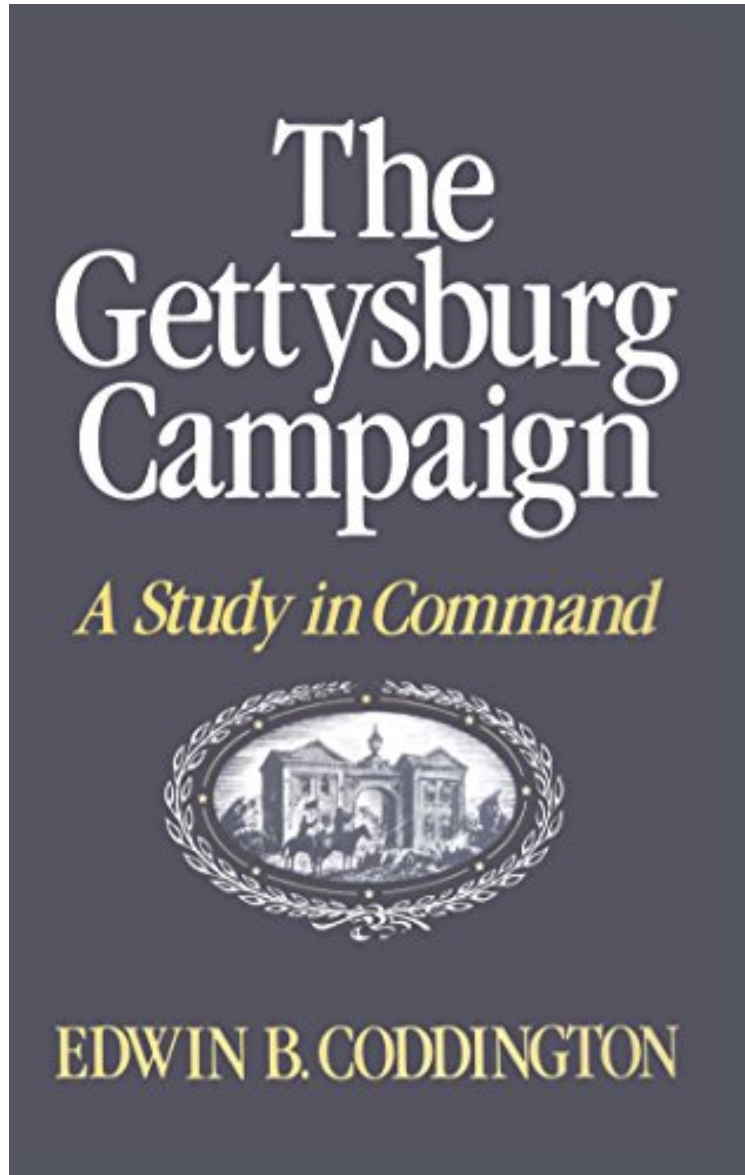


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# The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command

*Edwin B. Coddington*

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**Edwin B. Coddington : The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. More DepthBy MasmanThis excellent book digs deeper into the facts such as army movement leading up to the battle and many other details lost in the bigger picture books about Gettysburg. The author made a subject that I am so familiar with even more interesting for me. Well worth the cost

and time. 1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not the best book on Gettysburg By Kevin Brown Coddington presents a well researched and detailed study of the Battle of Gettysburg but it is far from the best. Coddington spends an inordinate amount of time "Monday morning quarterbacking" and "rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic." He relies too heavily on The Southern Historical Society Papers (a thoroughly discredited source) particularly for his assessment of James Longstreet. While he is not as bad as the "Lost Cause" mythologists, he is still too quick to rely on them as sources. His analysis of the Union situation is far superior to that of the Confederate one. He makes some bold but ultimately unsupported assertions, such as claiming that the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble charge could have been successful, because the Union line was "so thin." He then goes on to state that the Union interior lines were so well supported that Meade could reinforce wherever necessary (thus negating his earlier argument). While an interesting book on Gettysburg I would recommend Stephen Sears "Gettysburg" or even Glenn Tucker's "High Tide at Gettysburg" for a better analysis of the battle. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Grand By Jason G Lutz I am not well read on the Civil War, so I cannot compare Coddington's work with true peers. That said, I am a well-read student of history; I have read countless histories, biographies, and battle descriptions. This is one of the absolute best books I have come across. I purchased this book in preparation for a trip to Gettysburg. My hope has been to learn about the battle on multiple levels and Coddington's work more than delivered. The narrative is engaging and writing with good color. The battle descriptions are technical and in loving detail. The discussion of strategy implied and realized is interesting and fair. I have enjoyed it immensely. As I continue to study the Civil War, I only hope that I have not read the best first.

The Battle of Gettysburg remains one of the most controversial military actions in America's history, and one of the most studied. Professor Coddington's is an analysis not only of the battle proper, but of the actions of both Union and Confederate armies for the six months prior to the battle and the factors affecting General Meade's decision not to pursue the retreating Confederate forces. This book contends that Gettysburg was a crucial Union victory, primarily because of the effective leadership of Union forces—not, as has often been said, only because the North was the beneficiary of Lee's mistakes.