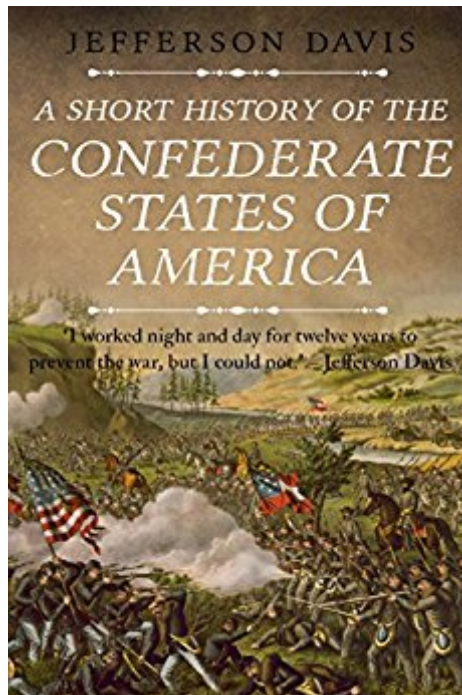


The book was found

A Short History Of The Confederate States Of America



Synopsis

The war, on the part of the Government of the United States, was a war of aggression and usurpation; and on the part of the South was for the defence of an inherent and unalienable right. The Civil War was one of the most defining eras in the history of the United States of America. The conflict developed as a result of complicated and intertwined political, economic, and social circumstances. This period in American history tends to be told from the view of the victors • how the Union, following the lead of President Abraham Lincoln, reclaimed those states attempting to secede and brought them back into the fold. Far less often is the conflict depicted by the vanquished. Written by Jefferson Davis, who served as the Confederate States of America president during the entirety of its existence, *A Short History of the Confederate States of America* tells the story of the secession of the southern states from the Union. The tale begins with the circumstances leading to secession, through the Civil War and on to the surrender of the Southern armies and the capture of President Davis. Davis sets out a case for establishing the constitutional right of secession and the violation of such rights by the government of the United States of America. The Union's unwillingness to acknowledge such constitutional infringement and rectify the matter resulted, Davis explains, in secession proving to be the only viable course of action for southern, slave-holding states who sought to protect themselves. Published in 1890, twenty-five years after the end of the Civil War, Davis's account reveals a version of the events of the Civil War that is rarely seen. Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) was born in Kentucky, and is best known for serving as the President of the Confederate States of America between 1862 and 1865. Prior to the secession of the South, he held positions as a US Representative and Senator and as the 23rd US Secretary of War. He was captured at the end of the Civil War, indicted for treason, and imprisoned for two years, but was released without trial. In 1881 he wrote *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, followed by *A Short History of the Confederate States of America* in 1890. He died a few months after the book's completion of acute bronchitis complicated by malaria.

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Customer Reviews

I understand why this book is now almost unread, as Jefferson Davis is for mostly seen as either evil incarnate or a buffoon. He is anything but. The first four chapters in this book, up to page 81 on the original edition, provides an alternative history of the period from colonial times, the writing of the Federal Constitution, the political conflicts between slave and free states, to the election of Abraham Lincoln and the run-up to the beginning of the Civil War. As a northern liberal, I would never have read this myself, if not for my wanting to use the caricature of Davis for an essay. The exploration of historiography of this period is a book in itself as the remaining chapters segue into military history. I recommend this book strongly, as Davis gives a detailed and cogent argument that provides a different narrative to the complex precursors to the conflagration the war that is really only a single chapter of the story of the slave culture in America, which must include the simplification of the Lincoln hagiography. This is a scholarly, incisive book by the man who was at the center of the movement. I would hope that history as taught in our major universities is able to include this book, and I'm troubled that this may not be the case. AlRodbell.com

It was a slow reading, like a school book maybe. Good turn on one persons look at War. I have read other books on the subject that help to understand the different views on the war. I don think one book can really give you the understanding you need.

In this "short" history of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis condenses his award winning two- volume Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government, a work spanning one thousand four hundred and forty nine pages, into five hundred and five. In both he maintains the same themes: The intolerable acts that led to sectional strife and ultimately secession. Efforts made by the South to rectify the situation shy of war. A spirited defense of the right of secession based on the Constitution. Battle after battle almost always pitting outmanned but highly-motivated and capably led Confederate forces against the material might of the north. Having served as Secretary of War and as a U.S. Senator Davis was well versed in the constitution and eloquently defends his actions based on the Declaration of Independence that states, "Governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it," and the 10th Amendment which reserved all powers not expressly delegated to the Government to the states. He states the war rendered the 10th Amendment irrelevant. History records he wanted the victorious north to put him on trial for "treason." They declined to do so. Could it be they feared his eloquence and expertise before a court of law? Few people then or now have either the time nor inclination to tackle a 1400(+) page expose such as Rise and Fall. Short History provides the essentials without going into the detail shown in the previous work. Both tell the story, now largely ignored, that the story promulgated by the north that "the evil South owned slaves and we the righteous north had to free them," as being the sole reason for the war. Rise and Fall and Short History both refute this myth. If you are a serious student of history you owe it to yourself to examine the facts presented here no matter which side you support. A great read from an acknowledged primary source. Five Stars!!

I used this book as a primary source years ago and couldn't track it down at all i'm glad that i did. if you pair this with Davis's other work "Rise and fall of the confederate states of america" (both volumes) you have a good history (although realize it is told from a certain point of view) of the southern confederacy

Very nice to hear a first hand account of the Civil War from the Confederate point of view. I was stunningly surprised at the states rights issue and how the union marched into the state of Missouri and confiscated all the weapons from the citizens. War had not even been declared at that point. Something to think about.

History is constantly being rewritten to appease the "politically correct" audience, thus making the history worthless as a fairy tale. Jefferson Davis, as the President of the Confederacy, had a first-hand look at what went on, and put it down on paper in his retiring years. Now that's reality that can't be altered by Union book publishers, advancing their own agenda.

I liked reading this book for the most part but it is a tough read and seems to take forever. I found out that the last official meeting of the Confederate cabinet took place about ten miles from my house as the US Army was in pursuit of Jefferson Davis and the last of the gold from the Confederate treasury.

Very factual.well written.easy to read

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