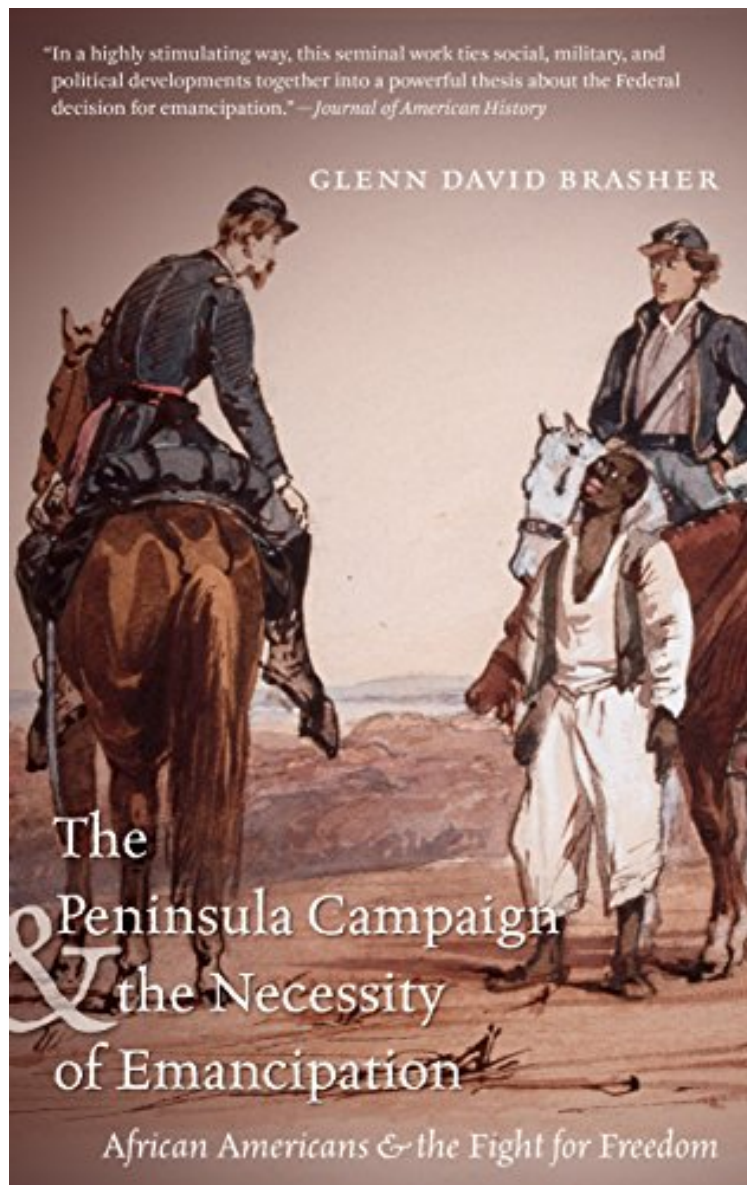


[Pdf free] The Peninsula Campaign and the Necessity of Emancipation: African Americans and the Fight for Freedom (Civil War America)

## The Peninsula Campaign and the Necessity of Emancipation: African Americans and the Fight for Freedom (Civil War America)

Glenn David Brasher

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Glenn David Brasher : The Peninsula Campaign and the Necessity of Emancipation: African Americans and the Fight for Freedom (Civil War America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Peninsula Campaign and the Necessity of Emancipation: African Americans and the

## Fight for Freedom (Civil War America):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great read  
By Dan of Steel  
Great book. Well written and tells a seemingly ignored part of history.  
10 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A New View  
By Kevin Windham  
Growing up in rural west-central Alabama I was indoctrinated with "Lost Cause" ideology, a fallacy that hamstrung my understanding of the Civil War. However, through graduate school, I came to a deeper appreciation of the conflict, the players involved, and the complexity of the age. I have been able to look back on my education, on what I thought I knew to be "the truth," and to question. My friends have been invaluable in growth. One of the many areas I had never considered was the role of African-Americans, notably slaves, during the Civil War. Too often, we talk about slavery and its role in setting the climate which led to secession, then touch the topic again with Antietam and the Emancipation Proclamation, generally acknowledge the service of the USCT's, and then end the "Peculiar Institution" in Reconstruction. However, a question remains: What specific military roles did slaves play during the war even before emancipation and the raising of black toops? Glenn David Brasher gives us an answer. In this new and historiographically divergent monograph, Brasher approaches the roles of African Americans in their "fight for freedom." Focusing on the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, he brings the actions and agency of slaves to the forefront, a positionality much warranted. Slaves fought on both sides (to what degree, when, where, and why is still debatable, , and Brasher handles the question of so-called "Black Confederates" with objectivity) and labored for both sides in digging trenches and constructing forts. However, slaves also put an enormous amount of pressure on soldiers, officers, the northern public, and politicians in Washington. Brasher explains how slaves understood that the war was "waged to perpetuate the dismal night of their servitude," and when the opportunity arrived, they fled the farms and plantations as well as their impressment into Confederate service. They wanted freedom. Running to Fort Monroe or--in general--the Union lines, they began to provide labor and information that shaped both strategy and tactics as the Army of the Potomac moved on Richmond. These men and women became a "useful appendage" to the army and forced the question of "who are our friends?" on to northerners in general. Slaves became the trench diggers, the guides, and informants--passing along information on troop numbers and movements--but they also became much more: slavery was become an increasing concern for the A.O.P. (and the North as a whole). Slaves faced grievous dangers as they fled and as they served the Union. Their actions caused U.S. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells to proclaim, in one instance, he had known "none more meritorious." The influx of slaves into Union lines caused not only the army to questions slavery, but also required Congress to heavily debate the Second Confiscation Act and the military necessity of emancipation. The author is keen to point out that newspapers also carried the debates, and thus the northern public was made aware of the military arguments for emancipation. The military contributions of slaves on the peninsula spurred the debates, a fact Brasher drives home with success. Brasher is able to show that "By mid-July 1862, Abraham Lincoln's life-long moral objections to slavery, indications that Northerners increasingly supported sterner measures against the South, and the growing acceptance of the military necessity of emancipation all came together to doom the South's peculiar institution." In challenging the idea that Antietam is the battle that should be most associated with emancipation, Brasher's work is simply a must read for all interested in the Civil War.  
0 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Resource on Abolition and the Civil War  
By Beverly J. McNeill  
The Peninsula Campaign and The Necessity of Emancipation is a fascinating book provides so much information on issues involved in that campaign..

