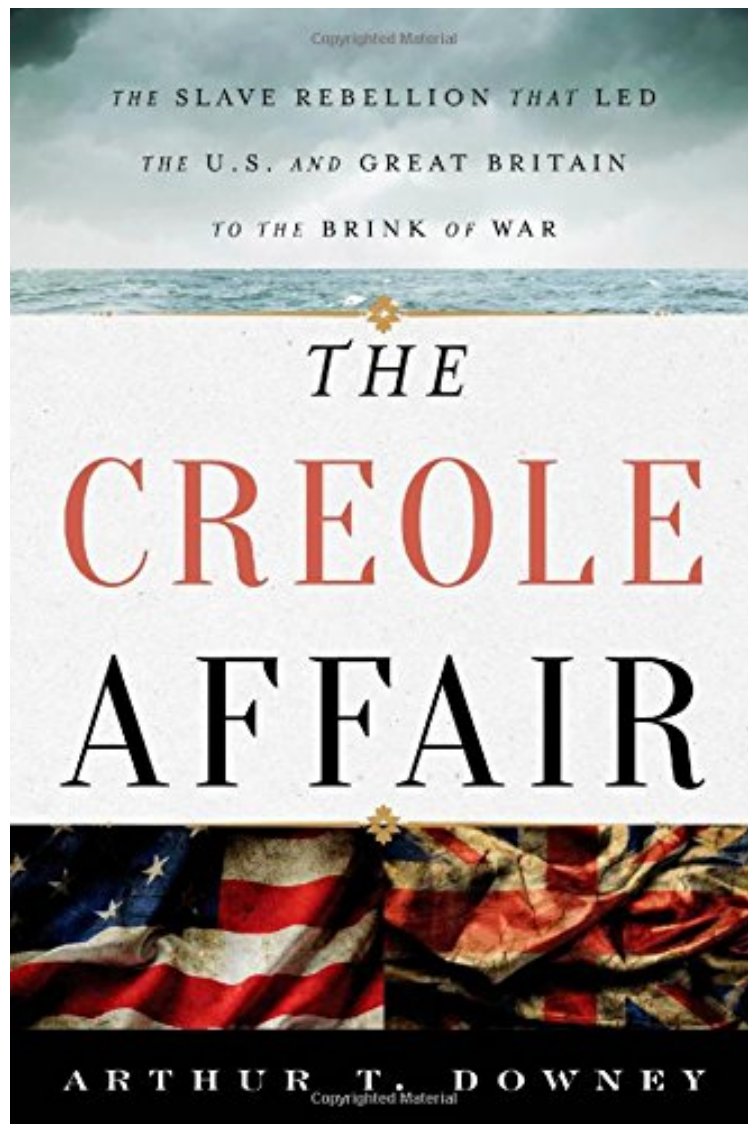


[Library ebook] The Creole Affair: The Slave Rebellion that Led the U.S. and Great Britain to the Brink of War

## The Creole Affair: The Slave Rebellion that Led the U.S. and Great Britain to the Brink of War

Arthur T. Downey *The Creole Affair: The Slave Rebellion that Led the U.S. and Great Britain to the Brink of War*

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Arthur T. Downey *The Creole Affair: The Slave Rebellion that Led the U.S. and Great Britain to the Brink of War* : *The Creole Affair: The Slave Rebellion that Led the U.S. and Great Britain to the Brink of War* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Creole Affair: The Slave Rebellion that Led the U.S. and Great Britain to the Brink of War*:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Extremely well-crafted history: instructive, entertaining, thought-provoking - excellent!By Rodney J MacAlisterLike his preceding book, *Civil War Lawyers*, Arthur Downey's *The Creole Affair* is another masterful blend of scholarly history, law and jurisprudence, and plain gripping story-telling. It works. As with *Civil War Lawyers*, Downey is a sophisticated lawyer who writes for equally well for the lawyer as for the layman. He brings to light events, diplomatic tensions, underlying politics and human relationships while tracing the dramas of 19th century slavery and abolition, the evolution of law and governance, murder on the ocean and the occasional outsize role in history exercised by individuals - much of which lies outside the mainstream teaching of history. Downey has a gift for illuminating events and decisions in the course of history which maintain relevance today, such as in his observation of the role of "constructive ambiguity" in diplomacy. The book makes you think of what might have been, in this case a third war with Great Britain, and offer gratitude to a few key leaders in history - whom Downey brings vividly to life - for their successful work to maintain peace. Thought-provoking and captivating, an excellent read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent History - of 19th Century American Slave Revolt and of Skillful Diplomacy to Avert War - That's Instructive for Today!By Thomas W. HoyaTo understand the racial strife that still plagues this country - and to learn how skillful diplomacy can avert war - read this excellent book. It recounts a successful 1841 insurrection aboard a Richmond to New Orleans slave ship, a success that was distinctive among American slave rebellions. This insurrection might well have caused war and bloodshed between America and Great Britain but for the resourcefulness of the two countries' negotiators. The author especially effectively places all these events in the context both of domestic American politics and of relevant 19th century worldwide happenings. An alert reader can draw parallels with the domestic and foreign challenges facing our country today.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. it is a story that should be much better known; and the book tells us a lot ...By Kurt A. CarlsonVery interesting and well written. The only reason I didn't give it 5 stars is because it did not seem that we were really at the brink of war, as the title suggests. Still, it is a story that should be much better known; and the book tells us a lot about the legal issues that surrounded slavery. I definitely recommend it.

