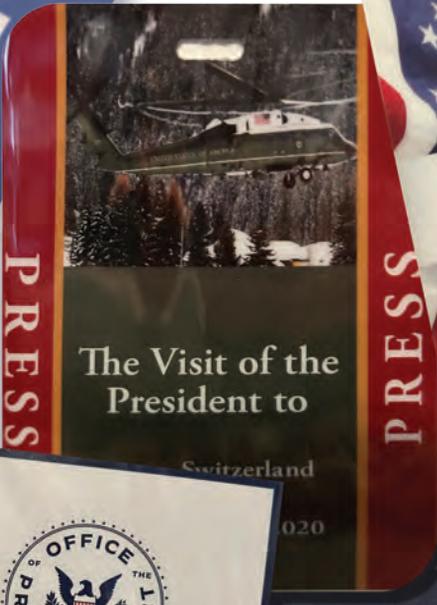
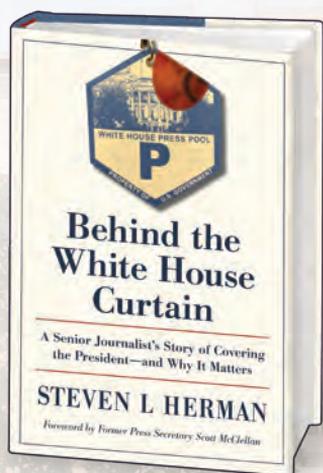




# THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

*Spring 2024 Catalog*





*Going behind the scenes  
with a veteran member of  
the White House press corps*

## **Behind the White House Curtain**

**A Senior Journalist's Story  
of Covering the President—  
and Why It Matters**

**Steven L Herman**

*Widewater, VA*

Foreword by **Scott McClellan**

**JOURNALISM / POLITICS / DEMOCRACY AND PEACE**

June 2024, 248 pages, 6 x 9,  ebook available

Hardback \$29.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-477-3

*“This behind-the-scenes account is not just another Trump book. It’s an important reminder of why we need journalists like Steve on the front lines reporting the truth.”*

**—Jim Acosta**, anchor and chief domestic correspondent for CNN

**S**teven L Herman, chief national correspondent for the nonpartisan, government-funded Voice of America (VOA), weaves together memoir and history to pull back the curtain on the inner workings of the White House press corps, giving readers a rare glimpse into the historic and current relationship between the president and the press.

Herman traces the trajectory of his career as a journalist—from learning to be skeptical of government officials’ statements when he worked as a novice reporter covering nuclear testing in Nevada in the 1970s to understanding the power of on-the-ground social media coverage after the Fukushima disaster in 2011 and facing the challenges of covering the Trump administration. He reflects on the experience of reporting on a president who once called journalists “enemies of the people”—and indeed, former president Trump singled out VOA, accusing the organization of being not a voice of America but rather a voice supporting Moscow’s and Beijing’s interests. Under questionable circumstances, top VOA executives lost their security clearances, and a dossier was prepared on Herman in an effort to remove him as White House bureau chief. With journalistic independence under threat, Herman feared not only for his career but also for “the soul of the Voice of America.”

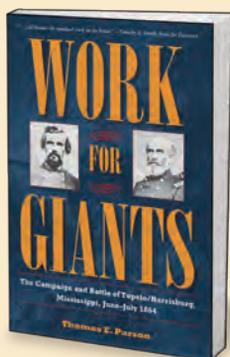


*“Steve’s work at the White House has been recognized as a true model for deadline journalism that is devoted to informing listeners and readers of the most important developments of the day. His book is important and a great read.”*

**—Ambassador (Ret.) Eric S. Rubin**, former US  
Ambassador to Bulgaria and president of the American  
Foreign Service Association

Throughout *Behind the White House Curtain*, Herman convincingly argues that public access to accurate, unbiased information is essential to a healthy and peaceful democracy, and that journalists can and *should* play a key role in pressing government officials to be truthful and transparent. At a time when misinformation is rampant and the need for unbiased coverage of current events is more urgent than ever, Herman reminds readers that freedom of the press is a foundational American right.

