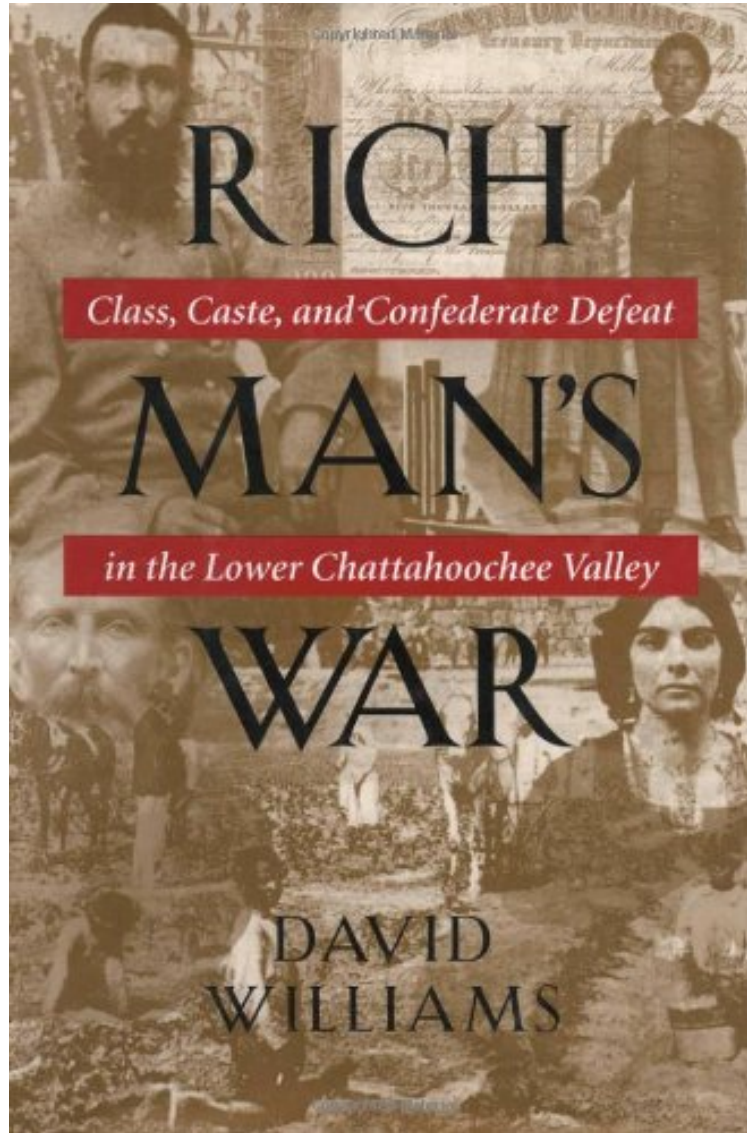


Rich Man's War: Class, Caste, and Confederate Defeat in the Lower Chattahoochee Valley

David Williams

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#1011358 in Books University of Georgia Press 1999-01-01 1999-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1
9.25 x 1.06 x 6.12l, 1.36 #File Name: 0820320331328 pages | File size: 64.Mb

David Williams : Rich Man's War: Class, Caste, and Confederate Defeat in the Lower Chattahoochee Valley
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rich Man's War: Class, Caste, and Confederate Defeat in the Lower Chattahoochee Valley:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thank you Dr. Williams! By mbs My family lived near Eufaula, Alabama at the start of the Civil War. My 5th grandfather and his eldest son "enlisted" at the start of the war. My 4th

ggrandfather came of age and joined about a year and a half before the war's end. His brother had been captured at Gettysburg and died/was killed at Fort Delaware by the time he was reunited with his dad. I say his brother died and or was killed because of conflicting reports from reading "The war between the Union and the Confederacy" which was written by Col. William C. Oates (who commanded my family members in the 15th Alabama Infantry), and a report I received from the Department of Veteran Affairs. Oates states he was killed by another prisoner, and the VA says he died of something like pneumonia. Two apparently expert resources (the government, and Oates who later became a state governor and a member of the House of Representatives *also government IMHO*) conflicting each other. The reason I'm including all this TMI is to illustrate the need for more research on "social polarizing" subjects from the standpoint of the socioeconomic affects at play. How else can we as a society make any sense of (or truthfully say we have any kind of understanding on) the positions of the North and the South, without digging into the social norms and values that drove the common man? Round out our popular history lessons and help us fill in the gaps! The truth on what happened to my great uncle will likely never be learned. But there is so very much more we can learn, than what is typically spoken of or taught on this event that still reverberates through our culture today. Who knows, maybe with enough open mindedness and desire to find the truth it may be that we can finally put aside our (sometimes hidden) differences and fully become American brothers and sisters? You have my heartfelt thanks Dr. Williams, I look forward to reading more of your titles!

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. New perspective on the South during the Civil War
By A Customer
This book contradicts the widely held belief that the South's lack of industry and men were the root of Confederate defeat during the American Civil War. Williams constructs a vivid and compelling theory of socio-economic conflicts within the South that ultimately led to its downfall. The author uses a variety of primary sources, including personal correspondence that humanizes the Civil War. The book is the product of extensive research and is entertaining and well-written. I recommend it to anyone interested in the Civil War or Southern history in general. It is thought-provoking.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Beyond Gone With The Wind
By Scott Williams
David tells a story of real people; with real problems; desperately trying to survive in a world turned upside down. This work is full of truth. Outlining the fact that merely 1/3 of the South's population really supported the War. And hinting at what the outcome might have been; had the local gentry fostered a policy of inclusion, rather than that of slavery, segregation, and the culture of the elite. This is a MUST read for anyone interested in the cultural evolution of the New South. And an eye opening journey into our own past; redefining what it truly means to be "Southern".

In Rich Man's War historian David Williams focuses on the Civil War experience of people in the Chattahoochee River Valley of Georgia and Alabama to illustrate how the exploitation of enslaved blacks and poor whites by a planter oligarchy generated overwhelming class conflict across the South, eventually leading to Confederate defeat. This conflict was so clearly highlighted by the perception that the Civil War was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight" that growing numbers of oppressed whites and blacks openly rebelled against Confederate authority, undermining the fight for independence. After the war, however, the upper classes encouraged enmity between freedpeople and poor whites to prevent a class revolution. Trapped by racism and poverty, the poor remained in virtual economic slavery, still dominated by an almost unchanged planter elite. The publication of this book was supported by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission.

Not simply an extended essay on the causes of Confederate defeat. It is also a detailed history of a southern region at war. (Journal of American History) A well-written account of an important region that significantly enriches a collective social portrait of Confederate home fronts across the diverse and complex wartime South. (North Carolina Historical) About the Author David Williams is a professor of history at Valdosta State University in Georgia.