

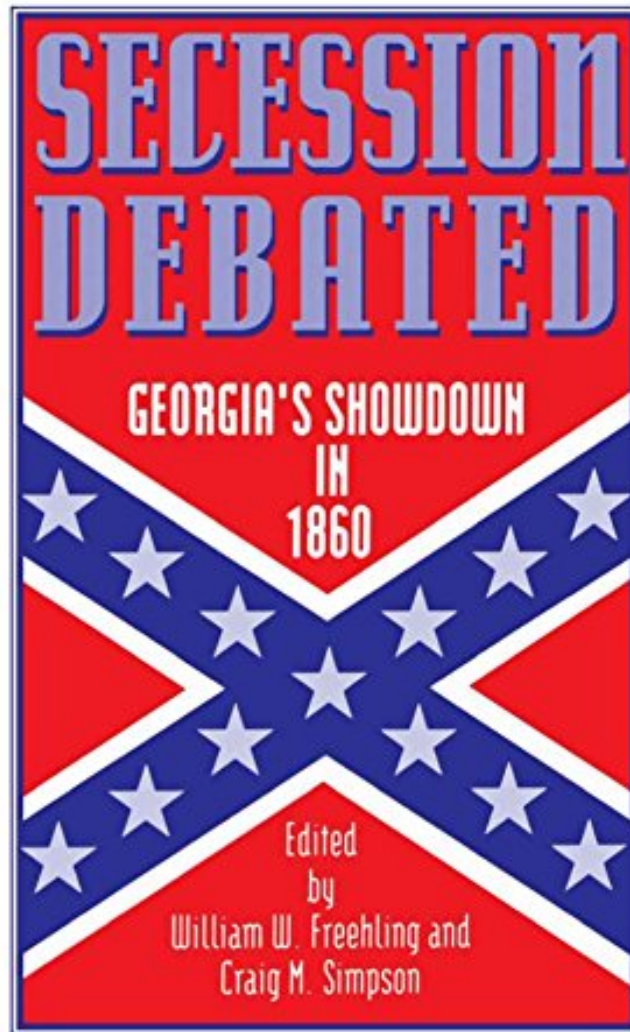
[Download free ebook] Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860

Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860

From William W Freehling

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#764427 in Books William W Freehling 1992-10-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 5.50 x .60 x 8.191, .58 #File Name: 0195079450192 pages Secession Debated Georgia s Showdown in 1860 | File size: 60.Mb

From William W Freehling : Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Undistilled history By John S. Reid This collection of debates in the Georgia state legislature during the "crisis period" - i.e., after the election of Lincoln and before the actual outbreak of war - provides a valuable insight into the minds of Southern statesmen (at least in Georgia) regarding the possibility of

secession. These are records of the actual debates, and are not tainted by a historian's interpretation. They are very readable, notwithstanding being over 150 years old. For a comparative history of events during the "crisis period", and particularly regarding crystallization in the mind of the North to justify going to war, see "And the War Came" by Kenneth Stampp. These two books together cover the mindsets of the North and South during that important period. Interestingly, the North and South seemed to have had completely different reasons for going to war - the North to preserve the Union for economic and political purposes, and the South to preserve their existing institutions (slavery being high on the list). One cannot but wonder what might have been the outcome had there been a proper attempt by each side to address the concerns of the other. International statesmanship was a well-developed art by 1850, but domestic statesmanship seemed to be lacking. For anyone interested in the *casus belli* of the American Civil War, this short tome (only 160 pages) is a must-read. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Required Reading By Kindle Customer

Secession Debated should be required reading for everyone, starting in high school. The book is a collection of seven speeches and public letters given or published during the Georgia secession debates in November, 1860. Like Virginia, Georgia was a pivotal state. South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana were pretty much givens when it came to secession. Had Georgia not seceded, the Deep South states would have been divided geographically, making the ultimate success of the secessionists much less viable. The speeches are approximations of the actual speeches, since there were no verbatim transcripts, often relying on newspaper accounts. Some participants preferred not to speak, but instead submitted letters. The final letter was actually printed a month later after the legislative debates had ended. The content of the secessionists' arguments is enlightening. Ninety percent of the arguments are justifications for the Southern way of life -- slavery. States rights are of course part of the argument, but what is the state right that they are seeking to uphold -- the then constitutional right to own human chattel. Tariffs and the maritime laws get a brief mention, but are clearly secondary to slavery as the issue that brought about the need to secede. The secessionists argued for immediate secession by legislative vote. The cons to this argument strongly affirmed the right of southerners to own slaves in perpetuity and the right of secession, but argued that such an extreme step was premature and/or needed to be put to a vote of the people. There was no argument that slavery was archaic or immoral. Perhaps the most prescient argument comes in the final chapter, a letter written by Joseph E. Brown, later governor of Georgia. Brown pretty much accurately describes the sharecropping and tenant farming system that grew up in the South after the war. The notes by the editors provide a prelude that provides the background of each speaker and a postscript that describes the subsequent life of the speaker, a number of whom died or suffered significant wounds in the coming war. I highly recommend this book as a primary source for anyone who wants to understand the background of the war as opposed to the myth of the Lost Cause. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book. Love that it is written by a ... By Customer