**Steven L. Herman** is the chief national correspondent of the Voice of America (VOA), an adjunct assistant professor at Shenandoah University, and an adjunct lecturer in the journalism department of the University of Richmond. He covered the White House for VOA during the Trump administration and the first eight months of the Biden administration. He has traveled to more than 75 countries and territories, including reporting assignments in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bhutan, Burma, China, the Gaza Strip, North Korea, Peru, and Vietnam.



## Work for Giants

### The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg, Mississippi, June–July 1864

Thomas E. Parson

Corinth, MS

**CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AND STRATEGIES**

**AMERICAN HISTORY / MILITARY HISTORY**

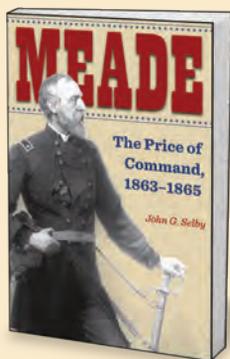
January 2024, 384 pages, 6½ x 9¼,  ebook available

Paperback \$24.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-476-6

*Fighting Nathan Bedford Forrest in North Mississippi*

“*Work for Giants* stands out as a model work of well-written, well-researched military history. Parson takes readers through the Tupelo Campaign’s inception, conduct, and execution with a thorough study of the battles and skirmishes and concludes with an authoritative analysis of the results and how participants and historians have remembered and argued over it. He also offers rich personalized descriptions of the key players on each side, giving life to the common soldiers’ experiences in their own words.”—*Civil War Monitor*

**Thomas E. Parson** is a park ranger at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, a unit of Shiloh National Military Park. He is also the author of *Bear Flag and Bay State in the Civil War: The Californians of the Second Massachusetts Cavalry*.



## Meade

### The Price of Command, 1863–1865

John G. Selby

Salem, VA

**CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AND STRATEGIES**

**AMERICAN HISTORY / MILITARY HISTORY**

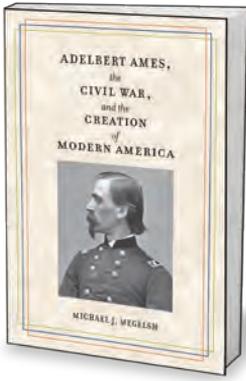
January 2024, 384 pages, 6½ x 9¼,  ebook available

Paperback \$29.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-475-9

*Based on primary sources, a comprehensive examination of George G. Meade’s leadership of the Army of the Potomac*

“John G. Selby . . . has produced a biography on one of the Civil War’s most central figures, George Gordon Meade. The Philadelphia general once predicted that history would not be kind to him, and indeed, he was largely correct. Although Meade commanded the Army of the Potomac, the North’s principal instrument of war, longer than any other general, Meade has remained marginalized in the war’s narrative and relatively obscure in the scholarship. . . . Selby’s *Meade: The Price of Command, 1863–1865* is a critical contribution to Civil War scholarship and advances our understanding of General Meade and his command of the Army of the Potomac.”—*Civil War Monitor*

**John G. Selby** is professor of history at Roanoke College and the former holder of the John R. Turbyfill Chair in History. A Civil War scholar, Selby is the author of *Virginians at War: The Civil War Experiences of Seven Young Confederates* and coeditor of *Civil War Talks: Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans*.



## Adelbert Ames, the Civil War, and the Creation of Modern America

Michael J. Megelsh

*Blue Mountain, Mississippi*

**CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AND STRATEGIES**

**US HISTORY / MILITARY HISTORY / RECONSTRUCTION**

March 2024, 328 pages, 6 x 9,  ebook available

Paperback \$39.95s, ISBN 978-1-60635-467-4

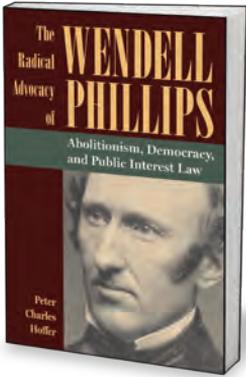
*The remarkable life of a noteworthy—yet overlooked—Union general turned Reconstruction-era politician*

A central figure in Reconstruction-era politics, Adelbert Ames and his contributions during an uncertain time in American history are the focus of Michael J. Megelsh's fascinating study. A young Union general during the Civil War, Ames's leadership was deemed integral in helping the Union to victory. Following the war, he remained in Mississippi and entered the political arena.

