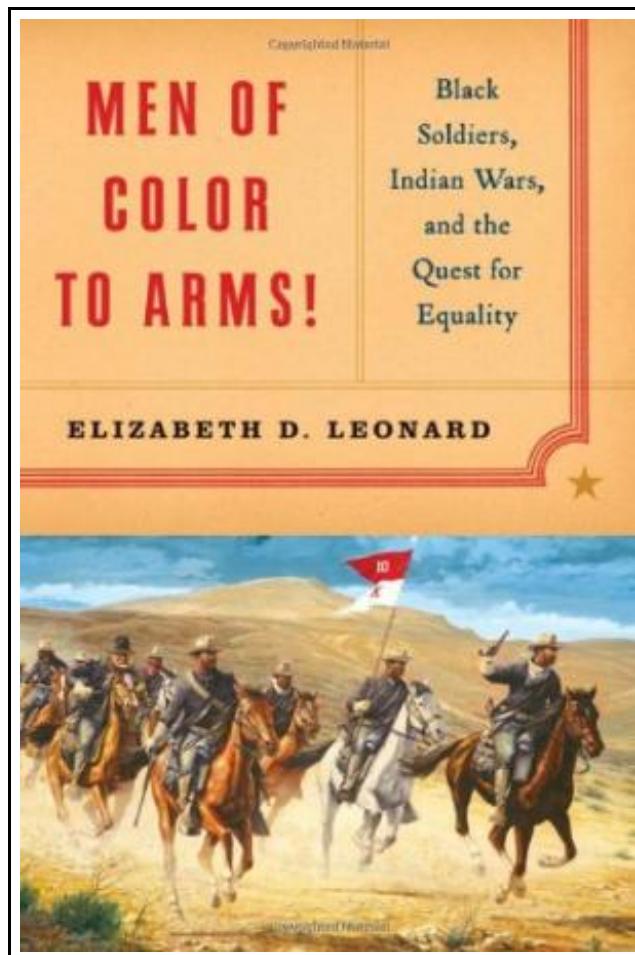


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Norton. 1 Cloth(s), 2010. hard. Book Condition: New. In 1863, at the height of the Civil War, Frederick Douglass assured African Americans that serving in the military offered a sure path to freedom. Once a black man became a soldier, he declared, "There is no power on earth or under the earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States." More than 180,000 black men stood up to defend the Union, only to find that their journey to equality would not be so straightforward. In a sharply drawn history filled with firsthand accounts, the author of Lincoln's Avengers and Yankee Women reveals the aspirations and achievements as well as the setbacks and disappointments of African American soldiers, including their involvement in the Indian Wars and their attempts to desegregate West Point."Once again Elizabeth Leonard demonstrates the versatility and range of her skills as a historian and writer. This penetrating account of the black regular regiments in the U.S. Army after the Civil War joins her earlier studies of women during the Civil War and the prosecutors of Lincoln's assassins on a select shelf of important books. Of special note is her discussion of the ironies involved in the key role played by black soldiers in the wars that extinguished the title of other nonwhite Americans to millions of acres that their ancestors had possessed for thousands of years."James M. McPherson 315.

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