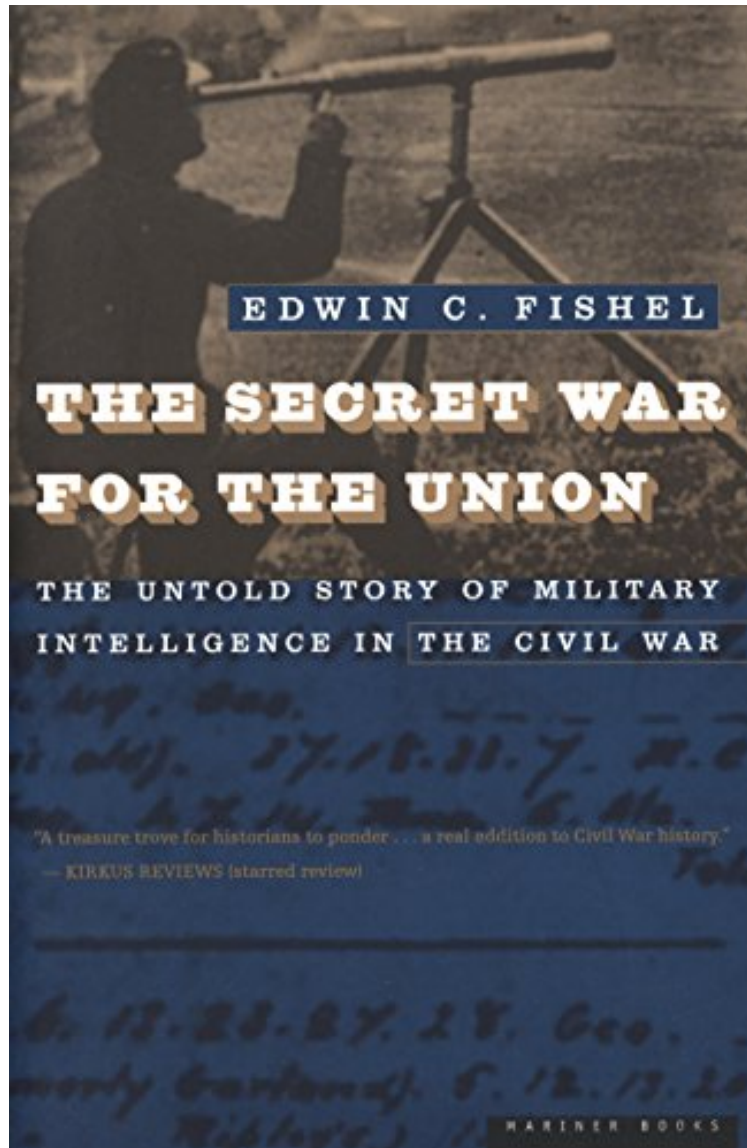


(Library ebook) The Secret War for the Union: The Untold Story of Military Intelligence in the Civil War

The Secret War for the Union: The Untold Story of Military Intelligence in the Civil War

Von Edwin C. Fishel

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Von Edwin C. Fishel : The Secret War for the Union: The Untold Story of Military Intelligence in the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secret War for the Union: The Untold Story of Military Intelligence in the Civil War:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Ponderous Pondering on the Potomac Von El Cutachero I will praise this book first for a comprehensive coverage of what the author found. The story of Gen. McClellan's over-caution and Allen Pinkerton's overestimation is well known. And has been published before but not in such well noted detail. That said, the first third of the book could well have been published independently so that the reader would not get a sore chest from propping it up! On the other hand, the great virtue of this work is the thorough mining of the later material concerning the period after the establishment of a military-led true intelligence organization. The other side of this same period in this area has been covered in the excellent study *Come Retribution* which appeared earlier. The history of operations in the Western Theatre is yet to be written. My greatest disappointment is the author's relegating of "lesson learned" to an appendix and his omission of modern tradecraft comparisons. As it was, the lessons we learned in the Civil War, when we fought essentially ourselves still had general relevance thirty some years later in the War With Spain and even later on the Mexican Border. (I wrote my thesis on the latter era.) The text, *Service of Security and Information*, written by Col. Wagner, used at the Fort Leavenworth schools, in the 1890s was based on our experience in the Civil War. Slightly revised after the war with Spain, the work remained in use til the Great War. But, perhaps, pointing out this continuaton of military thought was not the author's intention. As to the unfortunate title which promises more than the book delivers, I place that blame on the publishers. This book is so much better than the other recent book on Civil War spies which simply rehashes all the old tales about Crazy Betty, Belle Starr, et al. It's just a pity it's so hard to read. I never did finish it. I read the conclusions, and the appendices, and, frankly, there's just more here than I wanted to know. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good information, painful writing Von Ein Kunde Fishel sure makes you work for the information... there's not a fact that isn't cited three, four or five times in following chapters. He does bring together much disparate information about the development of a military intelligence service during the Civil War, that's for sure. He has done excellent research, and argues his case persuasively. If he'd only had an editor, though, this massive volume would have come it at a third of its weight and would have been a better book. A serious lack was any discussion of military intelligence in the Western campaigns. Whether this is due to a lack of data or a lack of interest on the author's part is unclear... it just doesn't show up. If you're interested in precision on matters concerning the Civil War in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, this book has lots to offer. But brother, are you going to have to work for it!

Kurzbeschreibung Most histories of the Civil War have largely ignored the issue of military intelligence. At the end of the war, most of the intelligence records disappeared, remaining hidden for over a century. This is the first book to examine the impact of intelligence on the Civil War, providing a new perspective on this period in history..del It's rare for a modern writer to make a genuinely new discovery about the Civil War, but former intelligence officer Edwin C. Fishel pulls it off in *The Secret War for the Union*. Having stumbled upon a large collection of previously unknown documents at the National Archives, he describes in this book the undercover operations of the Army of the Potomac. Federal intelligence, by Fishel's account, was crucially important to winning the war, and was of much higher quality than previously assumed. Among other accomplishments, it appears to have played a vital role in the Union victory at Gettysburg. This surprise--and a few others--await serious readers. Pressestimmen "Breaks much new ground and desrves to reach a wide audience." *The New York Times* "The first major study to present the war's campaigns from an intelligence perspective." *Publishers Weekly*