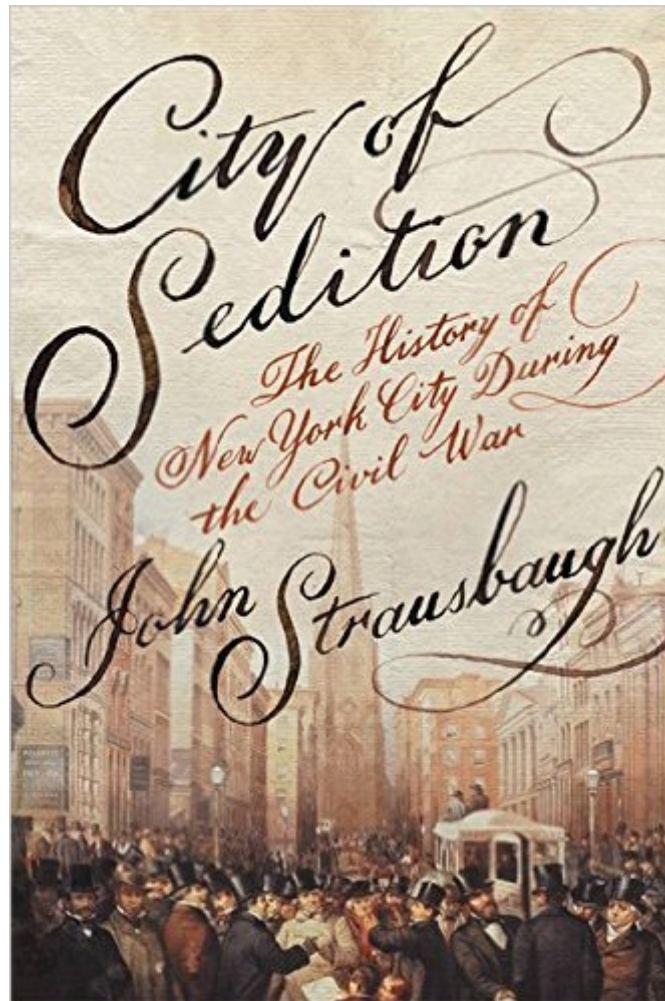


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City Of Sedition: The History Of New York City During The Civil War



Synopsis

In a single definitive narrative, CITY OF SEDITION tells the spellbinding story of the huge-and hugely conflicted-role New York City played in the Civil War. No city was more of a help to Abraham Lincoln and the Union war effort, or more of a hindrance. No city raised more men, money, and materiel for the war, and no city raised more hell against it. It was a city of patriots, war heroes, and abolitionists, but simultaneously a city of antiwar protest, draft resistance, and sedition. Without his New York supporters, it's highly unlikely Lincoln would have made it to the White House. Yet, because of the city's vital and intimate business ties to the Cotton South, the majority of New Yorkers never voted for him and were openly hostile to him and his politics. Throughout the war New York City was a nest of antiwar "Copperheads" and a haven for deserters and draft dodgers. New Yorkers would react to Lincoln's wartime policies with the deadliest rioting in American history. The city's political leaders would create a bureaucracy solely devoted to helping New Yorkers evade service in Lincoln's army. Rampant war profiteering would create an entirely new class of New York millionaires, the "shoddy aristocracy." New York newspapers would be among the most vilely racist and vehemently antiwar in the country. Some editors would call on their readers to revolt and commit treason; a few New Yorkers would answer that call. They would assist Confederate terrorists in an attempt to burn their own city down, and collude with Lincoln's assassin. Here in CITY OF SEDITION, a gallery of fascinating New Yorkers comes to life, the likes of Horace Greeley, Walt Whitman, Julia Ward Howe, Boss Tweed, Thomas Nast, Matthew Brady, and Herman Melville. This book follows the fortunes of these figures and chronicles how many New Yorkers seized the opportunities the conflict presented to amass capital, create new industries, and expand their markets, laying the foundation for the city's-and the nation's-growth.

Book Information

Hardcover: 432 pages

Publisher: Twelve; 1 edition (August 2, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1455584185

ISBN-13: 978-1455584185

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #13,737 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > History > Americas >](#)

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Customer Reviews

John Strausbaugh's exuberant Civil War accomplishment, *City of Sedition: The History of New York City During the Civil War*, expertly and even-handedly organizes the dizzying and often mystifying scape of tensions, rivalries and outright travesties that ripped this country and New York City in particular, apart. The candid style and vivid insights into the personalities and motifs of the times are the result of rigorous research—something that gives Strausbaugh's words a fearlessness, provocativeness and accuracy rarely found in less consistent historians of his class. The result is a chronicle even the most jaded Northerner or Southerner will not want to put down—storytelling at its best!

I am minister of The Unitarian Church of Staten Island. It was formed by Abolitionists from the Boston area in 1853, including the family of Robert Gould Shaw, who led a Black regiment in the Civil War and was played by Matthew Broderick in the movie "Glory," so I have a professional and personal interest, and a bit of expertise. This book was GREAT! A real page turner, it gave great character sketches of a great many of the main actors, brought together a lot of diverse strings of action into a coherent narrative, and helps the reader to discern the very complex and terribly unfortunate events of those days. If you want to know why the NYC police force is politicized, for instance, this book will tell you how and why. It tells how NYC benefitted from slavery, then benefitted from the war to fight slavery. The hypocrisy and heroism are both breath-taking. A bit like today. I'm going to buy more from this author.

Terrific and riveting read about how New York City played an outsized role in the American Civil War -- and in very unexpected ways. Any reader with an interest in American history will devour it.

One had better not strut as a bona fide New Yorker unless one had read this book. You can see the florid faces of Tammany Hall cronies, get yourself familiar with that notorious 1875 Dred Scott decision, and meet with the Booth brothers staging Julius Caesar at the Winter Garden Theatre (at Broadway), Edwin starring Brutus, Junius as Cassius, and John as Mark Anthony. In the 1863 New York riot, the anti-Irish John Wilkes cared for the Union officer Adam Badeau who happened to be hiding in his brother Edwin's house. This is John the assassin. There is Walt Whitman anxious to

see how his Leaves of Grass would fare against Longfellow's Song of Hiawatha. The book is a good companion to Andrew Carroll's "Here is Where" (2013) and Terry Galway's "Machine Made" (2014).

City of Sedition: The History of New York City During the Civil War by John Strausbaugh is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in late July. The book takes an intense, businesslike, almost newsprint-style approach to New York before, during, and after the Civil War. The topics include personal and regional economies, tales of rampant lawlessness (politics and otherwise), wartime firsts (international troops, declarations, and fatalities), and mild pop culture in the form of theater (the Booth brothers) and literature (Walt Whitman).

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