

DAVID ARMITAGE CIVIL WARS

Read by Derek Perkins

A highly original history, tracing the least understood and most intractable form of organized human aggression from ancient Rome through the centuries to the present day.

We think we know civil war when we see it. Yet ideas of what it is, and what it isn't, have a long and contested history, from its fraught origins in republican Rome to debates in early modern Europe down to the present day. Defining the term is an acutely political act: whether a war is "civil" often depends on whether one is a ruler or a rebel, victor or vanquished, participant or foreigner. Likewise, calling any particular conflict a civil war can shape its outcome by determining whether other nations choose to get involved or stand aside. So it has been in our own nation's history: from the American Revolution (commonly referred to as a civil war while it was waged) to the US "Civil War" to the Second Gulf War—in each, pivotal decisions on the part of outside powers turned on precisely such shifts of perspective.

In *Civil Wars*, the eminent historian David Armitage offers an invaluable illumination of this vexing subject. By touching on certain signal instances in Western thought—the poetry of Lucan, the political theory of Thomas Hobbes, the so-called Lieber Code produced during our own civil war, to name a few—he creates a "genealogy" of our sometimes contradictory notions about civil war. The result has much to tell us about how this intellectual inheritance has shaped the political fortunes of our uneasy world and how we might think about this form of violence in the future.

From the Balkans to Rwanda, Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, and most recently Syria, civil conflict has exploded of late. Across the West, politics itself looks ever more like civil war by other means. At such a charged time, this book's unique perspective on the origins and dynamics of a phenomenon still shaping our world is sure to prove indispensable in the ongoing effort to grapple with what has come to seem an eternal problem.

"Concise, winningly written, clearly laid out, trenchantly argued...It's hard to imagine a more timely work for today." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

David Armitage is the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University, where he teaches intellectual history and international history, and former Chair of Harvard's History Department. His many publications include *The Ideological Origins of the British Empire* (2000) and *The Declaration of Independence: A Global History* (2007).

Derek Perkins is a professional narrator and voice actor. He has narrated numerous titles across a wide range of genres, including fantasy, science fiction, mystery, comedy, history, and nonfiction. He has earned two AudioFile Earphones Awards and was a finalist for the 2015 Audie Award for Best Nonfiction Narration.

Running Time: 7.5 Hours • Unabridged

PLAYAWAY®

DAVID ARMITAGE CIVIL WARS



© 2017 by BLACKSTONE AUDIO, INC. / © 2017 by David Armitage / Recorded by arrangement with A. A. Knopf, an imprint of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House, LLC / Cover design by Peter Mendelsund / Cover art by TK / Digitally mastered / All rights reserved. www.BlackstoneLibrary.com



PLAYAWAY®

Playaway pre-loaded audiobooks are the best way to listen, unplugged and uninterrupted.

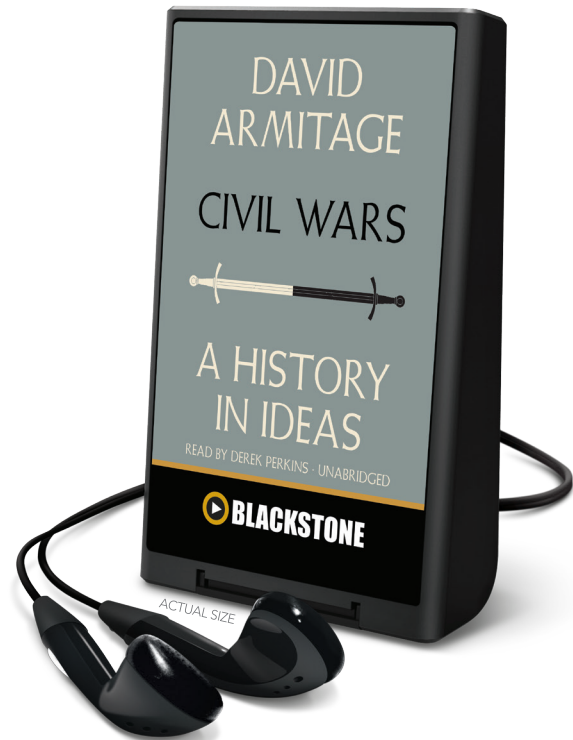
WWW.PLAYAWAY.COM
© 2017 Playaway. Patented. All rights reserved.
Designed in Ohio. Made in China.

ISBN 978-1-5384-0435-5



LIGHT

PLAYAWAY®
THE ALL-IN-ONE AUDIOBOOK



PLAYAWAY® and associated logos are registered trademarks of Findaway World, LLC.
31999 Aurora Road, Solon, OH 44139 USA