
This is the Walter Lynwood Fleming lectures for 1978, presented annually at Louisiana State University by respected historians. Fehrenbacher discusses the development of the three major crises in United States history that led to the Civil War. The crises, occurring in 1819-1821, 1846-1850 and 1854-1861. The Missouri Compromise temporarily postponed conflict, but it was the Kansas-Nebraska Act that precipitated the break up first of the Whig, then the Democratic Parties. This is the best introduction to the background of the Civil War that I have read, and this little book, with so much to say, must be required reading for all readers interested in the Civil War.

Editor


Connelly is the best of the "new" historians on the South, and this is an excellent overview of the importance of Tennessee in the Confederacy and the fighting within the state. Designed for the general reader, it is not footnoted, but there is a short bibliography providing further sources for the beginner. Highly recommended.

Editor