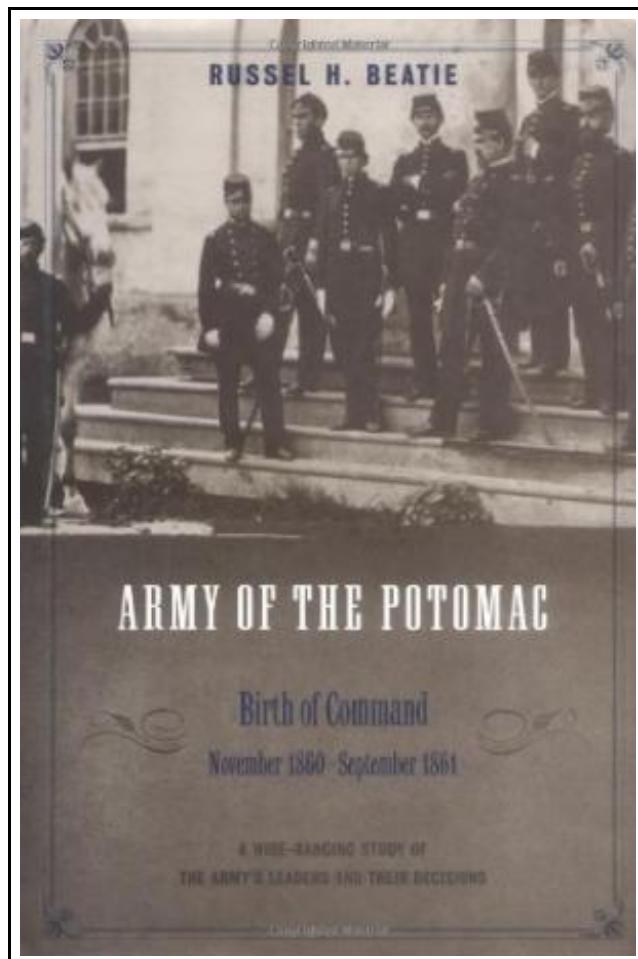


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Da Capo Press, New York, New York, U.S.A., 2002. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. 0306811413 Brand New! Dust jacket condition: New. Here is the first detailed and comprehensive study of the Army of the Potomac, the Union's largest and most important army in the field throughout the Civil War. It is the first volume in a multipart work that will be the Union counterpart to Douglas Southall Freeman's award-winning epic, Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command. Like Freeman, Russel H. Beatie meticulously examines the relationships and performance of the high-ranking officers of one army—the Army of the Potomac—as well those who served in the satellite forces that also operated in the Eastern Theater. He draws almost entirely on manuscript sources, many previously unexamined, and thus reaches conclusions about the actions of the Union's prominent generals that differ—often significantly—from traditional historical thinking. The book begins as the bells of war toll across the country and the Union builds its army. It looks at the organization of the Union officer corps and probes how politics determined officer selection and crafted strategy. The volume ends with First Battle of Bull Run and the assumption of command in the East by General George B. McClellan. Original and thought-provoking, Army of the Potomac: Birth of Command assesses the command and performance of the brave and controversial officers of the Union's main fighting force. It considers the corps, division, and brigade commanders (and their all-important staff officers) throughout the entire war and places their actions in the social, political, military, and economic context of the day. In the end, this engrossing work is about the leaders as men—their successes and failures commanding the Union's largest army. 640 pages.



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