

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

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**Michael C. C. Adams** is Regents Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University, an institution founded on the proposition that a liberal-arts-based education should be available to all qualified individuals. Adams grew up in Nottinghamshire, England, in the heart of Pilgrim Fathers country. He received the B.A. in History from the University of Wales and the D. Phil. in American Studies from the University of Sussex (U.K.). Following an early passion, Adams' first book was on the Civil War: *Our Masters the Rebels: A Speculation on Military Failure in the East, 1861-1865* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1978). The book won the Jefferson Davis Prize from the Museum of the Confederacy. There followed books on the coming of World War One, *The Great Adventure: Male Desire and the Coming of World War One* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990), the American experience in World War II, *The Best War Ever: America and World War II*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, University Press, 1994), and the treatment of war in popular culture, from knights on horseback to the First Gulf War, *Echoes of War: A Thousand Years of Military History in Popular Culture* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2002). Adams returned to his first love with *Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014), an examination of the full human costs of the conflict.