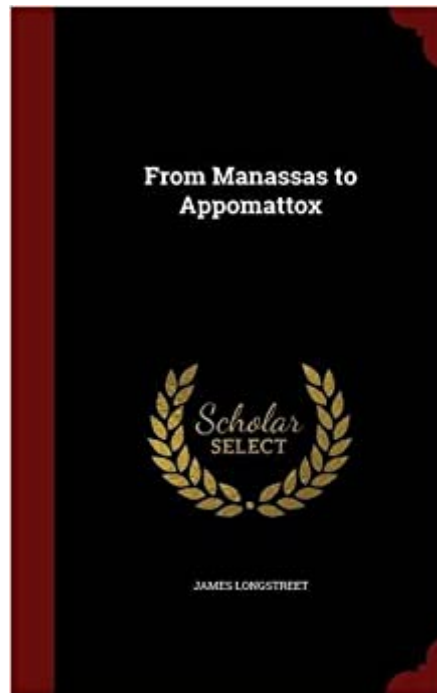




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From Manassas To Appomattox



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Customer Reviews

James Longstreet (1821-1904) was one of the foremost Confederate generals of the American Civil War and the principal subordinate to General Robert E. Lee, who called him his "Old War Horse." He also enjoyed a successful post-war career working for the U.S. Government as a diplomat, civil servant, and administrator.

This is an excellent book written by General Longstreet himself (with help of course). It gives a very

detailed day to day account of the Civil War. General Longstreet is a very articulate, matter-of-fact person. His perspective on the many battles he was in is very interesting and enlightening. His stature throughout much of the deep South is not regarded highly; however, much of this is due to exceptions taken by other officers that he was critical of and the fact that he put aside the war as much as possible and got on with his life. This included working for President (General) Grant with whom he was a lifelong friend. Many throughout the South regarded this as almost treasonous. It is very likely the reason he is not on the Stone Mountain Memorial. Frankly, my opinion is he should be. He was instrumental in many battles and was regarded by General Lee as his "old war horse". I recommend this book to anyone interested in the Civil War.

“From Manassas to Appomattox” by James Longstreet This book is the memoir(s) of Confederate General James Longstreet, the general whom, excepting Stonewall Jackson, was the man most trusted and relied upon by Robert E. Lee during the Civil War. After the war, the “Let’s deify Lee” crowd (led chiefly by former Confederate Jubal Early) tried to use Longstreet as the scapegoat for some of Lee’s failures.... partly because Longstreet had the candor to say publicly that Lee (and Jackson) had their faults and made mistakes (eg the 7-days war, Gettysburg, et al). Longstreet in his book does a pretty good job of describing the Confederate army’s life up to Gettysburg but from there he drifts a bit into a lengthy defense of himself against the claims of Early and his friends. At times he sounds almost petulant, and maybe he was since he rendered loyal (if candid) service for four years and then was “thanked” by being made the goat. In all, it’s a good read.

I rate the book itself 'Five Stars' because it is an outstanding presentation of many of the key battles of the Civil War by one of its foremost participants. Though written over a hundred years ago, the language is clear and concise. Especially helpful are the summaries of units involved at the end of each battle described. However, it is sometimes difficult to keep track of the various officers mentioned in the text without resorting to another source: is this one a Confederate? A Union general? Does II Corps refer to a Union unit or a Confederate unit? This particular edition has no maps or other illustrations to aid the reader, and no page numbers. Those are crucial omissions. My recommendation is to forgo purchase of this offering and access the free versions- with maps, illustrations and page numbers- available at various internet sites.

I grew up hearing stories about General Longstreet. And along with most of the Confederate

Generals he was one of the best. General Jackson may have been Lee's Right arm, in the precursor to shock and awe, Longstreet was the man who Lee could use to fix the Army of the Potomac, and if he would have been supported in Tennessee, he would have routed the Western Union Armies. His tactics today, are still looked at during planning for Operations. Operation Longstreet in Iraq in August 2003 by 1st Brigade 1st Armored Division, took into account, on how to take a Brigade from the east side of Baghdad and deploy it West of Baghdad, without raising alarms of insurgents. It followed those same principals used when Longstreets Corp moved from Virginia to South of the Chickamauga River. These seniors should be required reading for any future officer entering the military services.

Longstreet was Lee's top leader and as a younger man he lived nearly a generation after Lee's death. This gave him an opportunity to re-establish himself with his old friend Grant and write a memoir to ensure his place when his colleagues put the blame on him. Warning about this version of Longstreet's memoirs: This is the public domain book so huge sections are missing. I don't know how this works but I would recommend you buy the complete page turner. This skips pages in the middle of chapters and whole chapters. In any case Longstreet writes well. He does not seem that focused on his legacy but tells a good story. Grant is a better writer with his clipped factual style but Longstreet fills us in on Lee, Jackson, and the others. He was there at the beginning in Bull Run, did a short spell in the west (people forget about that) and went with Lee to see Grant on the last day.

This is an interesting look at the Civil War as experienced by General James Longstreet. You really need a map to follow along as he details battle after troop movement after battle ... You can kind of get the idea of what he's saying, but a map (not included in Kindle edition :() would be very helpful, especially if you have no familiarity with that area. His style of writing is dated, as you'd expect from something written in the late-1800s, but it's still quite readable. In several places, Longstreet defends himself from accusations and erroneous reports made by other authors who weren't there. I think he makes a good case for himself, and he doesn't come off as whining, which would have been so easy. All in all, I enjoyed it. I think next time I read it, I'll be sure to keep an atlas by my side, though.

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