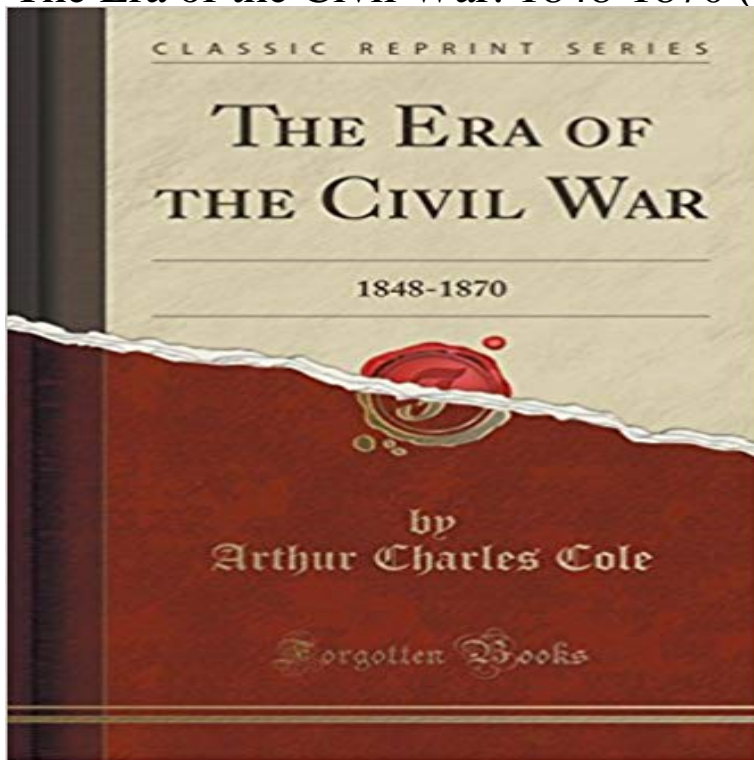


The Era of the Civil War: 1848-1870 (Classic Reprint)



Excerpt from *The Era of the Civil War: 1848-1870* The development of Illinois out of the frontier and through the storm and stress of Civil War is the story of an evolving western democracy in a period of grave transition; it was then that the hopes of the pioneer were finding buoyant expression in the prosperity of the prairies and in the assumption of a full share of responsibility in the nations burdens. The story of Illinois thus striving to be first in war and first in peace is complicated by the place taken by Illinois leaders on the roll of national heroes; indeed, the historian of this period finds himself torn between the demands of the common people for an interpretation of their democratic influence over against the looming influence of the statesman on the hustings, in the national legislature, or in the presidential chair. In the synthesis here presented the author has tried to weigh with care the proportions due to every phase of the stirring life on the prairies of Illinois. The author is greatly indebted to several institutions which have responded generously to his appeals for assistance by the loan of source material: The Library of Congress, the Illinois State Historical Library, the Chicago Historical Society, McKendree College Library, the Belleville Public Library, the Joliet Public Library, the Rockford Public Library, and Reddicks Library of Ottawa. A large number of individuals and newspaper offices have cooperated by placing at the disposal of the author their private files of newspapers which were otherwise unavailable. Acknowledgments for such favors are due the publishers of the Rushville Times, the Carthage Republican, the Jonesboro Gazette, the Canton Register, the Jacksonville Journal, Quincy Whig, Aurora Beacon, and to Mrs. Grace Scripps Dyche of Evanston for a copy of her fathers Gem of the Prairie for 1848 and 1849. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare

