

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Great Triumvirate: Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun

By David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Peterson, Merrill D.	<i>The Great Triumvirate: Webster, Clay, and Calhoun</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Books and Articles

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year
Bartlett, Irving H.	<i>John C. Calhoun: A Biography</i> . New York: W. W. Norton, 1993.
Hopkins, James F., Mary W. M. Hargreaves et al, eds.	<i>The Papers of Henry Clay</i> , 11 vols. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1959-1992.
Meriwether, Robert L., W. Edwin Hemphill, Clyde N. Wilson, et al, eds.	<i>The Papers of John C. Calhoun</i> , 28 vols. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1959-2003
David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler	<i>Henry Clay: The Essential American</i> . New York: Random House, 2010.
James W. McIntrye, ed.	<i>The Writings and Speeches of Daniel Webster</i> , 18 vols. New York: Little, Brown, 1903.
Webster, Daniel	<i>The Works of Daniel Webster</i> , 6 vols. Boston: Little, Brown, 1851.

Organizations

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://usma.libguides.com/content.php?pid=207974&sid=1904958	The US Military Academy Library at West Point offers three PDF documents with a large number of links to the digitized works of Clay, Calhoun and Webster.
http://djheidler.com/	This is the website of David S. and Jeanne T. Heidler, American Historians. It includes information on their publications, their blog on American history and their monthly newsletter on American history to which you may subscribe to automatically receive the newsletters as they are published.

Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
“The South Carolina Exposition [and Protest]” “The Fort Hill Address” “A Disquisition on Government” “A Discourse on the Constitution and Government of the United States”	These four famous essays by John C. Calhoun are in volume 1 of <i>The Works of John C. Calhoun</i> .

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Google Keywords

Beginning in the War of 1812, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun achieved a national prominence that endured for more than four decades. As they rose in fame, they personified the regions that quarreled over expansion, finance, foreign policy, and slavery. Webster, who originally represented New Hampshire and then Massachusetts in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, reflected a New England Yankee’s promotion of merchant trade and rejection of slavery. The South Carolinian Calhoun

personified the South's gradual transformation from staunch nationalism after the War of 1812 to the belligerent sectionalism that caused all the trouble during the 1850s. Henry Clay was from Kentucky, which at the time made him a westerner, and he too mirrored his section's role in the unfolding national strife. The West was seen as a potential counterweight by North and South as the two sections sought to prevail politically in Congress. Because these three wielded often irresistible political influence during the sectional crises that led to the Civil War, their careers are linked to the catastrophe despite their having died roughly a decade before secession brought on the conflict. By then, they were called the "Great Triumvirate," a label that attests to their towering significance but misleads by suggesting that they more than occasionally cooperated for the good of the country. Rarely were they allies, and on those few occasions when they were, it was a shifting partnership between changing duets, not a solid trio, whose motives and goals could vary widely.
