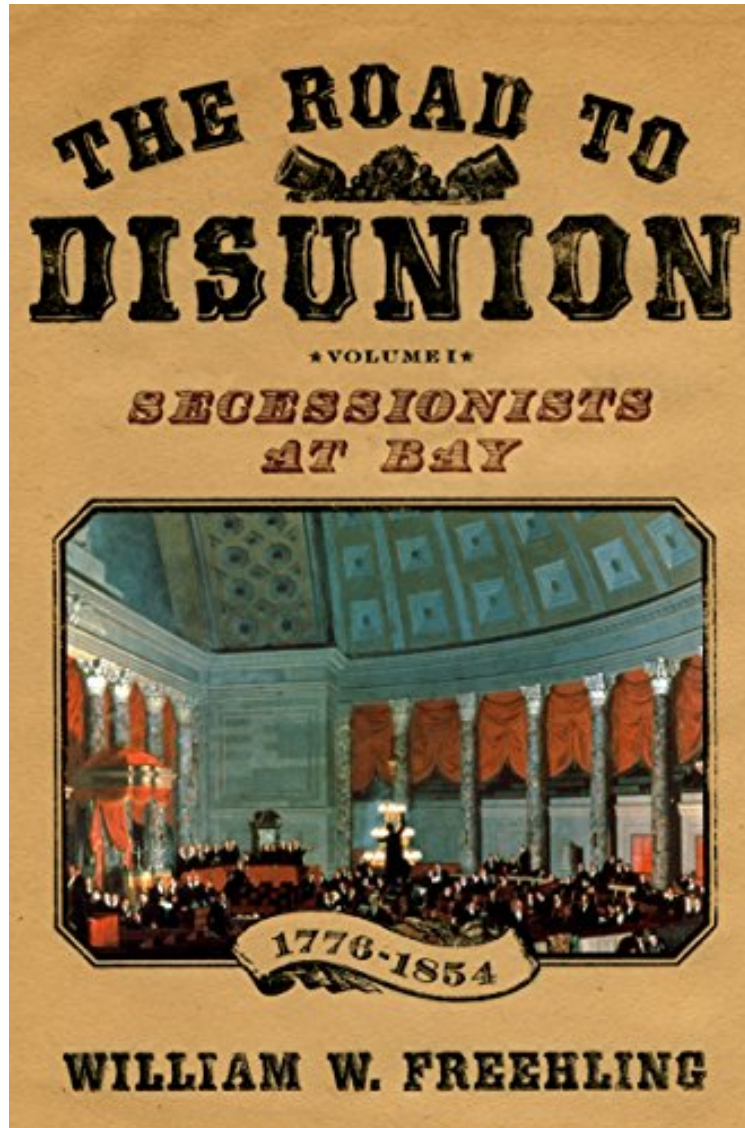


(Library ebook) The Road to Disunion: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854: Volume I

The Road to Disunion: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854: Volume I

Von William W. Freehling

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Von William W. Freehling : The Road to Disunion: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854: Volume I before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road to Disunion: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854: Volume I:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Freehling Writes a Definitive History of Disunion Von Ein Kunde Mr. Freehling states in his preface that he had originally planned on writing about the Southern secession crisis of 1860-61, but he quickly realized that the subject

