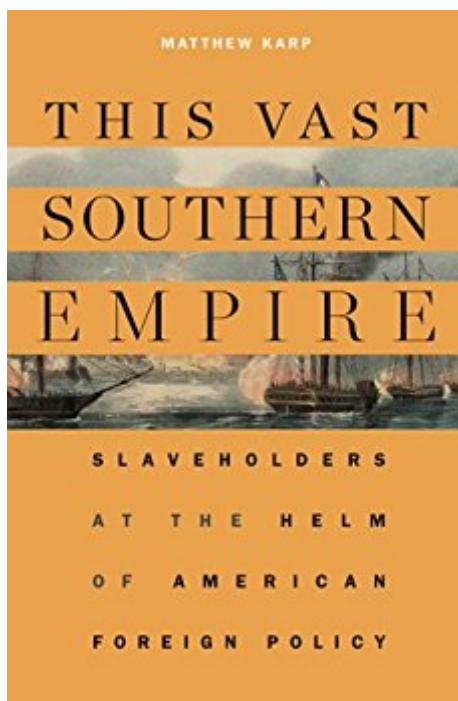


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# This Vast Southern Empire



## Synopsis

Most leaders of the U.S. expansion in the years before the Civil War were southern slaveholders. As Matthew Karp shows, they were nationalists, not separatists. When Lincoln's election broke their grip on foreign policy, these elites formed their own Confederacy not merely to preserve their property but to shape the future of the Atlantic world.

## Book Information

File Size: 2129 KB

Print Length: 362 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0674737253

Publisher: Harvard University Press (September 12, 2016)

Publication Date: September 12, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01INP11O2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #269,118 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #210

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > State & Local > South

#213 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Abolition #332 in Kindle Store

> Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International &

World Politics > Relations

## Customer Reviews

Before this I had a dim image in my mind regarding southern politicians in the antebellum era. This book illuminates an area of American history easily forgotten in our national obsession with everything that followed after. I'll write a more detail review later once I've digested it, but for now I'll just say that it's well worth your time if you're at all interested in the build-up to the Civil War, why it happened the way that it did, and why the United States remains fundamentally divided.

Karp is great. William Percy can absolutely suck my butt.

This Vast Southern Empire is a highly intelligent, illuminating study of slave holders and American foreign policy. While slave holding was abhorrent to many before the Civil War, Karp's study is not a polemic on behalf of abolitionists. Instead it traces the marked influence and ambition of prominent, slave holding southerners at the Federal level on behalf of slave holding and the expansion of same. State's rights were not on their minds as they sought to direct American foreign policy.

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