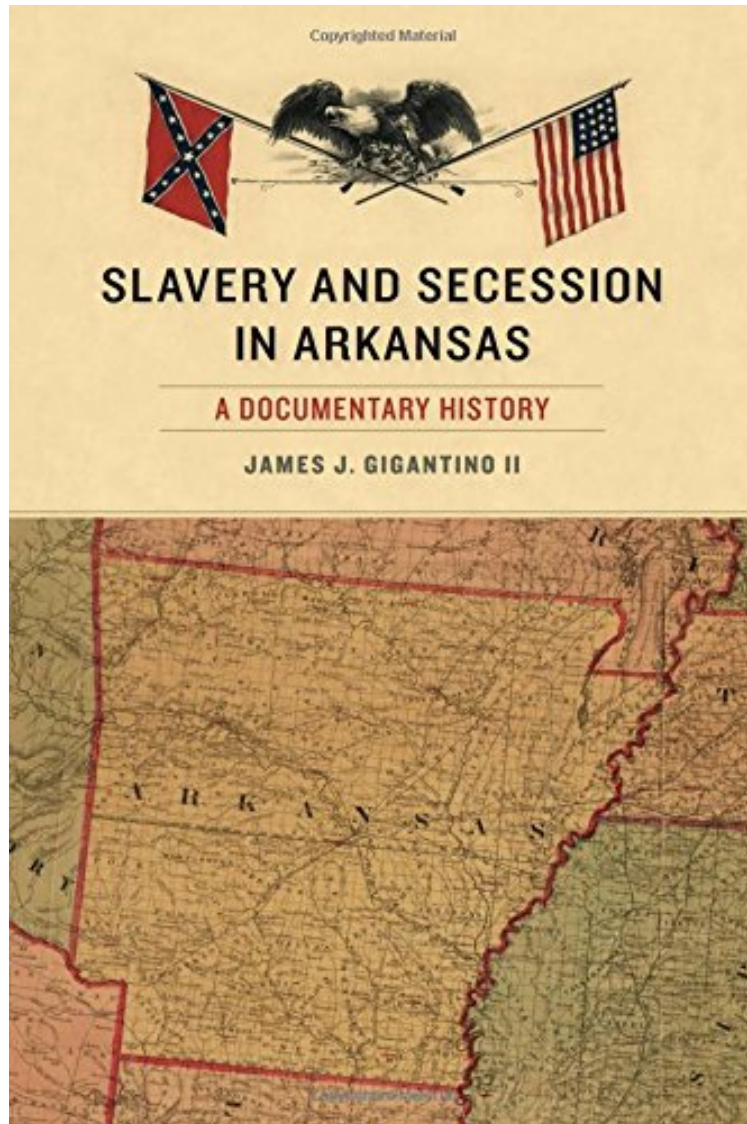


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Slavery and Secession in Arkansas: A Documentary History (The Civil War in the West)

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2016 Choice Outstanding Academic Title The absorbing documents collected in *Slavery and Secession in Arkansas* trace Arkansas's tortuous road to secession and war. Drawn from contemporary pamphlets, broadsides, legislative debates, public addresses, newspapers, and private correspondence, these accounts show the intricate twists and turns of the political drama in Arkansas between early 1859 and the summer of 1861. From an early warning of what Republican political dominance would mean for the South, through the initial rejection of secession, to Arkansas's final abandonment of the Union, readers, even while knowing the eventual outcome, will find the journey both suspenseful and informative. Revealing both the unique features of the secession story in Arkansas and the issues that Arkansas shared with much of the rest of the South, this collection illustrates how Arkansans debated their place in the nation and, specifically, how the defense of slavery—as both an assurance of continued economic progress and a means of social control—remained central to the decision to leave the Union and fight alongside much of the South for four bloody years of civil war.

“With renewed public interest in the causes of Southern secession, this illuminating book will certainly find an audience among those interested in an honest accounting of the past, and in letting long-departed voices speak as to their own motivations. Highly recommended. Undergraduates through faculty/researchers; professionals/practitioners; general readers.”—Choice