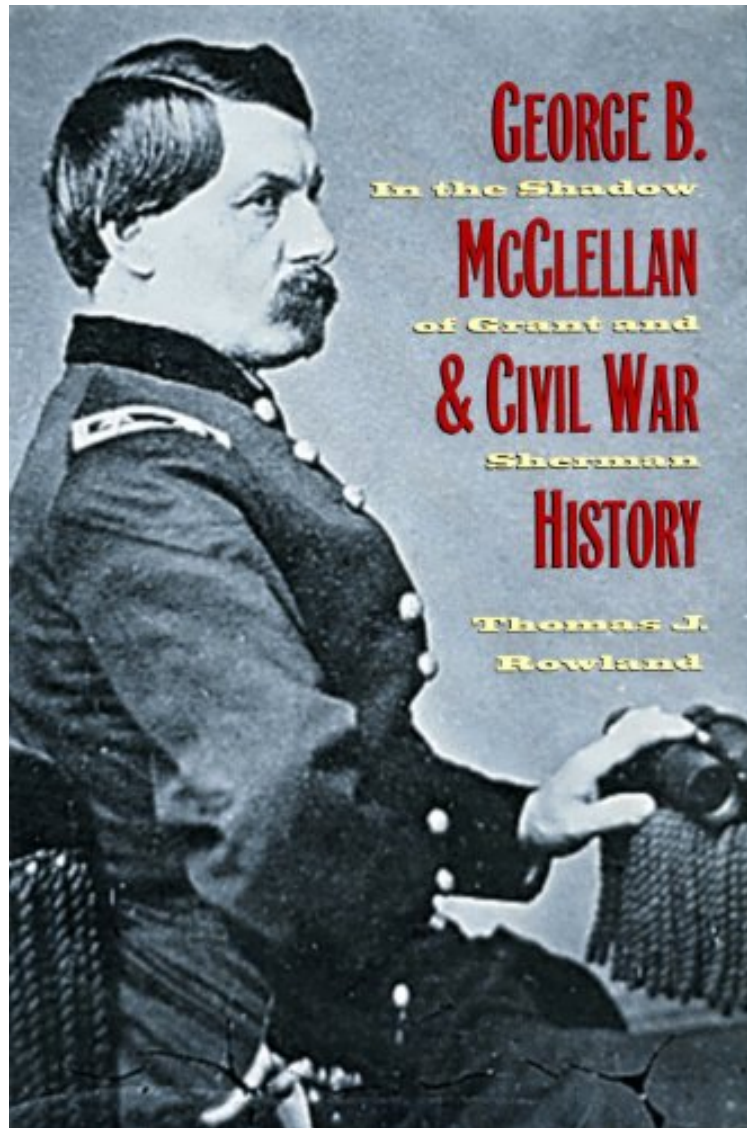


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## George B. McClellan and Civil War History:In the Shadow of Grant and Sherman

Von Thomas J Rowland  
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**Von Thomas J Rowland : George B. McClellan and Civil War History:In the Shadow of Grant and Sherman** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised George B. McClellan and Civil War History:In the Shadow of Grant and Sherman:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Were character flaws "peculiar to McClellan"?Von Ein KundeThomas J. Rowland set out to prove that, although George

McClellan was not a great general, neither was he as bad as so many Civil War historians and writers have depicted him. I believe that he has succeeded. Having read Stephen Sears' classic biography on "Mac", I was certain that the definitive McClellan verdict was a *fait accompli*. How wrong I was! Historians T. Harry Williams, Kenneth P. Williams, and Bruce Catton were also cited for a less than even-handed assessment of McClellan. Still, one must add that Rowland did not maliciously criticize the intent of these historians. He merely pointed out that they needlessly made Lincoln, Grant, and Sherman--men who remain giants without anyone's help--larger than they should be, at McClellan's expense. After examining their records during the first two years of the war, each of these men showed less than a superlative level of performance, contrary to popular assumption. I think that Rowland's book is one of best buys I have ever made. A more superbly-written, well-argued, and illuminating book on George McClellan and his impact on the Civil War and its interpretation would be hard to find. It's great. Buy it!

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0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This is a very refreshing look at an old subject. Von Ein Kunde Not only does the author restore a much needed sense of perspective to the historical treatment of McClellan, but he suggests a needed framework in which Civil War leadership in the North can be examined without falling into the "cliche" trap of "good general vs. bad general." If you want a refreshing view of familiar material -- this is the book to read!

Kurzbeschreibung Perhaps no other Union commander's legacy in the Civil War has been the subject of as much controversy as George B. McClellan's. Since the midpoint of this century, however, he has emerged as the complex general who, though gifted with administrative and organizational skills, was unable and unwilling to fight with the splendid army he had created. Thomas J. Rowland argues that this interpretation rests squarely within the context of general historical verdicts of the way in which the North eventually triumphed. Civil War scholars have found the quality of Union leadership in the early years of the war wanting, and that it was not until U.S. Grant and W. TA. Sherman emerged that success was ensured. On the other hand, Grant and Sherman knew failure but were judged less harshly than was McClellan. In *George B. McClellan and Civil War History*, Rowland presents a framework in which early Civil War command can be viewed without direct comparison to that of the final two years. Such comparisons, in his opinion, are both unfair and contextually inaccurate. Only by understanding how very different was the context and nature of the war facing McClellan, as opposed to Grant and Sherman can one discard the traditional "good general-bad general" approach to command performance. In such a light, McClellan's career, both his shortcomings and accomplishments, can be viewed with clearer perspective. Pressestimmen "A splendid contribution to Civil War historiography.... Chief among its numerous virtues, however, are the walls to comprehension it knocks down and the vistas it opens to long-observed perceptions. Simply put, it will no longer be possible to view George B. McClellan in the same old, tired way" -- Joseph L. Harsh

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