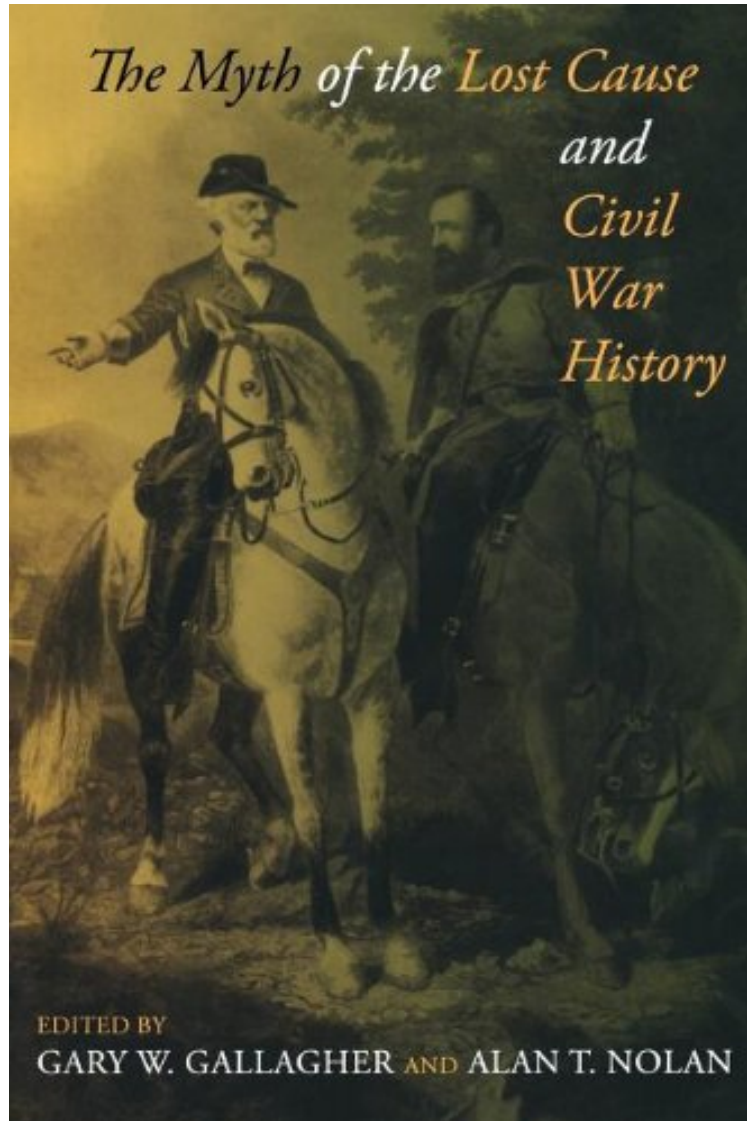


[FREE] The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History

The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History

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From Gary W Gallagher : **The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History:

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Was the Confederacy doomed from the start in its struggle against the superior might of the Union? Did its forces fight heroically against all odds for the cause of states' rights? In reality, these suggestions are an elaborate and intentional effort on the part of Southerners to rationalize the secession and the war itself. Unfortunately, skillful propagandists have been so successful in promoting this romanticized view that the Lost Cause has assumed a life of its own. Misrepresenting the war's true origins and its actual course, the myth of the Lost Cause distorts our national memory. In *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History*, nine historians describe and analyze the Lost Cause, identifying ways in which it falsifies history?creating a volume that makes a significant contribution to Civil War historiography.

From BooklistThe South lost the Civil War, but southerners have certainly held their own in the postwar battle to shape historical interpretations of the conflict. Southern politicians, war veterans, and historians successfully promoted the "Lost Cause" view of the origins and results of our national nightmare. The South, so the story goes, wanted to preserve its unique culture, and slavery was not a fundamental basis of that culture. Led by valiant gentlemen-officers (e.g., Robert E. Lee) and brave, defiant common soldiers, the Confederacy struggled against insurmountable odds, eventually succumbing to numerically but not morally superior forces. This collection of essays by nine Civil War scholars shows how the myth was consciously propagated by southerners, often in an attempt to rationalize the physical and social carnage left by the war. These essays are well reasoned and timely, given current controversies raging over the display of the Confederate battle flag. This will be a valuable addition to Civil War collections. Jay FreemanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved The Lost Cause . . . is a tangible and influential phenomenon in American culture and this book provides an excellent source for anyone seeking to explore its various dimensions. (Southern Historian)Well reasoned and timely. (Booklist)About the AuthorGary W. Gallagher is John L. Nau III Professor of History at the University of Virginia. He has written or edited a number of books in the field of Civil War-era history, including, most recently, *The Confederate War, Lee and His Generals in War and Memory*; and *Causes Won, Lost, and Forgotten: How Hollywood and Popular Art Shape What We Know about the Civil War*. Alan T. Nolan (1923–2008) is author of *Lee Considered: Robert E. Lee and Civil War History* and *The Iron Brigade: A Military History* (IUP, 1994), and editor (with Sharon Eggleston Vipond) of *Giants in Their Tall Black Hats: Essays on the Iron Brigade* (IUP, 1998).