*The Creole Affair* is the story of the most successful slave rebellion in American history, and the effects of that rebellion on diplomacy, the domestic slave trade, and the definition of slavery itself. Held against their will aboard the *Creole*—a slave ship on its way from Richmond to New Orleans in 1841—the rebels seized control of the ship and changed course to the Bahamas. Because the Bahamas were subject to British rule of law, the slaves were eventually set free, and these American slaves' presence on foreign soil sparked one of America's most contentious diplomatic battles with the UK, the nation in control of those remote islands. Though the rebellion appeared a success, the ensuing political battle between the United States and Britain that would lead the rivals to the brink of their third war, was just beginning. As such, *The Creole Affair* is just as importantly a story of diplomacy: of two extraordinary non-professional diplomats who cleverly resolved the tensions arising from this historic slave uprising that, had they been allowed to escalate, had the potential for catastrophe.

Downey allows readers to develop interest in the event's main figures, helping enliven the discussion of the relevant legal issues. He also places the incident into context of both continental and at-sea slave rebellions, and of the fairly uneventful British abolition of slavery. It's an enlightening book, and Downey's framing of slavery within maritime history traces the development of a fitful friendship between Britain and the U.S. (Publishers Weekly) Arthur Downey masterfully analyzes the legal and diplomatic turmoil surrounding the most successful slave revolt in U.S. history, on board the American vessel *Creole* in 1841. *The Creole Affair* sets the social and political scene in the United States, England, and the British Bahamas, where the slaves who seized control of the *Creole* sailed to gain their freedom. Downey brings to life the leading figures in this real-life drama, exploring through their eyes cases in Louisiana and the U.S. Supreme Court, diplomatic correspondence and treaty negotiations, and the work of a U.S.-British claims commission. Anyone interested in history, international relations, the law, or just a good story will find this thoroughly researched book a compelling read. (John E. Noyes, Chair of the Executive Committee, American Branch of the International Law Association, Roger J. Traynor Professor of Law, California Western School of Law) This is a much needed study. *The Creole Affair* was crucial not just in relations between the free and slave states, but it had a major impact on U.S.-British affairs and could have easily led to a third war between the U.S. and Great Britain. Downey opens many insightful connections that have simply been untouched by other historians in the past. He looks at the event itself, as well as the personal and larger issues raised by this affair such as the nature of property and natural right for slave rebellion. Especially enlightening is his discussion of the legal and diplomatic maneuvers behind the scenes that led to its resolution. Downey has returned the *Creole Affair* to the importance it deserves. (Steven Deyle, University of Houston, author of *Carry Me Back: The Domestic Slave Trade in American Life*) In American history, slave revolts were rare, successful revolts almost unheard of. It is therefore especially valuable to have Arthur T. Downey's well-researched political and diplomatic history of the 1841 uprising aboard the *Creole*. It is an impressive achievement. (Marcus Rediker, author of *The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom*) *The Creole Affair* is the story of the most successful slave rebellion in modern history, and the effects of that rebellion on

contemporary diplomacy, the slave trade, and the definition of slavery itself. As such, The Creole Affair is just as importantly a story of diplomacy: of two extraordinary non-professional diplomats who cleverly resolved the tensions arising from this historic slave uprising that, had they been allowed to escalate, had the potential for catastrophe. About the Author Arthur T. Downey has at various times been a lawyer, a law professor, business executive, diplomat, and former National Security Council staff member. He is the author of *Civil War Lawyers: Constitutional Questions, Courtroom Dramas, and the Men Behind Them* (2011).