As a US senator representing Mississippi, Ames drew ire and damnation by battling for civil rights and the protection of freedmen. Elected governor in 1874, Ames tried to create a free and prosperous state rooted in protecting civil rights and promoting economic liberty. His political enemies sought to impeach him, culminating in a dramatic trial and, ultimately, to Ames's resignation and the end of Reconstruction in Mississippi. Ames's once-promising political career was over.

While Ames has appeared in many texts as a secondary character, Megelsh's work unearths his important contributions to a transitional time in American history and politics.

**Michael J. Megelsh** is assistant professor of history at Blue Mountain Christian University.



## The Radical Advocacy of Wendell Phillips Abolitionism, Democracy, and Public Interest Law

Peter Charles Hoffer

*Athens, Georgia*

**AMERICAN ABOLITIONISM AND ANTISLAVERY**

**US HISTORY / LAW**

May 2024, 152 pages, 6 x 9,  ebook available

Paper \$29.95s, ISBN 978-1-60635-478-0

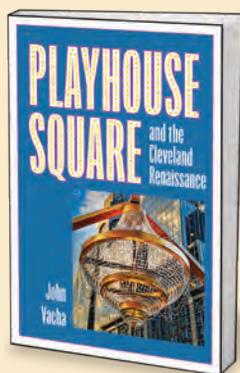
*Examining the life of an early advocate of the legal rights of Black Americans*

In this compelling exploration of 19th-century radical reformer Wendell Phillips, Peter Charles Hoffer argues that Phillips, who led the antebellum crusade against slavery and championed rights and equality for all Americans, deserves credit as the nation's first public interest lawyer.

While many believed the US Constitution was a virtually faultless document for governance, Phillips viewed it as deeply racist, proslavery, and, therefore, in contradiction to the Declaration of Independence. Many of these ideas were viewed as controversial and unpopular at the time, even with other abolitionists and politicians, including Abraham Lincoln.

Hoffer explores Phillips's "democratic positivist" belief, which contends that law is the central component of a strong democracy and that law can be changed by the will of the people. Democratic positivist approaches, and Phillips's influence, have continued to be used by lawyers to influence social reforms ranging from the civil rights movement of the 1960s to abolishing America's carceral state.

**Peter Charles Hoffer** is Distinguished Research Professor of History at the University of Georgia. He is the author or coauthor of nearly 40 books and numerous articles.



## Playhouse Square and the Cleveland Renaissance

John Vacha

Lakewood, Ohio

**REGIONAL HISTORY / URBAN STUDIES / THEATER STUDIES**

April 2024, 336 pages, 7 x 10,  ebook available

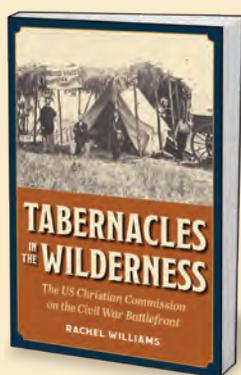
Paperback \$27.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-474-2

*How five beloved Cleveland theaters escaped the wrecking ball and inspired city-wide urban renewal*

Shortly after World War I, five theaters were constructed within a two-block radius in downtown Cleveland, Ohio, which became known collectively as Playhouse Square. After varying degrees of financial success, television, suburbanization, and urban decline darkened four of their marquees by the end of the 1960s. In the 1970s, like-minded Clevelanders united to save the Square from demolition; its rejuvenation became a catalyst for Cleveland's larger comeback from postindustrial decline.

John Vacha is the first to write a complete account of this history, from the Square's 1921 opening through the COVID-19 pandemic and the theaters' triumphant reopenings in 2022. Richly illustrated and featuring interviews with key figures involved in saving the Square, *Playhouse Square and the Cleveland Renaissance* will appeal to theater history buffs and preservationists alike—reminding readers of the significant role the performing arts serve in shaping a city's culture.

