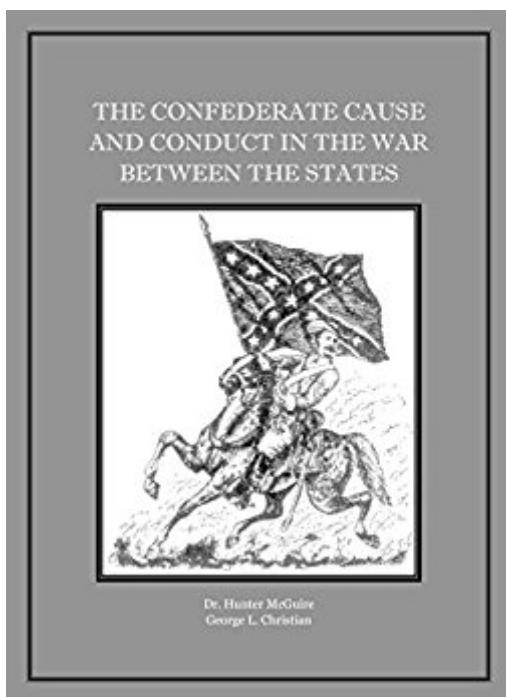


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THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE AND CONDUCT IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, Annotated And Illustrated.



Synopsis

This book, published at the beginning of the twentieth century, refutes the common charge made against the South that the protection of the money value of slave property was the cause of the war which the South waged in its defense. It exposes the misrepresentations of authors who write textbooks castigating the South, and recommends that these and such like books be vigorously and universally excluded from all schools and institutions of learning in all the states of the South. This work of defense for the South, begun with such ability by Dr. McGuire (Stonewall Jackson's personal physician) was devolved upon Judge George L. Christian, an honored soldier of the Confederacy, a lawyer of notable ability at the Richmond bar, and a writer of clearness, courage, and strength. Through seven years, from 1900 to 1907, he gave patient and faithful labor to painstaking research and most elaborate preparation of the five papers which are included in this volume. Beginning in 1900 with the right of secession as shown upon the testimony of Northern Statesmen and other authors, Judge Christian discusses in 1901 the war as conducted by the Federal and Confederate armies, again upon the testimony of Northern witnesses. In 1902 he reviews the treatment of prisoners of war, and the history of the exchange of prisoners. In 1907 he reverts to the serious question of where the responsibility rested for bringing on the sectional strife, with all its loss of life and wealth and all the unhappiness it spread over the broad land. One who went himself to battle so promptly and then suffered so much in all the years since, has had the fidelity to truth and the courage of heart to do his duty in the defense of his people and of the generations to come. To these official reports from the History Committee of the Grand Camp of Virginia are added two papers of similar force and value from the pen of Dr. McGuire. One is the magnificent address on Stonewall Jackson, delivered at the V. M. I. in 1897, an appreciation and study of the character and career of Jackson which no one else in the world was so well fitted to make. With this also is the paper of Dr. McGuire on the "Wounding and Death of Stonewall Jackson," which has preserved for all time the story of which the author was himself a part and a witness, such a narrative as the great surgeon and friend could only himself give to the world. The publication of these papers had a wide-spread and powerful effect. They not only caused the exclusion of certain books from schools and colleges, and the preparation of truthful history for the use of the young. They corrected the mistaken views of many of our own people, and they went far and wide in every section of the land and to other lands. In large degree they have produced a better understanding of the great issues at stake, and have brought men of fair and large minds to recognize the fundamental justice of the cause of the South and the unselfish patriotism and lofty devotion of the men who filled the ranks, and the high character and great ability of many who led

them.

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Customer Reviews

Everyone should read this

This book covers the reasons for the war from the Confederate perspective, but it does so through using evidence provided by Federal soldiers and northern writers. It makes a compelling case that the perpetuation of slavery was not the chief cause for succession, secession was legal, the North initiated the war, and that Southern conduct was cleaner during the war--especially in regard to non-combatants and the treatment of prisoners. The authors' sole desire was to set the record straight because of the detraction of the South by Northern writers, especially in history textbooks. They succeed marvelously in their object.

This is an excellent, unbiased book about the Southern Cause written by objective eyewitnesses to the events as narrated. Very well written and objective.

excellent history!!

This book is a collection of reports from 1899-1907 written on the conduct of the Sectional War from the Southern perspective. Initially Dr. Hunter McGuire (Stonewall Jackson's surgeon) was elected as the Historian for the Confederate Veterans Grand Camp and researched the history being taught to the children of the South because he was concerned about what he was seeing and hearing from the generations following the war. He found that not only was the information being taught in the schools blatantly wrong, but it was leading their children and grandchildren to look upon their history with shame. (This was the perfect design of Northern writers.) McGuire resolved to do something about it and the first report contained herein are his results. It is very powerful stuff! (McGuire is the one who advocated the use of the phrase "Sectional War" because "Civil War" implied that we were once united as a whole. In 1861, and for fifty years before, the North and South were very, very different entities and were never united.) Dr. McGuire died in 1899 and the C.V. elected Judge Christian to be their historian. Among other things, Christian compares the way the Sectional War was fought between the North and South, giving detailed accounts; and supporting his conclusions from Northern sources upholds the rights and causes for which the South went to war. There is one report that brought me to tears, literally, because I felt like I'd been lied to my entire life through the white-washed history the U.S. Government chose to tell its people. If you are a Southerner, you will find some of the information painful even after 150+ years. (Disclaimer: I am 50 years old, born and raised in Virginia, a great-great-granddaughter to a Confederate cavalryman, and for most of my life had been objective about the war, reading non-partisan sources like James M. McPherson and Shelby Foote. I am not dispassionate anymore.) Also, this little book contains two papers delivered by Dr. McGuire -- one on the wounding and death of Stonewall Jackson, for which he was present the entire time, and another article about the great General's true Christian Character. These two papers alone should be in every Southern home. I highly recommend this book. The truth should always be taught regardless of its consequences, and McGuire and Christian both promised that the truth would eventually be established throughout the country. Some may ask, "What does it matter now?" Those people who insist upon political correctness are tearing away the very fabric of our nation; those who accuse others of being close-minded are themselves unwilling to see the truth as it was in mid-19th Century Virginia. The truth is always important, but obviously truth can also be partial due to one's beliefs. However, one can deal with the truth if one remembers to keep in mind the perspective of the people living during the time and the accuracy of its historical importance at that moment. Before one passes judgment because you disagree with their cause, remember that

forgiveness is a constant part of living. As a Southern woman I am still praying to be able to forgive injustices that came about to Virginia and my ancestors as a result of this war. That does not make me a bigot because I champion Confederate causes. I am glad I found this little historical nugget. I think most honest people will appreciate the clarity, forthrightness, and integrity found in this volume.

Great book for a perspective on the War Between the States. Written in the era when many of the Confederate soldiers were still alive, you get a much better understanding of the effects of the Northern aggression and how it absolutely devastated the Southern states. Highly recommended for history buffs.

These essays are the more intriguing in that the points of argument are almost entirely Northern sources. Here we may have confirmed the long and painful debilitating punishment imposed by the victorious and self righteous North. Would that these arguments might gain a wider readership and acceptance today.

Dry, but I was researching Dr. Hunter H. McGuire, so I could tolerate the text. Good Southern view and appreciation of History just after the War between the States. A good guide for those wishing to dispel revisionist historians.JP Saleeby, MDmember Soc. of Civil War Surgeonsmember National Museum of Civil War Medicine

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