Great book. Love that it is written by a person from the South. Awesome perspective as he examines all that he was taught to find the flaws.

The critical northern antebellum debate matched the rhetorical skills of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas in an historic argument over the future of slavery in a westward-expanding America. Two years later, an equally historic oratorical showdown between secessionists and Unionists in Georgia generated as much popular interest south of the Mason-Dixon line, and perhaps had an even more profound immediate effect on the future of the United States. With Abraham Lincoln's "Black Republican" triumph in the presidential election of 1860 came ardent secessionist sentiment in the South. But Unionists were equally zealous and while South Carolina--a bastion of Disunionism since 1832--seemed certain to secede; the other fourteen slave states were far from decided. In the deep South, the road to disunion depended much on the actions of Georgia, a veritable microcosm of the divided South and geographically in the middle of the Cotton South. If Georgia went for the Union, secessionist South Carolina could be isolated. So in November of 1860 all the eyes of Dixie turned to tiny Milledgeville, pre-war capital of Georgia, for a legislative confrontation that would help chart the course toward civil war. In *Secession Debated*, William W. Freehling and Craig M. Simpson have for the first time collected the seven surviving speeches and public letters of this greatest of southern debates over disunion, providing today's reader with a unique window into a moment of American crisis. Introducing the debate and debaters in compelling fashion, the editors help bring to life a sleepy Southern town suddenly alive with importance as a divided legislature met to decide the fate of Georgia, and by extension, that of the nation. We hear myriad voices, among them the energetic and self-righteous governor Joseph E. Brown who, while a slaveholder and secessionist, was somewhat suspect as a native North Georgian; Alexander H. Stephens, the eloquent Unionist whose "calm dispassionate approach" ultimately backfired; and fiery secessionist Robert Toombs who, impatient with Brown's indecisiveness and the caution of the Unionists, shouted to legislators: "Give me the sword! but if you do not place it in my hands, before God! I will take it." The secessionists' Henry Benning and Thomas R.R. Cobb as well as the Unionists Benjamin Hill and Herschel Johnson also speak to us across the years, most with eloquence, all with the patriotic, passionate conviction that defined an era. In the end, the legislature adopted a convention bill which decreed a popular vote on the issue in early January, 1861. The election results were close, mirroring the intense debate of two months before: 51% of Georgians favored immediate secession, a slim margin which the propaganda-conscious Brown later inflated to 58%. On January 19th the Georgia Convention sanctioned secession in a 166-130 vote, and the

imminent Confederacy had its Southern hinge. *Secession Debated* is a colorful and gripping tale told in the words of the actual participants, one which sheds new light on one of the great and hitherto neglected verbal showdowns in American history. It is essential to a full understanding of the origins of the war between the states.

"Outstanding primer on the 1860 Constitutional views of secession from the points of view of the Old South, seen through the lens of Georgia's outstanding statesmen."--Professor Paul Stephen Hudson, Ogelthorpe University
"Excellent little book by two first-rate scholars."--F.N. ganey, University of Georgia
"A very useful source for Georgia and southern history. Ably edited by these two fine scholars."--Ken Noe, West Georgia College
From the Back Cover
A collection of the seven surviving speeches and public letters of the greatest southern debate over disunion, providing today's reader with a unique window into a moment of American crisis.
About the Author
William W. Freehling is Singletary Professor of the Humanities at the University of Kentucky. He is the author of *Prelude to Civil War*, which won a Bancroft Prize in 1967, and *The Road to Disunion: Secessionists at Bay*, the first in a projected two-volume study, which won the Owsley Prize in 1991. Craig M. Simpson is Professor of History at the University of Western Ontario and the author of *A Good Southerner: The Life of Henry A. Wise of Virginia*.