

Joseph T. Glatthaar. *Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers*. New York: The Free Press, 1990. Pp. xiii, 370. Cloth, \$24.95.

Many Americans—apparently including at least a few textbook authors—still assume that blacks were essentially passive recipients of emancipation during the Civil War. Joseph Glatthaar's new book makes it perfectly clear that tens of thousands of blacks played an active and important role not only in the abolition of slavery but also in the preservation of the republic.

Glatthaar's *Forged in Battle* is the most detailed and illuminating account yet published on the experience of the 180,000 "colored" troops in the Civil War. The author competently discusses various aspects of life and death in the Union army for black soldiers and their (mostly) white officers, including recruiting and training, camp life and combat, and the pervasive racial bigotry that existed within and without the service. Unlike earlier standards such as Dudley Cornish's *The Sable Arm* and Benjamin Quarles's *The Negro in the Civil War*, which largely focus on the politics and propaganda involved in creating black units, this book examines what it was like to be a part of such a unit.

The author accurately points out that despite the amount of print, celluloid, and bronze lavished on the 54th Massachusetts, most recently exemplified by the motion picture *Glory*, the honor of first combat by blacks in blue was won by several regiments of Louisiana freemen and freedmen who fought at Milliken's Bend and Port Hudson months before the assault on Fort Wagner. He is also probably correct in concluding that because of reluctance to put black troops in battle—largely due to the widespread belief that they were inferior soldiers—their greatest contribution to the Union cause was in the uninspiring but vital area of logistics.

*Forged in Battle* is a fine study of a complex subject, but it is not without flaws. There is an annoying amount of repetition, and the catchy title promises more than the author delivers. Glatthaar never convincingly demonstrates that more than a small number of black soldiers and white officers overcame the barriers of prejudice and social convention to form an "alliance" despite shared hardships and dangers. These relatively minor problems aside, however, all Civil War historians (and the best and brightest of their students) will benefit from a careful reading of this important and informative book. Regrettably, some may find that the book's strengths—solid research and rich detail—make it too lengthy for effective use as supplemental reading material in their undergraduate courses.

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Don H. Doyle. *New Men, New Cities, New South: Atlanta, Nashville, Charleston, Mobile, 1860-1910*. Chapel Hill & London: University of North Carolina Press, 1990. Pp. xix, 369. Cloth, \$39.95; paper, \$12.95.

The *New Men* in the title of this volume include a variety of people who led the South after the Civil War, but the important ones were middle-aged businessmen who had lived in the South before the Civil War and who were less than enthusiastic about the formation and activities of the southern Confederacy. This would not today be considered a revisionist view, but it certainly does not comply with older interpretations of these leaders. The *New Cities* in the title of this volume refer to the four cities in the subtitle that are used as examples of a developing urban South. This volume is filled with comparisons and contrasts of these four cities, stressing both similarities and dissimilarities. This is a considerably more useful approach than separate studies of each of these cities. The *New South* in the title of this volume refers to the industrializing, urbanizing South of that era. The author artfully weaves together the three concepts in his title as he leads his readers from 1860 to 1910.

While the focus of this volume is economic, it has passages on religion, leisure time activities, social classes, social clubs, women, and blacks. Unfortunately the author makes no references to political activities. He does not address questions such as: Did the political urban leaders challenge the politically dominant agrarians? If so, how successful were they? Did the cities challenge the rural-dominated county political structures? If so, what was the outcome? How did the Progressive Movement affect the southern cities? Were the cities' political leaders Progressive?

In the past thirty years or so historians of the South have "discovered" the urban South. A considerable body of literature now exists on that subject. The strength of this volume is that it fills in a great deal of detail in the generalizations that previous writers have made concerning the rise of the urban South. For that reason, it is a valuable addition to the continually growing literature on the New South. College instructors of courses on the New South can find material in this volume for