



Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond

Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond

Ken Burns's documentary *The Civil War* made television history, breaking all viewing records for a PBS series. Indeed, forty million people saw it, more than the populations of the Union and the Confederacy combined. *Newsweek* praised it as "a stunning television documentary." For a generation of Americans, this documentary is the Civil War. Yet many professional historians criticized it sharply for ignoring the roles of minorities, pointing to a lack of women and of blacks throughout, a disregard for the aftermath of the war (particularly its legacy to race relations), a conventional emphasis on military history rather than social history, and uneven coverage of the military campaigns that gave short shrift to the bloody Western front. *Ken Burns's The Civil War* brings together detractors, supporters, and Ken Burns himself in a volume that will inspire readers to look again at this stunning documentary, at the way television shows history, and at the Civil War itself. Some contributors are sharply critical. In "Noble Women as Well," Catherine Clinton describes the experiences of women during the war, disguised as soldiers, working as nurses in makeshift hospitals, or besieged in caves by enemy armies, saying that Burns ignores these stories completely. Eric Foner and Leon Litwack are even more scathing, saying that the series distorts the legacy of the war by focusing on the preservation of the union, ignoring the importance the institution of slavery had to those who fought the war, and neglecting the experiences of blacks both during and after the war: out of 28 people whose postwar careers are mentioned, only two blacks, both men, are included. "Faced with the choice between historical illumination or nostalgia, Burns consistently opts for nostalgia," Foner writes. In response, C. Vann Woodward, who served as an advisor to the series, and Ken Burns himself describe their painstaking efforts to develop a sophisticated interpretation of history in *The Civil War*. In the process, they explore the question of whether art can, or should, substitute for history. Is the purpose of a documentary such as *The Civil War* to inform or to entertain? And what happens when the desire to entertain gets in the way of historical accuracy? The answer, according to Woodward, is that the unique power and responsibility of art is to bring the past to life, not to engage in historical polemics. Ken Burns's own response is a defense of his art that is as well-crafted as the series itself. He discusses the unique limitations of television: unlike written history, for example, television documentaries require specific, identifiable visual images, limiting the coverage of subjects with little pictorial documentation. Geoffrey C. Ward, the series writer, defends their choices of interpretation and coverage in the series, and pleads eloquently for greater cooperation between filmmakers and historians. And Burns praises the power of television to move, inform, and educate, pointing to its unique responsibility in an age where Americans receive more and more of their information through television and film. *The Civil War* sparked emotions, curiosity, debate, and a desire to learn more about this bloody crossroads in American history. *Ken Burns's The Civil War* is for anyone who was intrigued and touched by that monumental series, and by the even more monumental war that it illuminated.

 [Download Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond

From reader reviews:

Christopher Olsen:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book allowed Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

Carrie Freeman:

This Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is definitely information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond without we comprehend teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond can bring if you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cellphone. This Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Joni Thompson:

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book will filled the space in your house, you may have it in e-book means, more simple and reachable. This particular Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond can give you a lot of pals because by you looking at this one book you have issue that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This kind of book can be one of a step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that perhaps your friend doesn't learn, by knowing more than other make you to be great individuals. So , why hesitate? We need to have Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond.

Ella Oxley:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person including reading or as reading become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and book as to be the point. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update about something by book. Amount types of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is this Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond.

**Download and Read Online Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians
Respond #G6LDVW9C7T8**

Read Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond for online ebook

Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond books to read online.

Online Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond ebook PDF download

Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond Doc

Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond Mobipocket

Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond EPub