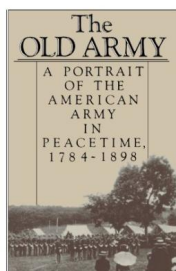


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## THE OLD ARMY: A PORTRAIT OF THE AMERICAN ARMY IN PEACETIME, 1784-1898



Edward M. Coffman

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- Authored by Coffman, Edward M.
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The history of the United States Army began in 1775. From its formation, the United States Army has been the primary land based part of the United States Armed Forces. The Army's main responsibility has been in fighting land battles and military occupation. The Corps of Engineers also has a major role in controlling rivers inside the United States. The Continental Army was founded in response to a need for professional soldiers in the American Revolutionary War to fight the invading British Army. One of the most important works of military history published in the last decade, *The Old Army* is the only comprehensive study of the people who made up the garrison world in the peacetime intervals between the War for Independence and the Spanish-American War. Drawing on diaries, letters, and other primary documents, Edward M. Coffman, Dear Customer, As a global organization, we, like many others, recognize the significant threat posed by the coronavirus. During this time, we have made some of our learning resources freely accessible. Learn more about these useful resources on our COVID-19 page. By definition, "the Old Army" is the Regular Army establishment that existed before the last war. The Regulars were always a small body, a result of American distrust of a standing army since the very beginning of our national history. The Regulars became the backbone of the greatly expanded military as civilians volunteered or were conscripted during an emergency, and they were those who were left after the emergency was over and the militia or the draftees went home again. Coffman illustrates the evolution of the "peacetime" force (though accurately asserts A veritable encyclopedia of life in the "peacetime" U.S. Army between 1784 and 1898, this work is a product of the earliest era of 'new' military history.