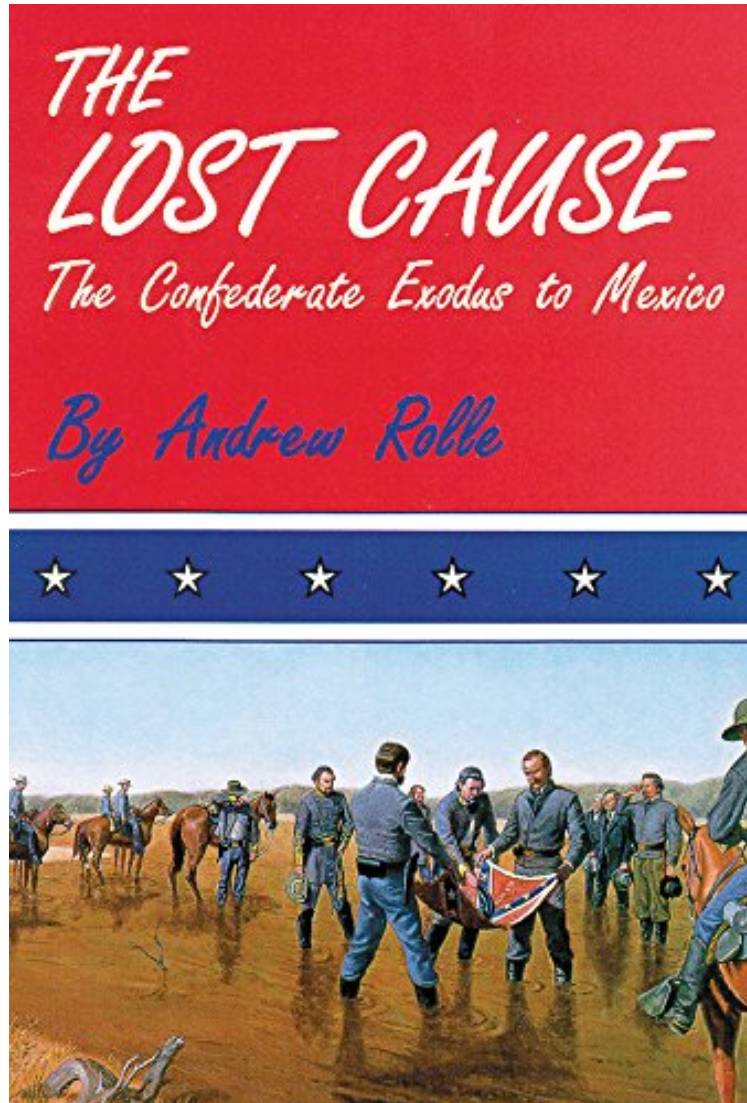


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The Lost Cause: The Confederate Exodus to Mexico

Andrew F. Rolle

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Andrew F. Rolle : The Lost Cause: The Confederate Exodus to Mexico before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost Cause: The Confederate Exodus to Mexico:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. EXCELLENT SERVICE. By James L. NO PROBLEMS. EXCELLENT SERVICE. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. love it. Dyed in the wool Southerner By Southern gal Again, love it. Dyed in the wool Southerner. 13 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Insights of Refugees By Darell Clem While some reviewers hold to the strictly politically correct philosophical worldview given by the victors of the Conflict Between the States, Southerners had a philosophy which they were willing to die for,

regardless of how others want to impose their own antagonist's view on to them. This book gives an unpopular view, in the modern mindset, of the values of Southerners, namely their independent spirit and love of chivalry. Their personal reasons for defending their homeland can only be buried by prejudiced opinions artificially imposed on the records of what Southerners conveyed as their actual "to the death" beliefs; who dared to stand in the way of the Manifest Destiny Doctrine, as historical records prove, was the original motivation to recapture the South. Statements as, "The book also seems a bit too sympathetic to people who were after all deeply racist, going into exile rather than accepting the freeing of the slaves. It supports the traditional version of a Reconstruction of Carpetbaggers and Scalawags, oppressing the South after the war, rather than the more recent revisionist view that Reconstruction was largely positive but failed because of a southern backlash." shows a total disregard and arrogant hatred for the Southern people that were pillaged and the families that suffered from war atrocities such as General Sherman's march to the sea...people robbed by marauding armies that left them to starve to death. The opinion that the Reconstruction was anything but a period of racial manipulation for the victor's revenge (because by war's end, bitterness replaced the "Manifest Destiny" motivation), which instigated racial animosity lasting even until modern times, was purely an act of the victors wrapping themselves in self righteous propaganda. The opportunity to bring all sides together for restructuring the inherited society of the South was missed, leaving the Southern economies in shambles well the 20th Century. This book reveals how Southerners continued to be treated inhumanly with the subversive activity of the Northern Government supporting the Mexican uprising against Emperor Maximilian's attempts to modernize Mexico, with the help of Confederate refugees. Mexico's economy had collapsed leaving huge debts to Europe and opening the door for Napoleon III to take possession of the country. While Maximilian was misled into believing he was loved by the Mexican people, his plans to modernize Mexico would have been a better future than resulted in the return to rule by oligarchies. This book shows how he was loyal to the end, refusing to abandon the country he had adopted when given the chance and the continued abuses to the Southern refugees.

In the midst of the heartbreak, confusion, and rumors that followed Appomattox, some Southerners resolved to emigrate rather than surrender, and emigrate they did—to South America, Europe, Canada, and Mexico. Mexico's Emperor Maximilian, trying to secure his shaky throne against Juarez' opposition, encouraged these recalcitrant Confederates to settle in Mexico. But, doomed to defeat by the internal crisis in Mexico and by the Southerners' failure to face reality, the Confederate colonies were established and destroyed within two years' time. Later, many of the colonists who survived the ordeal tried to forget that they had ever gone into exile. Among the emigrants were many prominent Southern leaders, barred from holding public office and, in some cases, facing possible arrest: General Jo Shelby, the hero of the Confederacy, who later became so reconciled to the victory of the North that he voted for a Republican; Commodore Matthew Maury, internationally recognized oceanographer and naval astronomer, who was welcomed to Mexico by Maximilian himself; Henry Watkins Allen, "the single great administrator produced by the Confederacy," who founded the English language Mexican Times; and Thomas Cate Reynolds, former lieutenant governor of Missouri, who encouraged Maximilian to stay in Mexico but who himself left. In all there may have been between eight and ten thousand Confederates in Mexico. The exodus, exile, and repatriation of the Confederates constitute a hitherto incompletely known incident in American history. In this fully documented account, Andrew F. Rolle reveals the hope, humor, disappointment, and defeat of Americans who believed that the only way to save their way of life was to leave their homeland.

“Professor Rolle...tells of the comparatively little-known exodus of Confederate soldiers to Mexico after the Civil War....The immigration was encouraged by Maximilian. The Confederates went as individuals or as small groups unaware of the dangers and political complexities awaiting them in a Mexico, where Juarez was to overthrow Maximilian by 1864. After Juarez' victory, some remained, but most returned to the South. Rolle authoritatively presents the necessary historical background of Mexico and of our South.”—Library Journal