

The Black Civil War Regiments That Redeemed America

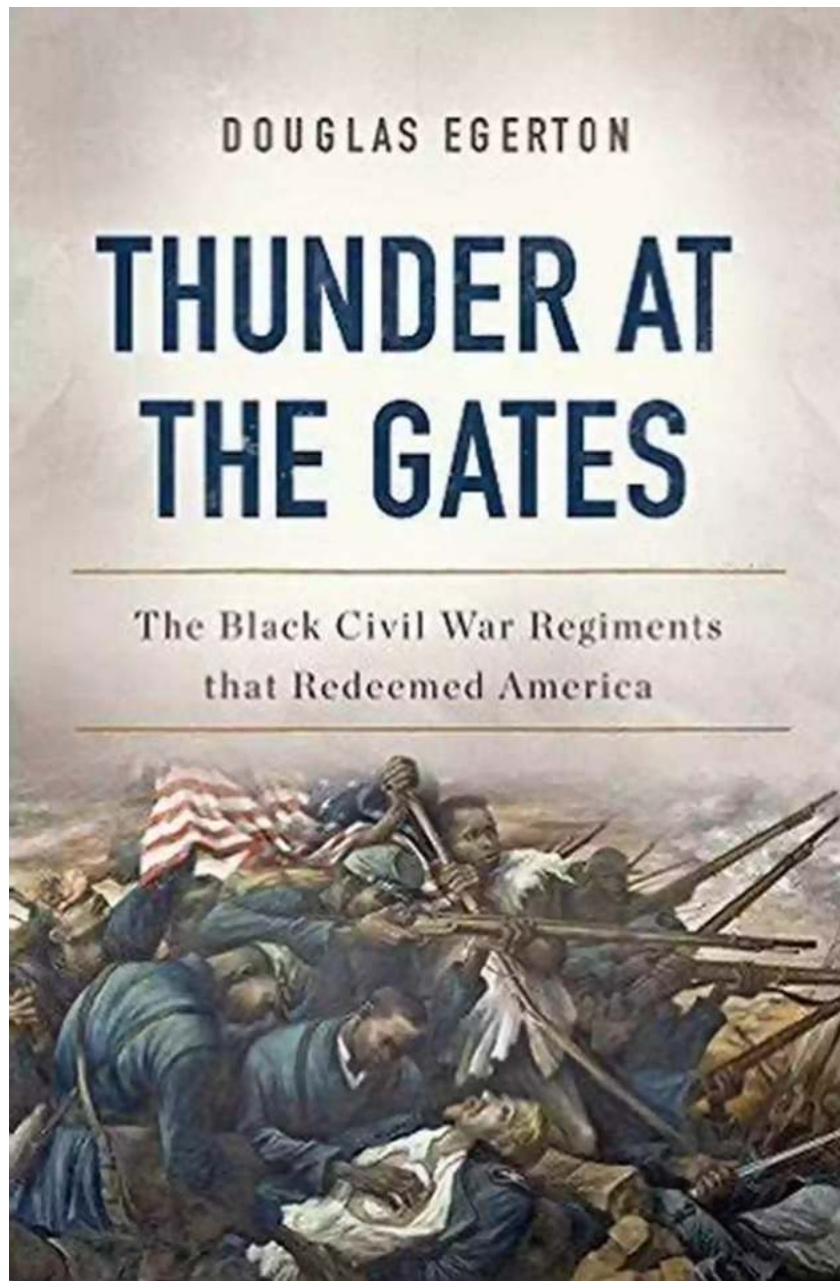
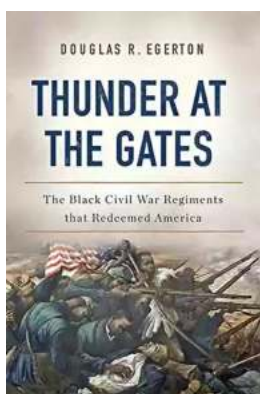


Image: Black soldiers in the Civil War

When discussing the American Civil War, the contributions and sacrifices made by African American soldiers are often overlooked. The story of the black

regiments that fought for the Union Army during the war is a testament to their strength, determination, and bravery.



Thunder at the Gates: The Black Civil War Regiments That Redeemed America

by Douglas R Egerton(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6488 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 442 pages



Despite facing discrimination and prejudice both within and outside the military, these regiments proved their valor on the battlefield and played a significant role in securing victory for the Union. It is essential to understand their history and recognize their immense impact on shaping America's future from the shadows.

The Origins of the Black Regiments

The formation of black regiments during the Civil War can be traced back to the Second Confiscation and Militia Act, signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. This act allowed African Americans to serve in the military, marking a crucial turning point in the war.

Prior to this development, President Lincoln was cautious about employing black soldiers, fearing it would alienate border states. However, the mounting pressure to use African American soldiers forced Lincoln to reconsider his stance.

In 1863, the Bureau of Colored Troops was established to recruit African American soldiers. In the following years, over 180,000 black men enlisted in the Union Army, forming regiments commonly known as the "United States Colored Troops" (USCT).

