Atlanta: The Civil War Saga

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Atlanta (The Civil War Saga) by Sara Orwig

: Enabled

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Atlanta, Georgia, played a pivotal role in the American Civil War, serving as a strategic railroad hub and the site of several major battles. The city's complex history during the war is a story of division, conflict, and ultimately, reunification.

A Confederate Stronghold

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Atlanta was a thriving railroad town with a population of around 10,000. The city's strategic location at the crossroads of several major rail lines made it a vital target for both the Union and Confederate armies.

The Confederacy quickly seized control of Atlanta and established it as a major military center. The city became a hub for the production of war materiel, and its railroads were used to transport troops and supplies to the front lines.

The Battle of Atlanta

In 1864, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman launched a major campaign against Atlanta. Sherman's army laid siege to the city for several months, and a series of bloody battles ensued.

The most famous of these battles was the Battle of Atlanta, which took place on July 22, 1864. In this battle, Sherman's forces attacked the Confederate defenses from three directions, and after a fierce day of fighting, the Confederates were forced to retreat.

Sherman's March

The Battle of Atlanta was a major turning point in the Civil War. With the fall of Atlanta, Sherman's army cut off the Confederacy's supply lines and effectively split the Confederacy in two.

Sherman then embarked on his famous "March to the Sea," a scorchedearth campaign that destroyed Confederate infrastructure and morale. Sherman's army marched from Atlanta to Savannah, burning and pillaging as they went.

Reconstruction and Reunion

The Civil War ended in 1865 with the Confederacy's defeat. Atlanta was largely destroyed during the war, but the city was quickly rebuilt after the war's end.

The postwar period was a time of great change for Atlanta. The city became a major center of industry and commerce, and it was a major destination for freed slaves from the South.

Atlanta also played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. The city was home to some of the most important leaders of the movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr.

Today, Atlanta is a thriving metropolis and a major cultural and economic center. The city's rich history is still evident in its many historic landmarks and museums.

Atlanta's role in the Civil War was a complex and multifaceted one. The city was a Confederate stronghold, a battleground, and a symbol of the war's devastation. But it was also a city of resilience and renewal, and it ultimately emerged from the war as a stronger and more prosperous city.



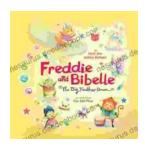
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