Despite his great victory at Gettysburg and his command of the Army of Northern Virginia, Hancock and Armistead crossed paths at a fort in Indian Territory before the Mexican War and then served together in California, becoming friends—and they emotionally parted ways when the Civil War broke out. Their lives reveal something different from the legend that holds up Hancock and Armistead as sentimental symbols of a nation torn apart. In this deeply researched book, Tom Armistead and Hancock: Behind the Legend, historian Tom Huntington explores the relationship between the two men, who were often praised as gentlemen and who were considered equals in their heroism, but who in fact had very different dispositions. The book examines the complex relationship between these two men, who were both generals in the Union army, and the way they worked together and apart during the Civil War. It also provides a new perspective on the Civil War itself, and on the role of the Union army in defeating the Confederacy. The book is based on extensive research, including primary sources and recent scholarship, and it offers a fresh look at the Civil War as a whole. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the Civil War or in the history of the United States.