**John Vacha** is the recipient of the Herrick Memorial Award from the Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve in recognition of his theatrical history *Showtime in Cleveland: The Rise of a Regional Theater Center*.



## Tabernacles in the Wilderness The US Christian Commission on the Civil War Battlefield

Rachel Williams

Hull, England

**INTERPRETING THE CIVIL WAR**

**US HISTORY / HISTORY OF RELIGION**

March 2024, 208 pages, 6½ x 9¼,  ebook available

Paperback \$34.95s, ISBN 978-1-60635-473-5

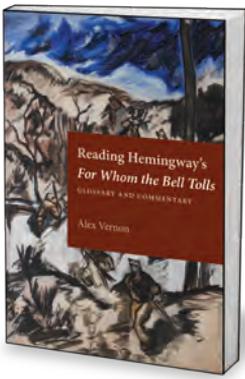
*Examining how a civilian organization used the Civil War to advance their religious mission*

*Tabernacles in the Wilderness* discusses the work of the United States Christian Commission (USCC), a civilian relief agency established by northern evangelical Protestants to minister to Union troops during the American Civil War. USCC workers saw in the Civil War not only a wrathful judgment from God for the nation's sins but an unparalleled opportunity to save souls and perfect the nation.

Whether handing out religious literature, leading prayer meetings, preaching sermons, mending uniforms, or bearing witness to deathbed scenes, USCC workers enacted a lived theology emphasizing the link between the body and soul.

Making extensive use of previously neglected archival material—most notably the reports, diaries, and correspondence of the volunteer delegates who performed this ministry—Rachel Williams offers fascinating new insights into the role of civilians within army camps, philanthropy during the Civil War, and the emotional landscape and material culture of faith and worship.

**Rachel Williams** is a lecturer in American history at the University of Hull, where she teaches courses on the American Civil War, American medicine, and women's history.



# Reading Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* Glossary and Commentary

Alex Vernon

Little Rock, Arkansas

**READING HEMINGWAY**

**LITERARY STUDIES / LITERARY CRITICISM**

February 2024, 408 pages, 6½ x 9¼,  ebook available

Paperback \$42.95s, ISBN 978-1-60635-472-8

*A line-by-line analysis of one of Hemingway's greatest novels*

Published in 1940, Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is widely considered a masterpiece of war literature. A bestseller upon its release, the novel has long been both admired and ridiculed for its depiction of Robert Jordan's military heroism and wartime romance. Yet its validation of seemingly conflicting narratives and its rendering of the intricate world its characters inhabit, as well as its dense historical, literary, and biographical allusions, have made it a work that remains a focus of interest and study.

Alex Vernon mines the historical record, examining Hemingway's drafts and correspondence, synthesizing the body of literary criticism about the novel, and engaging in close textual analysis. As a result, new and important insights into the complex situation of the Spanish Civil War—integral to the novel—emerge, enriching our understanding and reminding us that *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is still vital, significant, and relevant.

**Alex Vernon** is the M. E. and Ima Graves Peace Professor of English at Hendrix College. He is the author of nine books, including: *Teaching Hemingway and War*; *Arms and the Self: War, the Military, and Autobiographical Writing*; and *most succinctly bred*.

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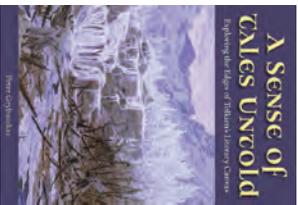
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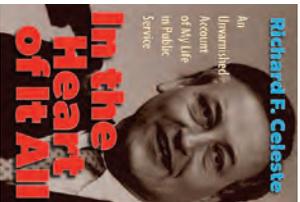
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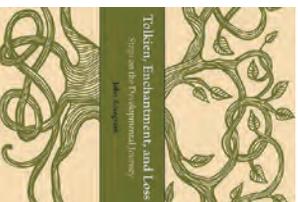
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