In the Peninsula Campaign of spring 1862, Union general George B. McClellan failed in his plan to capture the Confederate capital and bring a quick end to the conflict. But the campaign saw something new in the war--the participation of African Americans in ways that were critical to the Union offensive. Ultimately, that participation influenced Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation at the end of that year. Glenn David Brasher's unique narrative history delves into African American involvement in this pivotal military event, demonstrating that blacks contributed essential manpower and provided intelligence that shaped the campaign's military tactics and strategy and that their activities helped to convince many Northerners that emancipation was a military necessity. Drawing on the voices of Northern soldiers, civilians, politicians, and abolitionists as well as Southern soldiers, slaveholders, and the enslaved, Brasher focuses on the slaves themselves, whose actions showed that they understood from the outset that the war was about their freedom. As Brasher convincingly shows, the Peninsula Campaign was more important in affecting the decision for emancipation than the Battle of Antietam.

[An] assiduously researched and highly illuminating work.--Journal of Southern History  
Want proof that history isn't dead? Look no further than Glenn David Brasher's revelatory account of what happened in Virginia 150 years ago this summer. . . . Brasher shows that freedom wasn't something that happened to enslaved Virginians. They seized it the first moment they could. . . . Brasher's seminal book makes it hauntingly real.--Fredericksburg News  
[Brasher] successfully challenges both myths [about slave participation in the Civil War], and in the process, places Virginia's slave population at the center of one of the most important military campaigns of 1862. . . . [This book] reminds us just

how much the Union and Confederacy shared in their valuation of blacks during the war.--The Atlantic

In a highly stimulating way this seminal work ties social, military, and political developments together into a powerful thesis about the making of the Federal decision for emancipation.--Journal of American History

A fascinating, impressively researched, and lucidly written addition to the literature on emancipation.--American Historical [A] satisfying read, breaking new ground and laying the groundwork for future studies of Black/White relations on the front lines of the Civil War. This excellent book is well written, extensively researched, and convincingly argued. The University of North Carolina Press has a winner here.--TOCWOC:A Civil War Blog

Recommended. All levels/libraries.--Choice

Brasher presents an insightful description of this most fascinating, yet oddly overlooked chapter of American history. . . . A valuable addition to Civil War literature and this reviewer gives it high marks for research and candor. The book makes an excellent addition to any Civil War library.--West Virginia History

It is fortunate for his audience that Brasher is a careful and resourceful researcher and a lucid writer. . . . Although this work focuses on the necessity of emancipation, if other historians are wise they will let it serve as a model of how to unify political, military, and social history for future studies of all the campaigns of the Civil War.--Civil War History

This intriguing study adds new twists to the well-known tale of the Peninsula Campaign.--The Historian

A highly praiseworthy work that succeeds in combining traditional military history and social history to the benefit of both.--Register of the Kentucky Historical Society

By placing black people at the center of the Peninsula campaign, Brasher shows the value of blending military historiography with emancipation historiography.--H-CivWar

Quite thought provoking in many areas. . . . I highly recommend this book to anyone with interest in the politics of the abolitionist movement during the Civil War and how they were morphed by the military actions of the eastern armies.--Gettysburg Chronicle

No student of the Civil War who wants to give an informed answer when next confronted with the 'black Confederate' question can afford to miss this fine book.--Civil War Monitor blog

This book, which is destined to become a mainstay in the historiography of emancipation, offers a constant reminder that history does not occur in a vacuum.--Civil War News

In the debate over emancipation, Brasher persuasively emphasizes the importance of such reports of blacks' participation in the war.--The North Carolina Historical

This book does what history does at its best.--Civil War Monitor

Rarely does an author merge so seamlessly in one study a military history--a particular campaign, social history--slavery and history from the bottom up, and political history--the origins of the Emancipation Proclamation.--Civil War Book

This book effectively opens new doors of scholarly exploration.--Virginia Magazine

This impressive book belongs at the forefront of the conversation about how slavery fell apart on the ground in the midst of war. We come to realize the drama featured not a single actor or group of actors, but a cast of thousands whose actions and motivations we have not always understood very well." --Chandra M. Manning, Georgetown University

In vivid, deeply researched detail, Glenn David Brasher presents a crucial but almost unchronicled chapter of Civil War history. Anyone seeking to understand how the war to save the Union became a struggle for African American freedom should read this important book.--Adam Goodheart, author of 1861: The Civil War Awakening

From the Inside Flap

In the Peninsula Campaign of spring 1862, Union general George B. McClellan failed in his plan to capture the Confederate capital and bring a quick end to the conflict. But the campaign saw something new in the war--the participation of African Americans in ways that were critical to the Union offensive. Ultimately, that participation influenced Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation at the end of that year. Glenn David Brasher's unique narrative history delves into African American involvement in this pivotal military event, demonstrating that blacks contributed essential manpower and provided intelligence that shaped the campaign's military tactics and strategy and that their activities helped to convince many Northerners that emancipation was a military necessity.