Chapter 8: From Postwar Demobilization Toward Great Power Status, 1865-1898


Brooks D. Simpson's *Let Us Have Peace: Ulysses S. Grant and the Politics of War and Reconstruction, 1861-1868* (University of North Carolina Press, 1991) demonstrates that Grant was an astute soldier-politician from the moment he donned a uniform in 1861. The difficulties Grant confronted after he became president are examined in George C. Rable's *But There Was No Peace: The Role of Violence in the Politics of Reconstruction* (University of Georgia Press, 1988).

on the subject. Edward M. Coffman's *The Old Army* paints a fascinating portrait of the
postbellum Army and *Class and Race in the Frontier Army: Military Life in the West* (University


Biographies of other Army officers reveal that Custer was not the only Indian fighter in the West. Paul Andrew Hutton, ed., Soldiers West: Biographies from the Military Frontier (University of Nebraska Press, 1987) contains brief studies of fourteen officers ranging from the famous to the little known. Two of the former were Sheridan and Miles, who have benefited from detailed studies; see Paul Andrew Hutton, Phil Sheridan and His Army (University of Nebraska Press, 1985); Jerome A. Greene, Yellowstone Command: Colonel Nelson A. Miles and the Great Sioux War, 1876-1877 (University of Nebraska Press, 1991); and Robert Wooster, Nelson A. Miles and the Twilight of the Frontier Army (University of Nebraska Press, 1993). Another towering figure is depicted in Sherman: A Soldier’s Passion for Order (Free Press, 1993) by John F. Marszalek and William Tecumseh Sherman and the Settlement of the West (University of Oklahoma Press, 1995 [1956]) Robert G. Athearn. Three lesser-known officers

Charles M. Robinson III challenges the claim that racial antipathy within the Army unjustly ended the career of West Point’s first black graduate. Elizabeth D. Leonard’s excellent *Men of Color To Arms! Black Soldiers, Indians Wars, and the Quest for Equality* (W.W. Norton, 2010) examines how black troops used military service, especially on the frontier, to press for equal treatment after the Civil War.


Some Native Americans chose to fight with the whites and became important assets to the Army, as chronicled in Thomas W. Dunlay, *Wolves for the Blue Soldiers: Indian Scouts and Auxiliaries with the United States Army 1860-1890* (University of Nebraska Press, 1982) and *War Party in Blue: Pawnee Scouts in the U.S. Army* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2010) by Mark van de Logt. Anthony R. McGinnis reveals how the divisions and conflict between Plains
tribes aided the U.S. government in their conquest in *Counting Coup and Cutting Horses: Intertribal Warfare on the Northern Plains, 1738-1889* (Bison Books, 2010).

