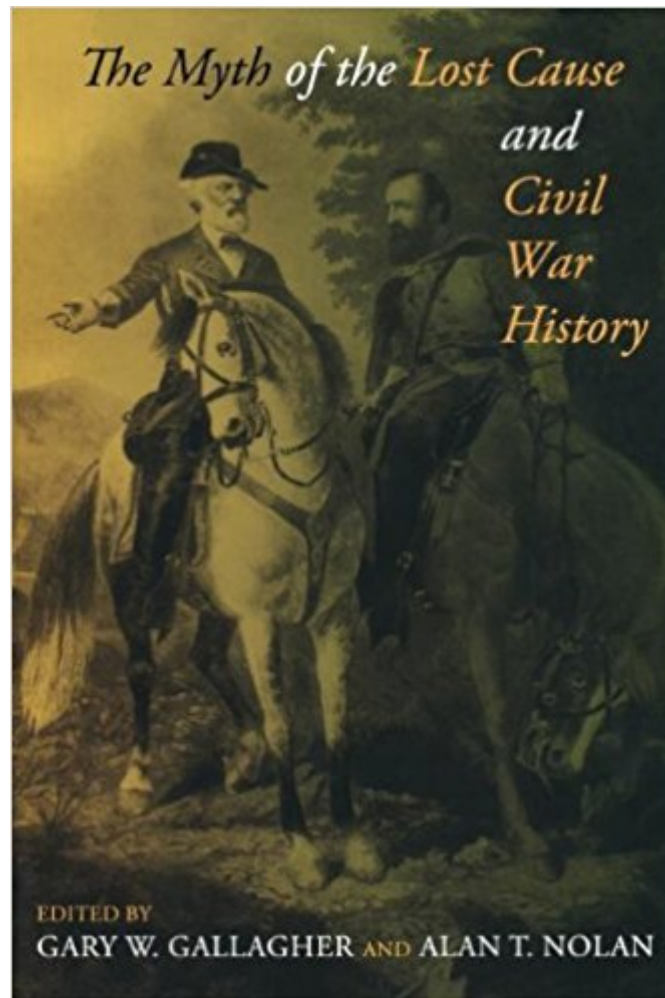




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The Myth Of The Lost Cause And Civil War History



Synopsis

Was the Confederacy doomed from the start in its struggle against the superior might of the Union? Did its forces fight heroically against all odds for the cause of states' rights? In reality, these suggestions are an elaborate and intentional effort on the part of Southerners to rationalize the secession and the war itself. Unfortunately, skillful propagandists have been so successful in promoting this romanticized view that the Lost Cause has assumed a life of its own. Misrepresenting the war's true origins and its actual course, the myth of the Lost Cause distorts our national memory. In *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History*, nine historians describe and analyze the Lost Cause, identifying ways in which it falsifies history—creating a volume that makes a significant contribution to Civil War historiography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The South lost the Civil War, but southerners have certainly held their own in the postwar battle to shape historical interpretations of the conflict. Southern politicians, war veterans, and historians successfully promoted the "Lost Cause" view of the origins and results of our national nightmare. The South, so the story goes, wanted to preserve its unique culture, and slavery was not a fundamental basis of that culture. Led by valiant gentlemen-officers (e.g., Robert E. Lee) and brave, defiant common soldiers, the Confederacy struggled against insurmountable odds, eventually succumbing to numerically but not morally superior forces. This collection of essays by nine Civil War scholars shows how the myth was consciously propagated by southerners, often in an attempt

to rationalize the physical and social carnage left by the war. These essays are well reasoned and timely, given current controversies raging over the display of the Confederate battle flag. This will be a valuable addition to Civil War collections. Jay FreemanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The Lost Cause... is a tangible and influential phenomenon in American culture and this book provides an excellent source for anyone seeking to explore its various dimensions."

—Southern Historian"Well reasoned and timely." —Booklist

Interesting book about the so-called "Lost Cause myth. Useful tool in debunking neo-confederate myths.

The first essay was worth the price of the book, but the others did not meet that high standard. I would have liked some expansion on that first essay. What I got was trivia...

Very good treatment of the origins and reality of the Lost Cause.

It gave me insight into the teaching of Civil War history as taught in the South in the 1950s.

Good information about the "lost cause."

Excellent analysis and review of the rise and effect of the "Lost Cause" mythology that still permeates the study of the U.S. Civil War to this day.

Fascinating book that shows "spinning" current events is definitely nothing new. The civil war had its own set of "Baghdad Bobs" right after the war. A well researched book.

The South's long and intense effort to salvage its self-image by rewriting the history of the Civil War is understandable but has become tiresome. This book reviews these efforts and refutes the inaccuracies in detail, in the first "essay" of several by real Historians. The rest of the "essays" (chapters) are each by other individuals and delve more deeply into individual cases both personal and regional. I found the increasingly close relationship between two sets of beliefs, "Religion" and "The Lost Cause" to be especially enlightening, particularly in view of current politics. A long-needed

dose of reality and perspective concerning the causes and ongoing outcomes of the War.

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