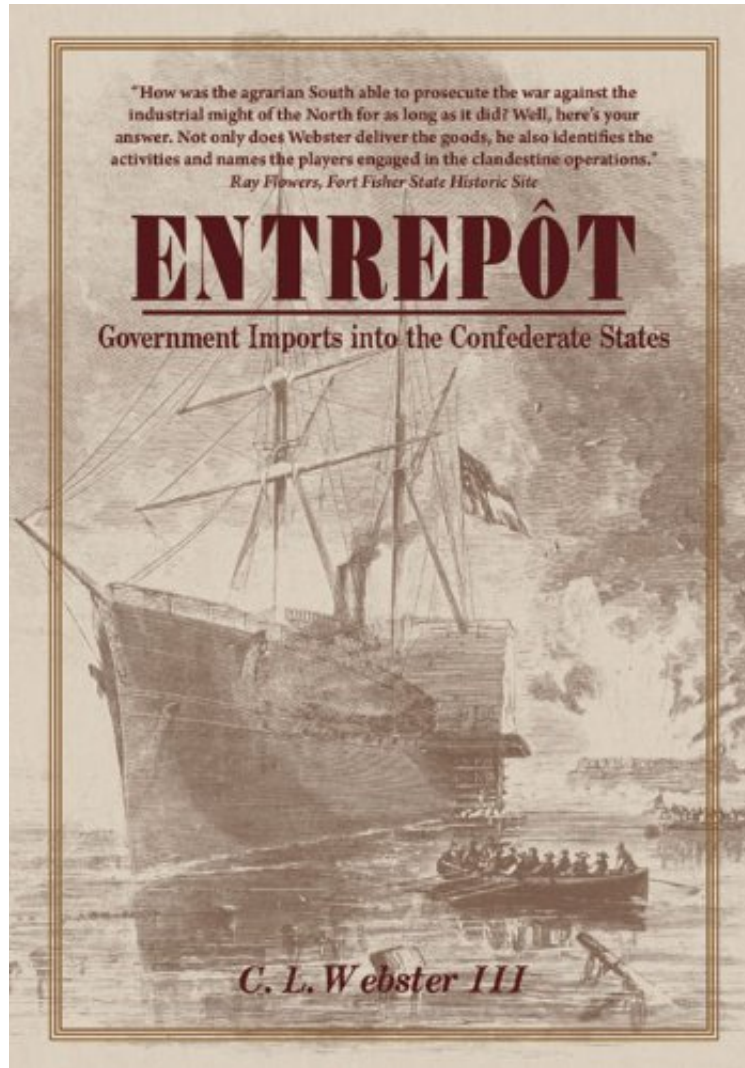


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Entrepot: Government Imports into the Confederate States

C. L. Webster III

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people found the following review helpful. Great Book on ConfederacyBy Customer Meg, AtlantaGreat book! Anyone interested in the Confederacy will enjoy this book. Fabulous information on military imports into the Confederacy. Fascinating information helpful to anyone doing research or just wanting to expand their personal knowledge of Confederate Blockade running and war materials..6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Well worth reading!By James W. DurneyThey say military professionals talk logistics. Not all the discipline and courage in the world is a substitute for weapons, ammo, clothing and food. Armies ignore logistics at great peril; doing so usually leads to defeat. However, readers of military history prefer "Battles Leaders" to clerks and invoices. This is what makes this book so unusual and such a valuable addition to my library. The author flies in the face of convention by producing a logistical history that is interesting and thought provoking.In 1861, the Confederacy lacked everything an army requires. Supplies come from captured arsenals, state militias, internal production and purchases allow the initial armies to take the field. The supplies in the arsenals and held by the states are quickly exhausted. Major efforts improved internal production but this was never enough to keep the military supplied. Capture of union supplies was never a dependable source of supply nor could it meet specific requirements.During the Civil War, England is the most industrial nation in the world with a history as an arsenal and the proven ability to manufacture everything an army needs. Additionally, England is a sympathetic neutral and very willing to help the CSA. This book is a history of the relationship between CSA agents and English firms to supply the CSA's armies. This effort is much more than purchase, ship and run the blockade. The author captures the complex system built to accommodate this effort. Starting at the Trading Houses and CSA agents in England, we move to breaking ocean shipments down to accommodate blockade-runners in Bermuda and the receipt and distribution of goods in the South. This is a story of hard work, long hours, some danger and large profits for the English traders.The author details the activities of the ordnance departments in Wilmington, Charleston and Mobile. Wilmington, the South's major and last port, is a book within the book. The reader is treated to a look at the business side of war that we seldom see. The CSA trades cotton for stores. Obtaining and baling cotton, treatment of the blockade-runners and shipping of the stores is a fascinating story. The variety of goods and how they are stored and accounted for dispels any idea that this is a simple time.This is not a fun read. This is not a page-turner. This is a detailed look at imports into the Confederate states and the impact these imports had on the war. This is a unique book and one that the serious student of the Civil War should consider reading.

Examining for the first time the history of civil war blockade running, this unrivalled compilation reveals the arms, equipment, and clothing brought into the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Detailed and comprehensive, this survey offers month-by-month, cargo-by-cargo descriptions of goods received at multiple locations across the United States. From Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington to Matamoros, Galveston, and Mobile, this reference lists all distribution—the Belgian-made woolen cloth and English rifles that arrived in the farthest reaches of the Trans-Mississippi and the receipt of thousands of British knapsacks, blankets, and cartridge boxes in the winter camps of the struggling Army of Tennessee. A unique depiction of a perilous trade, this record sheds a dramatic light on the surprising pervasiveness of imported war material as well as the effectiveness and sophistication of the Confederate supply system.

A tremendous source for historians, researchers, and Civil War enthusiasts. Within this volume Webster has assembled various and assorted data on Confederate military supplies and imports that surpass all other studies on the Southern logistical system. It will stand as an invaluable source work for years to come. Stephen R. Wise, PhD, author, *Gate of Hell: Campaign for Charleston Harbor, 1863* --DustjacketReader-friendly, well-written, and extensively researched; it is a deposition in response to questions too long unanswered. Entrepot is a most excellent addition to any Civil War library. Ray Flowers, Fort Fisher State Historic Site --Dust jacketShould be required reading for military historians. It also would be useful to those studying Confederate material resources. --Civil War NewsAbout the AuthorC. L. Webster III is a historian specializing in the American Civil War and a practicing lawyer. He lives in Houston, Texas.