states, but it did not embrace abolition. The real cause of the war was a dispute over money and self-determination. Before the Civil War, the South financed most of the federal government—because the federal government was funded by tariffs, which were paid disproportionately by the agricultural South that imported manufactured goods. Yet, most federal government spending and subsidies benefited the North. The South wanted a more limited federal government and lower tariffs—the ideals of Thomas Jefferson—and when the South could not get that, it opted for independence. Lincoln was unprepared when the Southern states seceded, and force was the only way to bring them—and their tariff money—back. That was the real cause of the war. A well-documented and compelling read by a master historian, *It Wasn't About Slavery* will change the way you think about Abraham Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the cause and legacy of America's momentous Civil War.

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## **ENDS OF WAR**

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### **THE UNFINISHED FIGHT OF LEE'S ARMY AFTER APPOMATTOX**

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[UNC Press Books](#) **The Army of Northern Virginia's** chaotic dispersal began even before Lee and Grant met at Appomattox Court House. As the Confederates had pushed west at a relentless pace for nearly a week, thousands of wounded and exhausted men fell out of the ranks. When word spread that Lee planned to surrender, most remaining troops stacked their arms and accepted paroles allowing them to return home, even as they lamented the loss of their country and cause. But others broke south and west, hoping to continue the fight. Fearing a guerrilla war, Grant extended the generous Appomattox terms to every rebel who would surrender himself. Provost marshals fanned out across Virginia and beyond, seeking nearly 18,000 of Lee's men who had yet to surrender. But the shock of Lincoln's assassination led Northern authorities to see threats of new rebellion in every rail depot and harbor where Confederates gathered for transport, even among those already paroled. While Federal troops struggled to keep order and sustain a fragile peace, their newly surrendered adversaries seethed with anger and confusion at the sight of Union troops occupying their towns and former slaves celebrating freedom. In this dramatic new history of the weeks and months after Appomattox, Caroline E. Janney reveals that Lee's surrender was less an ending than the start of an interregnum marked by military and political uncertainty, legal and logistical confusion, and continued outbursts of violence. Janney takes readers from the deliberations of government and military authorities to the ground-level experiences of common soldiers. Ultimately, what unfolds is the messy birth narrative of the Lost Cause, laying the groundwork for

the defiant resilience of rebellion in the years that followed.

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## **STUFF THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW**

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Flatiron Books **"Interesting...Bowlin's calmly rational approach to the subject of conspiracy theories shows the importance of logic and evidence."**—Booklist **"A page-turning book to give to someone who believes in pizza pedophilia or that the Illuminati rule the world."**—Kirkus Reviews The co-hosts of the hit podcast *Stuff They Don't Want You to Know*, Ben Bowlin, Matthew Frederick, & Noel Brown, discern conspiracy fact from fiction in this sharp, humorous, compulsively readable, and gorgeously illustrated book. In times of chaos and uncertainty, when trust is low and economic disparity is high, when political institutions are crumbling and cultural animosities are building, conspiracy theories find fertile ground. Many are wild, most are untrue, a few are hard to ignore, but all of them share one vital trait: there's a seed of truth at their center. That seed carries the sordid, conspiracy-riddled history of our institutions and corporations woven into its DNA. Ben Bowlin, Matt Frederick, and Noel Brown host the popular iHeart Media podcast, *Stuff They Don't Want You To Know*. They are experts at exploring, explaining, and interrogating today's emergent conspiracies—from chem trails and biological testing to the secrets of lobbying and the indisputable evidence of UFOs. Written in a smart, witty, and conversational style, elevated with amazing illustrations, *Stuff They Don't Want You to Know* is a vital book in understanding the nature of conspiracy and using truth as a powerful weapon against ignorance, misinformation, and lies.