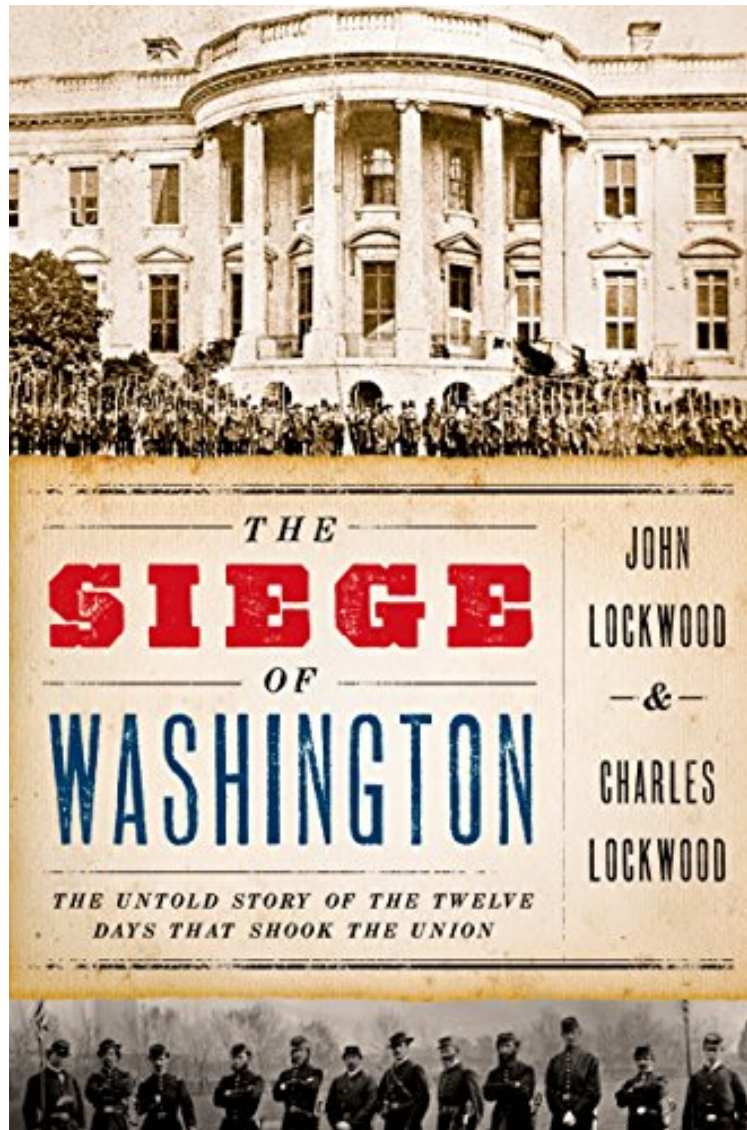


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## The Siege of Washington: The Untold Story of the Twelve Days That Shook the Union

Von John Lockwood, Charles Lockwood  
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Von John Lockwood, Charles Lockwood : The Siege of Washington: The Untold Story of the Twelve Days That Shook the Union before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Siege of Washington: The Untold Story of the Twelve Days That Shook the Union:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Crowded Days That Shook The Nations! Von James Gallen There was a time during the crowded days of 1861 when

the Nation's Capitol stood undefended and open to invasion. "The Siege of Washington" is the story of those twelve days in which the fate of nation and the course of what was to become the Civil War dangled in the balance. The subtitle describes this as "The Untold Story" and I believe that it is. As readers of my reviews know, I have studied history in general and the Civil War in particular in depth but, until reading this book, I never really realized the peril in which the national government hung during those days of April 1861. Did you ever really think of the possibility that Jefferson Davis could have moved into the White House, the Confederate Congress into the Capitol and Washington, the Southern capitol negotiated by Washington and Jefferson, could have become the capitol of a new Confederacy? Such a move would have given the nascent government instant and, possibly decisive, credibility in America and Europe. As related in the prologue, the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 jolted the nation into the reality that the Secession crisis was not a political exercise that would blow over but one in which fire and blood would affect real change of one type or another. Until the firing on Fort Sumter secession had been limited to seven states of the Deep South while the "Border States" of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Missouri maintained an uneasy adherence to the Union while awaiting further developments. President Lincoln's decision to re-provision Fort Sumter and his call for troops tipped Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas into the Confederate camp. The story of this book really begins with a Confederate army under Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard in Charleston, a miniscule garrison in Washington, a town and a government infiltrated and, in some cases dominated, by Southern sympathizers while Northern states hurried to recruit, organize and transport units to the Capitol's defense. It is a story of a nerve center cut off from its sustaining body by Confederate partisans who burned bridges, cut telegraph lines and stoned and otherwise impeded Union forces on their approaches throughout Maryland. Virginia's secession and subsequent seizure of the naval base at Norfolk and the armory at Harpers Ferry play into the story. The anxiety of Abraham Lincoln and his cabinet keep pace with the rising threat of invasion and capture. It continues with the day by day diary of the men, units and trends that shook the nation, nay two nations, during those decisive twelve days. Authors John and Charles Lockwood have written an important and well crafted book. Organized by dates, the writing holds the reader's interest while enlightening us with information and challenging us to look upon this early phase of the Civil War, and the four years to follow differently. A book that accomplishes that is extraordinary and merits the highest rating available.

