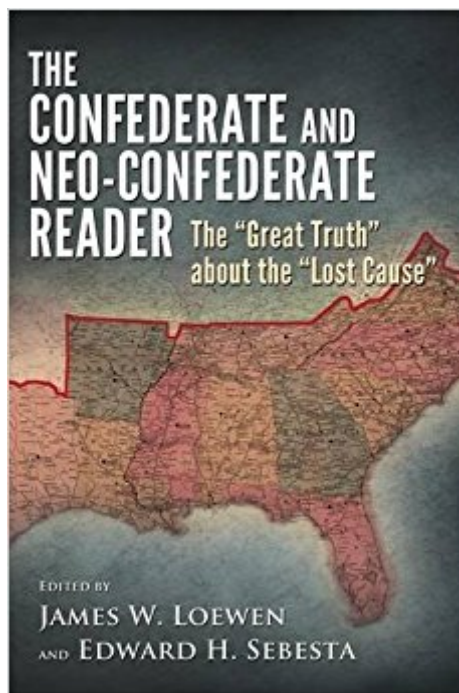




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# The Confederate And Neo-Confederate Reader: The "Great Truth" About The "Lost Cause"



## Synopsis

Most Americans hold basic misconceptions about the Confederacy, the Civil War, and the actions of subsequent neo-Confederates. For example, two thirds of Americans—including most history teachers—think the Confederate States seceded for “states’ rights.” This error persists because most have never read the key documents about the Confederacy. These documents have always been there. When South Carolina seceded, it published “Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union.” The document actually opposes states’ rights. Its authors argue that Northern states were ignoring the rights of slave owners as identified by Congress and in the Constitution. Similarly, Mississippi’s “Declaration of the Immediate Causes” says, “Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery—the greatest material interest of the world.” Later documents in this collection show how neo-Confederates obfuscated this truth, starting around 1890. The evidence also points to the centrality of race in neo-Confederate thought even today and to the continuing importance of neo-Confederate ideas in American political life. The 150th anniversary of secession and civil war provides a moment for all Americans to read these documents, properly set in context by award-winning sociologist and historian James W. Loewen and co-editor, Edward H. Sebesta, to put in perspective the mythology of the Old South.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This is a fantastic collection of essential documents that I wish I’d had way back in my student days. It would have saved me many years of stumbling across them in piecemeal fashion. Their broad sweep gives the reader a good sense of the Confederacy’s foundations and a firm notion of why many of the issues that brought it into being are still with us today.”

Harold D. Williams, author of *A People’s History of the Civil War: Struggles for the Meaning of Freedom and Bitterly Divided: The South’s Inner Civil War*

“This important and persuasive book explodes the myths surrounding slavery, secession, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. The Confederate and Neo-Confederate Reader should be required reading for classroom teachers. It deals with crucial events in this nation’s history and it is as current as today’s news.”

John Dittmer, author of *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi* and *The Good Doctors: The Medical Committee for Human Rights and the Struggle for Social Justice in Health Care*

“This is THE book we’ve all been needing out here! And what a great team to put it together.”

Monroe Gilmour, coordinator, Western North Carolina Citizens for an End to Institutional Bigotry

“This collection of documents associated with the history and memory of the times and events that led to the creation of the Southern Confederacy is an impressive educational tool for understanding and appreciating the pivotal period of the Civil War. The valuable historical data contained in these pages, taken from the words of those who created and influenced the critical events of the time, provide a striking understanding of the development and complexity of the Confederate ideology before, during, and after the Civil War. This book also traces the evolving historical interpretation of that most critically important period of national history and its impact upon present-day perceptions of the Civil War era.”

James Oliver Horton, author of *The Landmarks of African American History* and co-editor of *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory*

Resounding documentary proof that the original reasoning behind secession and subsequently myth-making was in defense of slavery and white supremacy

A must read for all U.S. citizens.

Great book, very good read with many interesting facts to make you think about how you look at this period of time in American history. Would recommend everyone that is interested in knowing the facts to read this book.

Cannot argue with original sources. The premise of white supremacy in the primary source documents is terrifying. The one star critics are free to publish their own collection of contravening original source material, if any exist. Until then the unadulterated contemporaneous documents are not to be ignored, by serious people. The real past. Documented. What more can a thinking person want? Kindle formatting could be tweaked to make it an easier read but it cannot change the genuine words of the genuine past.

The Lost Cause Myth is prevalent in our society. Many believe it as gospel truth. Worse yet, they honestly believe that those who don't believe the mythology of the South are the ones who are practicing revisionist history. How do you answer such historically inaccurate assertions, such as, for example, the Civil War wasn't over slavery, it was over states rights? What do the original historical documents say? Indeed, what are the important historical documents? James Loewen not only answers these questions clearly, he quotes the documents extensively, sometimes entirely. Anyone who doubts his honest treatment of the documents can just look them up on the internet themselves. They are not secret or obscure, once you know what they are. If you have ever found yourself in a debate with true believers in the Lost Cause, this is your book. I only have two minor criticisms of the book. The formatting is such that it is difficult to tell when you have left Loewen's commentary and have begun to read a quote from the historical documents. Second, Loewen quotes the historical documents so much that it slows down the reading. It is a necessary evil if one is to know they are getting accurate history on such an historically debatable topic, but it could have been facilitated by changing the formatting so that the reader could skip over or browse the document if they wanted to.

Very interesting.

and use of documents to make author's point. A southerner who looks for loftier reasons for the Civil War, they were not to be found in this well documented attempt to enlighten our understandings of this period in US history.

Let the secessionists themselves tell you why they wanted to leave the union--to perpetuate slavery. Loewen let's them hang themselves.

Excellent things you never learned in school. Reveals a major denial on the part of the southern states and the nation as a whole

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