The Courageous Contributions

From the very beginning, black regiments faced discrimination and unequal treatment. They received lower pay and often had subpar provisions compared to their white counterparts. Despite these challenges, the black soldiers proved themselves on countless occasions, displaying unmatched courage and fighting skill.

The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, one of the most renowned black regiments, gained widespread recognition for its heroic assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina. Led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, the regiment's bravery in the face of heavy casualties is a testament to their determination for equality and freedom.

Other black regiments like the 10th Cavalry Regiment, known as the "Buffalo Soldiers," also made significant contributions during the war. Despite facing discrimination and racism from both Confederate forces and some white Union soldiers, they persevered and fought with incredible resilience.

Challenges and Triumphs

The black regiments faced immense challenges during the Civil War, both on and off the battlefield. In addition to the constant threat of combat, they often had to combat racism and prejudice from within the Union Army itself.

Many white commanding officers doubted the competence and fighting abilities of black soldiers. Despite their bravery and heroism, black regiments were often assigned to manual labor tasks or deployed in less critical positions.

However, these regiments persisted and overcame these obstacles. Their undeniable contributions and successes played a crucial role in changing public opinion and dispelling misconceptions about African Americans' capabilities as soldiers.

The Legacy of the Black Regiments

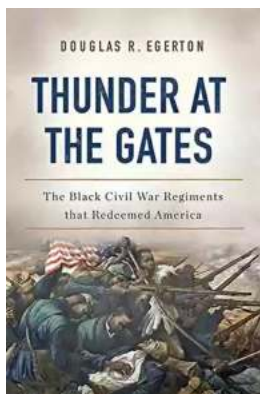
The black regiments that fought during the Civil War left an indelible mark on America's history and its perception of race. By proving themselves as skilled soldiers and fighting for their right to freedom, they significantly influenced the eventual emancipation of all enslaved people.

Their contributions helped shatter the myth of black inferiority and played a vital role in the Union's ultimate victory. The sacrifices made by these regiments paved the way for equal rights and recognition for African Americans, although much work remained to be done.

As we commemorate and remember the bravery and sacrifices of the black regiments, it is crucial to acknowledge their vital role in shaping America's identity. Today, their legacy serves as a reminder of the ongoing fight for equality and justice.

The story of the black regiments that fought during the Civil War is an essential part of American history that must not be forgotten. Despite facing discrimination and adversity, these regiments played a crucial role in securing victory for the Union Army.

The black soldiers' bravery and contributions redeemed America, challenging the notion of black inferiority and paving the way for future advancements in civil rights. Their legacy serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equality and serves as an inspiration for generations to come.



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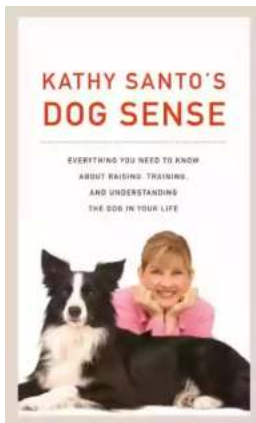


An intimate, authoritative history of the first black soldiers to fight in the Union Army during the Civil War

Soon after Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, abolitionists began to call for the creation of black regiments. At first, the South and most of the North responded with outrage-southerners promised to execute any black soldiers captured in battle, while many northerners claimed that blacks lacked the necessary courage. Meanwhile, Massachusetts, long the center of abolitionist fervor, launched one of the greatest experiments in American history.

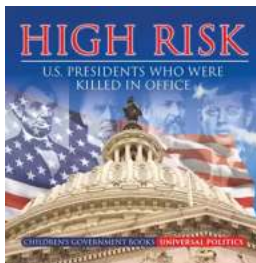
In *Thunder at the Gates*, Douglas Egerton chronicles the formation and battlefield triumphs of the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantry and the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry-regiments led by whites but composed of black men born free or into slavery. He argues that the most important battles of all were won on the field of public opinion, for in fighting with distinction the regiments realized the long-derided idea of full and equal citizenship for blacks.

A stirring evocation of this transformative episode, *Thunder at the Gates* offers a riveting new perspective on the Civil War and its legacy.



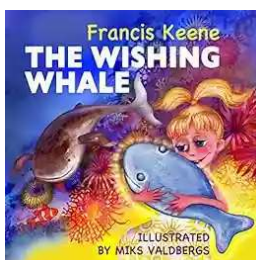
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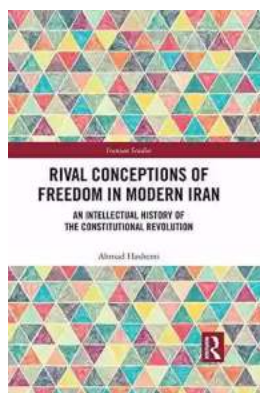
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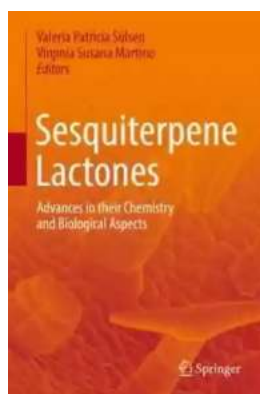
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