Kurzbeschreibung On April 14, 1861, following the surrender of Fort Sumter, Washington was "put into the condition of a siege," declared Abraham Lincoln. Located sixty miles south of the Mason-Dixon Line, the nation's capital was surrounded by the slave states of Maryland and Virginia. With no fortifications and only a handful of trained soldiers, Washington was an ideal target for the Confederacy. The South echoed with cries of "On to Washington!" and Jefferson Davis's wife sent out cards inviting her friends to a reception at the White House on May 1. Lincoln issued an emergency proclamation on April 15, calling for 75,000 troops to suppress the rebellion and protect the capital. One question now transfixed the nation: whose forces would reach Washington first-Northern defenders or Southern attackers? For 12 days, the city's fate hung in the balance. Washington was entirely isolated from the North-without trains, telegraph, or mail. Sandbags were stacked around major landmarks, and the unfinished Capitol was transformed into a barracks, with volunteer troops camping out in the House and Senate chambers. Meanwhile, Maryland secessionists blocked the passage of Union reinforcements trying to reach Washington, and a rumored force of 20,000 Confederate soldiers lay in wait just across the Potomac River. Drawing on firsthand accounts, *The Siege of Washington* tells this story from the perspective of leading officials, residents trapped inside the city, Confederates plotting to seize it, and Union troops racing to save it, capturing with brilliance and immediacy the precarious first days of the Civil War. *Pressestimmen* "A thrilling story brilliantly told. In April 1861, the fate of the nation's capital--surrounded, isolated, and vulnerable--hung in the balance while dread, spies, and conspirators filled its streets. Who would arrive in Washington first? Union troops to save it? Or the rebel army to sack it? The Lockwoods possess an unerring eye for the human drama and illuminating details that make great history." --James L. Swanson, author of the New York Times best-sellers *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* and *Bloody Crimes: The Chase for Jefferson Davis and the Death Pageant for Lincoln's Corpse* "An exciting blow-by-blow history of a tense, historically significant fortnight." --Kirkus s "[An] absorbing history.... The authors' well-paced narrative captures the suspense of the ordeal and the Union's achievement in improvising a defense from scratch. This vivid portrait of a weak and jittery Washington turns into a story of how Northern vigor and organization trumped Southern elan, presaging the larger war." *Publishers Weekly* "The Lockwoods have filled a surprising gap in Civil War literature by describing the 12 days in April 1861 from the 'first shot' of the Civil War at Fort Sumter to the relief of the federal capital by Union troops.... This day-by-day accounting captures all the confusion and fear that reigned in the first days of the war and shows how luck as much as decision determined the fate of the Union." --*Library Journal* "This book by two brothers goes day by day, capturing the drama at every turn...an entertaining glimpse of a key early moment in the struggle for this nation's soul." --*Huffington Post* "Vibrantly brings to life the first weeks of the war."--*WORLD* "[T]his is a much-needed title,

well-written, and certainly worthy of inclusion on the shelves of your Civil War library." --48thPennsylvania.com "[A] detail-laden treasure.... The Siege of Washington adds to our sum of knowledge about the war by putting those earliest days on a well-lighted stage and focuses our attention on just the right actors." --Roll Call "[A] remarkable look at a rarely told bit of our history." --Lincoln Star "[A] lively and thoroughly researched account of how local residents, government leaders and military officers reacted to events--real and imagined--occurring around them. Their narrative, sprinkled with colorful and mostly little-known anecdotes, adroitly captures the uncertainty and tension pervading President Lincoln's capital." --America's Civil War "[A] fascinating work of micro-history." --Atlanta Journal Constitution "The Siege of Washington is a thrilling story brilliantly told. 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Their narrative, sprinkled with colorful and mostly little-known anecdotes, adroitly captures the uncertainty and tension pervading President Lincoln's capital."--America's Civil War "[A] fascinating work of micro-history."--Atlanta Journal Constitution "This book is an almost minute-by-minute account of the stressful days between the fall of Fort Sumter at the beginning of the US Civil War and the arrival of Union regiments 12 days later to protect Washington, DC, from Confederate attack...Recommended."--CHOICE Kurzbeschreibung On April 14, 1861, following the surrender of Fort Sumter, Washington was "put into the condition of a siege," declared Abraham Lincoln. Located sixty miles south of the Mason-Dixon Line, the nation's capital was surrounded by the slave states of Maryland and Virginia. With no

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