

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Causes of the Civil War

By **Michael E. Woods**, Marshall University

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Levine, Bruce	<i>Half Slave and Half Free: The Roots of Civil War.</i> New York: Hill and Wang, 1992.

Books

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Ashworth, John	<i>The Republic in Crisis, 1848-1861.</i> New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
Bonner, Robert E.	<i>Mastering America: Southern Slaveholders and the Crisis of American Nationhood.</i> New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
Bowman, Shearer Davis	<i>At the Precipice: Americans North and South during the Secession Crisis.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.
Cooper, William J.	<i>We Have the War Upon Us: The Onset of the Civil War, November 1860 – April 1861.</i> New York: Alfred Knopf, 2012.
Dew, Charles B.	<i>Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War.</i> Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2001.
Egerton, Douglas R.	<i>Year of Meteors: Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, and the Election That Brought on the Civil War.</i> New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2011.

Etcheson, Nicole	<i>Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era.</i> Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2004.
Fehrenbacher, Don E.	<i>The Dred Scott Case: Its Significance in American Law and Politics.</i> New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.
Foner, Eric	<i>Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War.</i> New York: Oxford University Press 1995.
Forbes, Robert Pierce	<i>The Missouri Compromise and Its Aftermath: Slavery & the Meaning of America.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007.
Freehling William W.	<i>The Road to Disunion, Volume 1: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854.</i> New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.
_____.	<i>The Road to Disunion, Volume 2: Secessionists Triumphant, 1854-1861.</i> New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
Huston, James L.	<i>Calculating the Value of the Union: Slavery, Property Rights, and the Economic Origins of the Civil War.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
Mason, Matthew	<i>Slavery and Politics in the Early American Republic.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.
Morrison, Michael A.	<i>Slavery and the American West: The Eclipse of Manifest Destiny and the Coming of the Civil War.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.
Oakes, James	<i>The Scorpion's Sting: Antislavery and the Coming of the Civil War.</i> New York: W. W. Norton, 2014.
Potter, David M.	<i>The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861.</i> New York: Harper & Row, 1963.
Richards, Leonard L.	<i>The Slave Power: The Free North and Southern Domination, 1780-1860.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2000.

Rugemer, Edward Bartlett	<i>The Problem of Emancipation: The Caribbean Roots of the American Civil War (Antislavery, Abolition, and the Atlantic World)</i> . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008.
Shelden, Rachel A.	<i>Washington Brotherhood: Politics, Social Life, and the Coming of the Civil War</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.
Varon, Elizabeth R.	<i>Disunion! The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.
Woods, Michael E.	<i>Emotional and Sectional Conflict in the Antebellum United States</i> . Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Society of Civil War Historians	The SCWH is among the leading professional organizations for historians of the Civil War era of all types. The organization hosts a biennial conference and has adopted the <i>Journal of the Civil War Era</i> as its official journal. Website: http://scwh.la.psu.edu/

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://www.civilwarcauses.org/	This website provides links to numerous primary source documents related to the sectional conflict and the coming of the Civil War.
http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/causes.htm	Run by the National Park Service, this site offers a brief overview of Civil War causation and links to pages on historical sites of interest related to the coming of the war.
http://history.furman.edu/editorials/see.py	Furman University's Department of History has organized this helpful site, which

	provides scores of editorials related to Bleeding Kansas, the caning of Charles Sumner, the Dred Scott case, and John Brown’s raid.
http://www.civilwar.org/education/teachers/	Hosted by the Civil War Trust, this website features teacher resources, including lesson plans, related to the Civil War. “The Gathering Storm” offers an online exhibit and lesson plans for all grade levels related to the coming of the Civil War.
http://www.gilderlehrman.org/civilwar150/multimedia	The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History offers a “Civil War 150 Multimedia” page that includes podcast videos related to the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. Videos related to Civil War causation cover topics such as <i>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</i> , the Dred Scott decision, Lincoln’s inauguration, and African American abolitionists.

Other Sources

Scholars

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