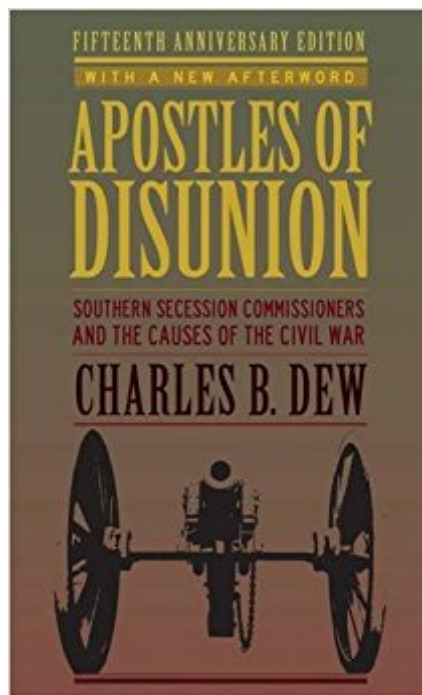


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# Apostles Of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners And The Causes Of The Civil War (A Nation Divided: Studies In The Civil War Era)



## Synopsis

Charles Dew's *Apostles of Disunion* has established itself as a modern classic and an indispensable account of the Southern states' secession from the Union. Addressing topics still hotly debated among historians and the public at large more than a century and a half after the Civil War, the book offers a compelling and clearly substantiated argument that slavery and race were at the heart of our great national crisis. The fifteen years since the original publication of *Apostles of Disunion* have seen an intensification of debates surrounding the Confederate flag and Civil War monuments. In a powerful new afterword to this anniversary edition, Dew situates the book in relation to these recent controversies and factors in the role of vast financial interests tied to the internal slave trade in pushing Virginia and other upper South states toward secession and war.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Winner of the 2001 Fletcher Pratt Prize from the Civil War Round Table of New York "This incisive history should dispel the pernicious notion that the Confederacy fought the Civil War to advance the constitutional principle of states' rights and only coincidentally to preserve slavery." •Allen D. Boyer, New York Times Book Review "Dew has produced an eye-opening study.... So much for states' rights as the engine of secession." •James M. McPherson, New York Review of Books "This is an important study, meticulously researched and convincingly argued." •James Oliver Horton, author of *The Landmarks of African American History*

Charles B. Dew is Ephraim Williams Professor of American History at Williams College and the author of *The Making of a Racist: A Southerner Reflects on Family, History, and the Slave Trade (Virginia)* and *Bond of Iron: Master and Slave at Buffalo Forge*, selected as a New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

The title reflects the sentiments of an African American activist during the civil turmoil caused by busing students in Boston, Massachusetts during the 70s and 80s last century. The title eloquently expresses the persistence of racism or race hatred in our republic today. Mr. Dew provides insight by sharing original source material showing the South's real concern. The commissioners of secession left no doubt about their real concern: the continued subjugation of the negro as property. Our "real" Southern heritage! Review written by Georgia native.

This succinct and honest volume, backed with powerful and candid documentary evidence, should leave no doubt to the reader that the preservation of African slavery and maintenance of white supremacy were the primary causes for 11 Southern states to form their own political community. A must read for students of American history.

For any student of the Civil War, this is a must read! Using primary source documentation, Charles B. Dew provides a compelling account for the start of the Civil War. Yes, it was always about slavery, and this book is the definitive proof.

Concise book about the activities of secession delegates who attempted to persuade other states to join the Confederacy. Well written and informative.

I really enjoyed this book. After reading, I am in total agreement with the author's surprise that the speeches of the commissioners haven't factored more in studies on why the war was fought. Neo-Confederates who continuously insist that it was states rights, earlier slights and the like that fueled the South's secession can not, after the publication of this book, say that Southern racist fears and the institution of slavery barely factored as reasons for secession. Mr. Dew makes his case excellently! A must read for anyone trying to understand Southern secession in the aftermath of the election of 1860.

This book is a masterpiece by an author who is an absolute magician at not wasting words and

unlike many authors he didn't pad the book with needless information for filler. The book is chock full of verifiable quotes from the historical figures themselves and a lengthy appendix provides you with the full speeches so that you can verify that he did not take their words out of context. This book should be used as a yardstick on how other history books concerning controversial subjects should be written. Too often historians take information that would otherwise be interesting and present it in a very dull fashion by overloading the reader with needless data. This book is a pleasant exception to the rule. The author skillfully supports his statement made in the title within the pages of the book and by the time you finish it you will have a much fuller understanding of the subject-matter.

This book is an excellent and concise work on the reasons for Southern secession with tons of support from primary documents. As a work on the issue of secession it is excellent, perhaps without equal among recently published monographs. Unfortunately it was treated by the professor who assigned this as one of the classes texts as the only work needed on the causes of the war with no parallel books or essays on why the North didn't just let the South leave. Considering several instances in history where secession has either been completely peaceful (Czechoslovakia becoming the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the 1990s, Norway and Denmark breaking into two separate nations at the turn of the 20th century) or after token military actions (Belgium and the Netherlands in the 19th century, Slovenia from Yugoslavia at the start of the 1990s Balkan Wars) I found this text to be incomplete as a monograph on the causes of the American Civil War as the brutal total war it became. Alongside a monograph on Northern politics from the same series this work would make an excellent start point or undergrad text for research on the causes of the American Civil War.

This book clearly shows that the foremost issue on the minds of Southerners was slavery. The language used by Southerners to appeal to other Southerners is dramatic and revealing.

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