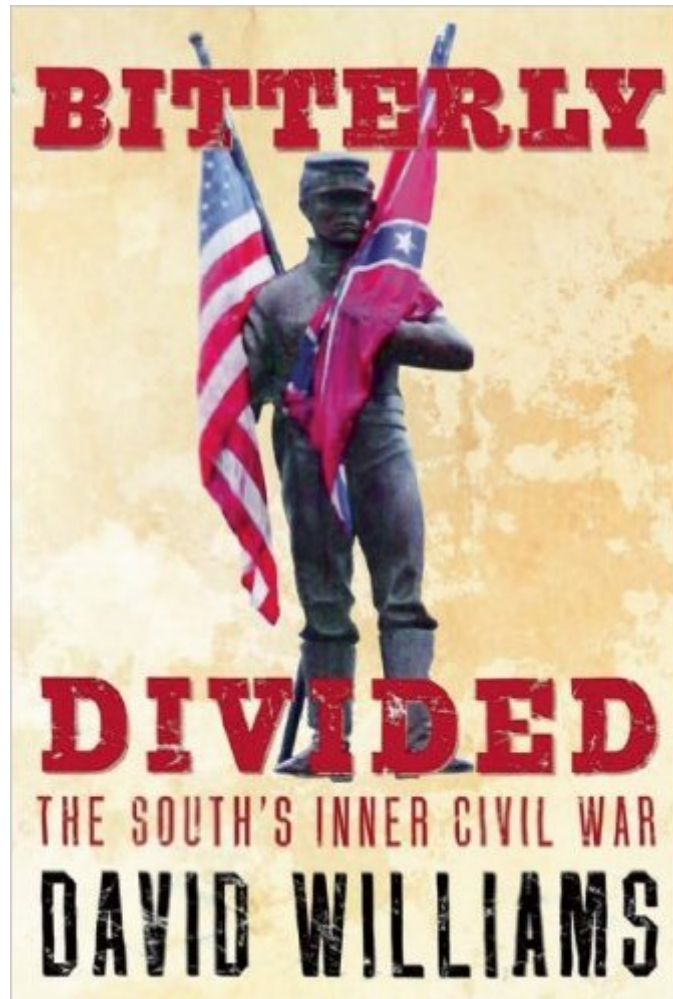


The book was found

Bitterly Divided: The South's Inner Civil War



Synopsis

Bitterly Divided lays bare the myth of a united confederacy, revealing that the South was in fact fighting two civil wars—an external one that we know so much about and an internal one about which there is scant literature and virtually no public awareness. A fascinating look at a hidden side of the South's history, historian David Williams shows the powerful and little-understood impact of the thousands of draft resisters, Southern Unionists, fugitive slaves, and other Southerners who opposed the Confederate cause.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: The New Press; First Trade Paper Edition edition (March 2, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1595584757

ISBN-13: 978-1595584755

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #513,788 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #590 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields #4941 in Books > History > Military > United States #8998 in Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

Customer Reviews

I studied under a professor at a Louisiana university who was doing similar research to Dr. Williams. The facts on the ground in Louisiana were similar to what Dr. Williams describes, but there was not apparently any real Unionist sentiment amongst the poor farmers, who were largely apolitical. Rather, there was the sentiment that their families would starve if drafted into the Confederate armies, because most of them were subsistence farmers who raised a small cash crop on the side, whose families depended upon their labor to have food on the table. As a result many Louisiana men of draft age lit out for the swamps and came out only to labor in their fields when their lookouts (generally small children) reported no press gangs in the area, and press gangs that entered the swamps did not exit (possibly an inspiration for the film "Southern Comfort"). Note that Union troops foraging through the countryside to take food from families for the use of the army often came under attack from the same gangs of men who were evading the Confederate press gangs, we found descriptions of such actions in a number of family letters on both sides, so it is not that they were

ardent Unionists, it was more that they were ardent "keep food on my family's table"-ists. In short, Dr. Williams's facts appear to be correct. But he may be overstating the depth of Unionist sympathy in the Deep South (as vs. the border states), where the facts seem to be more along the lines of Jefferson Davis (who had been appointed President by the secession convention -- not by popular vote -- based upon the fact that he'd adopted a new hat for the U.S.

Another nail in the coffin of the Lost Cause, this book shows how little united the Confederacy actually was. Did you know, for example, that half a million Southerners fought for the Union? How about that half of Lee's army had deserted *before* Gettysburg? Williams is particularly good at throwing light on why the South was so divided. He traces it all, basically, to class war - "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." He shows how planters led the South into secession (and kept the government in their hands to the very end), did their best to stay out of the fight (are you familiar with the 20-slave exemption?), used their muscle to get the poor into the fight (the draft and impressment), and helped starve the new nation (by planting cash crops instead of food and by scamming the government). The only reason I'm not giving this 5 stars is that a lot of the evidence is very incidental - an editorial here, an incident there, a letter over there. I, personally, would have liked to have seen more numbers. For example, of the 300,000 white Southerners who fought for the Union, how many were from border states, how many from the mountains? I do realize that those numbers might be a little hard to come by. I also feel that the sheer number of incidents the author marshals are probably more than enough. The cumulative effect really is quite overwhelming. Another thing the incidental approach was good for (though I'm not sure this was the author's intent) was getting across how awful the war could be for the Unionists (actually, for all concerned). There was very little chivalry involved in the massacres, beating of women, forced marches of Indians, shooting of black prisoners, etc.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Bitterly Divided: The South's Inner Civil War
Sons of Privilege: The Charleston Light Dragoons in the Civil War (Civil War Sesquicentennial Edition) (Civil War Sesquicentennial Edition (University of South Carolina Press))
The First Republican Army: The Army of Virginia and the Radicalization of the Civil War (A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era)
Divided We Fall (Divided We Fall Trilogy, Book 1)
John Lennon vs. The U.S.A.: The Inside Story of the Most Bitterly Contested and Influential Deportation Case in United States History
Yankee Blue or Rebel Gray? A Family Divided by the Civil War
War upon the Land: Military Strategy and the Transformation of Southern Landscapes during the American Civil War (Environmental History and the American South Ser.)

This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War (Vintage Civil War Library) The Civil War (True Books: Civil War (Paperback)) Top Secret Files: The Civil War: Spies, Secret Missions, and Hidden Facts from the Civil War (Top Secret Files of History) The Heart of Confederate Appalachia: Western North Carolina in the Civil War (Civil War America) The Civil War: A Narrative: Volume 3: Red River to Appomattox (Vintage Civil War Library) Photographic History of The Civil War: Vicksburg to Appomattox (Civil War Times Illustrated) (v. 2) The Battle of First Bull Run: The Civil War Begins (Graphic Battles of the Civil War) A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War) Don Troiani's Civil War Cavalry & Artillery (Don Troiani's Civil War Series) Citizen-officers: The Union and Confederate Volunteer Junior Officer Corps in the American Civil War (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War) Don Troiani's Civil War Infantry (Don Troiani's Civil War Series) Don Troiani's Civil War Zouaves, Chasseurs, Special Branches, & Officers (Don Troiani's Civil War Series) Behind the Blue and Gray: The Soldier's Life in the Civil War (Young Readers' History of the Civil War)

[Dmca](#)