was far too complicated to adequately and thoroughly cover it in such a limited time period. He discovered that, in order to give a complete picture of the road to disunion, he had to begin his study around the mid-1700s. After reading the result of his work, *The Road to Disunion*, I could understand and appreciate why he had to do so. This remarkable book covers the very complicated and, amazingly, still controversial topic of Southern secession with clarity, thoroughness, and even wit. Mr. Freehling chronicles the political and social history of the South and its place in American history in a way that is highly informative, highly researched, and highly readable. Mr. Freehling relies heavily on the actual words of the southern political and social elite to paint a detailed and absorbing picture of the various crises that incrementally pulled the US apart. He provides the reader with a wealth of information and details on the Gag Rule Controversy, the Missouri Compromise, and the annexation of Texas among others, and his skill as an historian and as a writer make all these events extremely clear and understandable for perhaps the first time. He also gives the reader a richly detailed portrait of the South that cracks, if not shatters, the idea of "a unified South". Mr. Freehling describes the diversity of the region, the differences in commerce, in attitudes, in climate, and ultimately, the people. This absorbing portrait allows the reader to see the South in three dimensions, and makes the accomplishment of bringing most of the south into a southern confederacy through the efforts of southern political leaders such as Robert Barnwell Rhett, Howell Cobb, and John C. Calhoun much more intriguing. Ultimately, *The Road to Disunion* accomplishes one major task; it demonstrates that the issue of slavery was THE primary factor in the breakup of the Union. Freehling shows that the Civil War was a direct result of a history of Southern political and class arrogance, of a small group of influential people clinging to an antiquated feudal system that enslaved a race of people, and a series of subsequent clashes between ideologies. Great-grandpa Silas may have rightly said he was fighting for his rights or to protect his home and family, but the causes of the conflict in which he fought have much more complicated beginnings. Regardless of Silas' motives, he was by default fighting for the preservation of slavery.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Essential reading to understand slavery's impact on America
Von jdsusn@aol.com
For anyone who has been interested in the impact of slavery upon America's soul, Freehling's opus is a must. Yes it is long, yes it is painfully detailed, yes at times it can border on being a polemic (particularly in Freehling's discussion of Thomas Jefferson); however, it is thorough, researched in depth, very informative and highly persuasive. My only recommendation to the author would be to use fewer adjectives and adverbs in describing "the peculiar institution"; his otherwise objective research says it all and bears up well under its own scholarship. What I learned from "Road to Disunion" is that the question of our nation's expansion during the first 80 years of the Union cannot be understood without knowledge of the national debate and the political maneuvering to extend or limit slavery's expansion during this same time period. And Freehling goes beyond the political archives which record how county and state and national assemblies voted on slavery and other tangential issues. He discusses the psychology of slavery itself - the mindset the slave owner foisted upon the slave, and the ensuing tension which resulted when slave and abolitionist did not buy into this mindset. Freehling's work was a challenge to digest (I am no scholar) but I consider myself a better informed citizen with greater appreciation of the shape of America today because of his research of America's past.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Chess-Player's Guide to Pre-Civil War Politics
Von John Fries (fries@internetmci.com)
The cut-and-thrust of national and local party politics accurately captured, move-by-move, with insights into how the personal character of the participants, regional and local economic interests, and party ideologies all interacted to melt down the national Whig Party and break our country into two warring sections. Tremendous primer for anyone interested in how national political parties win elections and shape history, applicable to today's political environment. Portrays the political conflicts that arose within the nation, and within the region, that attempted to create a free white man's republic coexisting with and supporting private islands of absolute enslaved despotism. Phenomenal level of historical detail, with fine research to back up major points of analysis.

Kurzbeschreibung
Far from a monolithic block of diehard slave states, the South in the eight decades before the Civil War was, in William Freehling's words, "a world so lushly various as to be a storyteller's dream." It was a world where Deep South cotton planters clashed with South Carolina rice growers, where the egalitarian spirit sweeping the North seeped down through border states already uncertain about slavery, where even sections of the same state (for instance, coastal and mountain Virginia) divided bitterly on key issues. It was the world of Jefferson Davis, John C. Calhoun, Andrew Jackson, and Thomas Jefferson, and also of Gullah Jack, Nat Turner, and Frederick Douglass. Now, in the first volume of his long awaited, monumental study of the South's road to disunion, historian William Freehling offers a sweeping political and social history of the antebellum South from 1776 to 1854. All the dramatic events leading to secession are here: the Missouri Compromise, the Nullification Controversy, the Gag Rule ("the Pearl Harbor of the slavery controversy"), the Annexation of Texas, the Compromise of 1850, and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Freehling vividly recounts each crisis, illuminating complex issues and sketching colorful portraits of major figures. Along the way, he reveals the surprising extent to which slavery influenced national politics before 1850, and he

provides important reinterpretations of American republicanism, Jeffersonian states' rights, Jacksonian democracy, and the causes of the American Civil War. But for all Freehling's brilliant insight into American antebellum politics, *Secessionists at Bay* is at bottom the saga of the rich social tapestry of the pre-war South. He takes us to old Charleston, Natchez, and Nashville, to the big house of a typical plantation, and we feel anew the tensions between the slaveowner and his family, the poor whites and the planters, the established South and the newer South, and especially between the slave and his master, "Cuffee" and "Massa." Freehling brings the Old South back to life in all its color, cruelty, and diversity. It is a memorable portrait, certain to be a key analysis of this crucial era in American history.

From Publishers Weekly: This major work of scholarship by the author of *Prelude to the Civil War* offers an intimate look at the Old South and describes how the slavery issue led to successive collisions between "private despotism and public democracy." The book also provides a detailed account of how slavery functioned. Freehling's sweeping narrative traces national crises that led to secession: the Missouri Compromise, the annexation of Texas, the Compromise Act of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Such figures as Andrew Jackson, John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln stride vigorously through these pages. The study, which contributes importantly to our understanding of the causes of the Civil War, will interest readers with its brilliant evocation of the antebellum South.

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From Library Journal: Broadening the search that led to his prize-winning *Prelude to Civil War* (1966), Freehling seeks to track Southern disunion from independence to secession. He reaches the Kansas-Nebraska Act in this first of a promised two-part epic that focuses on the South through the filter of national mainstream politics. Freehling brings alive Southern traditions, heroes, villains, and diversity. He depicts various souths caught in an ineluctable tendency to freedom while the antithetical systems of democracy and despotism divided southerners. Akin to James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom* (LJ 3/1/88) and Eric Foner's *Reconstruction* (LJ 4/1/88; both LJ "Best Books of 1988"), Freehling's masterful synthesis brims with wisdom and wit. It is essential for any collection on the nation, the South, or antebellum politics. Highest recommendation. --Thomas J. Davis, Univ. at Buffalo, N.Y.

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