

# **ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM**

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## **Secession**

By **William A. Link**, University of Florida

### **Resources**

**If you can read only one book**

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Potter, David M.	<i>The Impending Crisis 1848-1861.</i> New York: Joanna Cotler Books, 1976.

### **Books and Articles**

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Ayers, Edward L., Gary W. Gallagher, and Andrew J. Torget, eds.	<i>Crucible of the Civil War: Virginia from Secession to Commemoration.</i> Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2006.
Berry, Stephen W.	<i>All That Makes a Man: Love and Ambition in the Civil War South.</i> New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
Channing, Steven S.	<i>Crisis of Fear: Secession in South Carolina.</i> New York: Simon and Schuster, 1970.
Crofts, Daniel W.	<i>Reluctant Confederates: Upper South Unionists in the Secession Crisis.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989.
Dew, Charles B.	<i>Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War.</i> Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2002.
Doyle, Don H.	<i>The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War.</i> New York: Basic Books, 2014.

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, 1970.
Gallman, Matthew J.	<i>Defining Duty in the Civil War: Personal Choice, Popular Culture, and the Union Home Front.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017.
Holt, Michael F.	<i>The Political Crisis of the 1850s.</i> Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 1978.
Johnson, Michael P.	<i>Toward a Patriarchal Republic: The Secession of Georgia.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1977.
Link, William A.	<i>Roots of Secession: Slavery and Politics in Antebellum Virginia.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
McCurry, Stephanie	<i>Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South.</i> Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012.
Sinha, Manisha	<i>The Counter-Revolution of Slavery: Politics and Ideology in Antebellum South Carolina.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000.
Varon, Elizabeth R.	<i>Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.

## Organizations

## Web Resources

URL	Name and description
<a href="http://www.civil-war.net/pages/ordinances_secession.asp">http://www.civil-war.net/pages/ordinances_secession.asp</a>	The complete text of each of the 13 ordinances of secession are viewable on line on this website, (including the Missouri and Kentucky ordinances, though these two states never seceded).
<a href="http://www.burnpit.us/2011/04/lincoln-issues-call-75000-men-suppress-confederacy">http://www.burnpit.us/2011/04/lincoln-issues-call-75000-men-suppress-confederacy</a>	The text of Lincoln’s call for 75,000 volunteers on April 15, 1861 is viewable on line on this website.
<a href="http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/csa_csa.asp#a2">http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/csa_csa.asp#a2</a>	The Constitution of the Confederate States March 11, 1861 is viewable on line on this website.

## Other Sources

### Scholars

Name	Email
William A. Link	<a href="mailto:linkwa@ufl.edu">linkwa@ufl.edu</a>
Eric Foner	
Don H. Doyle	<a href="mailto:don.doyle@sc.edu">don.doyle@sc.edu</a>
Matthew J. Gallman	<a href="mailto:gallmanm@history.ufl.edu">gallmanm@history.ufl.edu</a>
Edward L. Ayers	<a href="mailto:eayers@richmond.edu">eayers@richmond.edu</a>
Stephanie McCurry	

### Topic Précis

On December 20, 1860, the South Carolina convention unanimously adopted an ordinance of secession, the result of tensions beginning in 1787 with how the Constitution handled the slavery issue. From then until December 1860 a series of events and crises aggravated sectional conflict and tensions. The Missouri Compromise of 1821 arising from the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Compromise of 1850 arising from the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848, John Brown's Raid in 1859 and finally the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 were among the developments and events that led to the secession crisis of 1860-1861. Following South Carolina's lead, six deep south states adopted secession ordinances in January and February 1861—Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. Another eight slaveholding states moved more cautiously. These states were controlled by moderate unionists. Four of them seceded after the start of military hostilities in April 1861 with the attack on Fort Sumter and Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion—Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Four other slaveholding states never left the union— Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri. Maryland spent the war under Federal occupation. Kentucky remained deeply divided raising regiments for both the Union and Confederate armies. Similarly, Missouri supplied regiments to both side but also suffered brutal guerrilla warfare throughout the war. The Confederacy began to take shape well before Fort Sumter. In February 1861, a convention was held electing Jefferson Davis President and Alexander Hamilton Vice President of the new Confederacy and producing a provisional constitution for the new state. In his inaugural address, President Davis justified the right of secession in order to resist an oppressive national government. He set out the objective of the new state as having no interest in invading the rights of others, but a determination to defend the new nation from invasion if necessary.

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