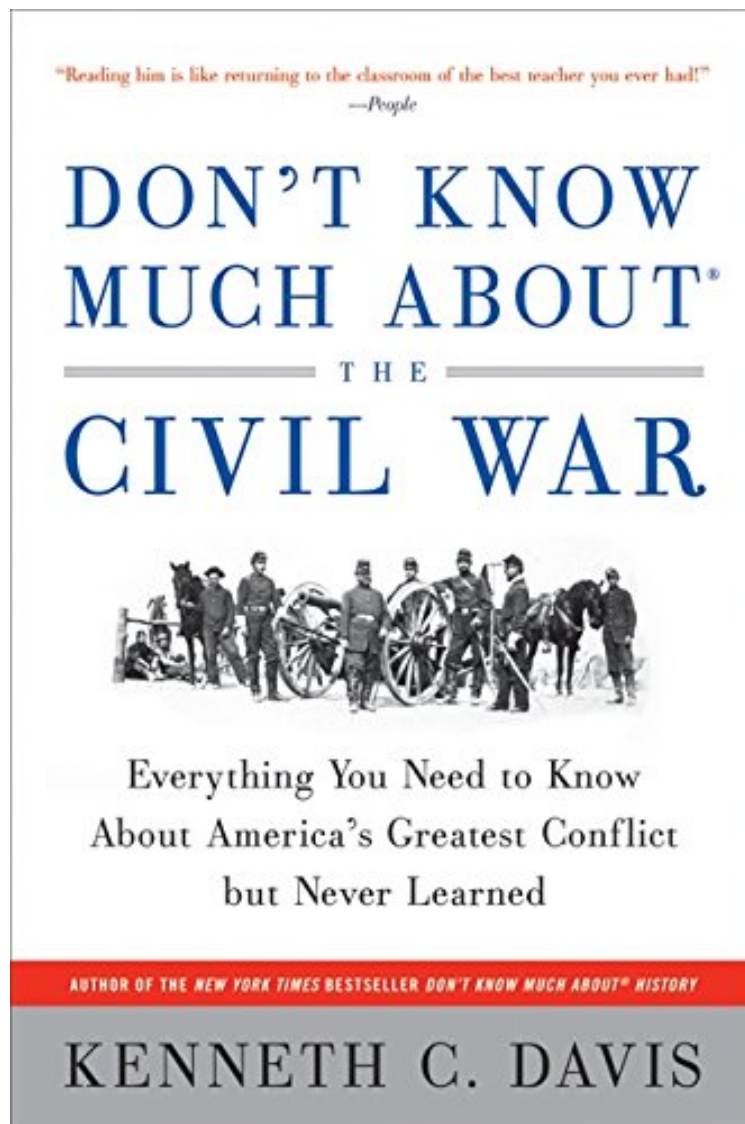


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## Don't Know Much About the Civil War: Everything You Need to Know About America's Greatest Conflict but Never Learned (Don't Know Much About Series)

*Kenneth C. Davis*

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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.

.com Historian Kenneth C. Davis brings his remarkable ability for making the past vital and entertaining to this in-depth study of the United States' bloodiest conflict. Not content to rehash the one-dimensional accounts that traditional history textbooks have foisted upon students, Davis reexamines with a fresh, critical eye the situations leading up to and the key events that shaped the Civil War. He begins by reaching back to the earliest days of American history to understand the political, economic, and social conditions that allowed a nation founded upon the notion that "all men are created equal" to enslave and degrade 12 million human souls. In his detailed account of the war's battles and political power struggles, he introduces us to the personalities--from Abraham Lincoln, General Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglas to common soldiers and war widows--whose vision, compromises, determination, and powerlessness together made history. Davis also brings to light little-known facts and episodes that for generations were ignored or swept under the rug of the American conscience--including the role of women in the war effort and the massacre of blacks at the hands of Union civilians. All Americans would do well to take a new look at this period of history that "shaped the country's political landscape like the great glaciers had once carved America" because, as Davis explains, its effects linger today. "The Civil War," he says, "remains at the core of our greatest national problem: the great racial divide that grew from slavery." Few programs speak with such intelligence and eloquence about how far the United States has come in terms of what the war taught--and how far it still has to go. (Running time: six hours, four cassettes) --Uma Kukathas  
From School Library Journal Grade 7 Up--Kenneth C. Davis provides listeners with everything they need to know about the Civil War. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Library Journal Davis (*Don't Know Much About Geography*, LJ 9/15/92) states in this new addition to his series that too many Americans understand little or nothing about the Civil War. This may well be true, but his book is not necessarily the solution. On the plus side, Davis offers quotes from the participants of the war and includes chronologies. On the minus side, he takes a simplistic approach to the war's origins (there is nothing regarding the issue of tariffs, for example). He explodes some myths about the Civil War but perpetuates others. While his work does have some merit, a better choice like Curt Anders's *Hearts in Conflict* (LJ 5/1/94) would provide a superior introduction to the Civil War. ?Robert A. Curtis, Taylor Memorial P.L., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.