

William Howard Russells Civil War

[#William Howard Russell](#) [#American Civil War](#) [#Civil War correspondent](#) [#war journalism](#) [#Russell's dispatches](#)

Explore the impactful dispatches of William Howard Russell, a pioneering Civil War correspondent whose vivid American Civil War reports offered the British public a crucial, often unflinching, perspective on the conflict. His war journalism provides invaluable historical insight into the events as they unfolded.

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Reports from America

This unique look at the Civil War presents both the war and the societies of the North and South from a British point-of-view.

William Howard Russell's Civil War

Having won renown in the 1850s for his vivid warfront dispatches from the Crimea, William Howard Russell was the most celebrated foreign journalist in America during the first year of the Civil War. As a special correspondent for The Times of London, Russell was charged with explaining the American crisis to a British audience, but his reports also had great impact in America. They so alienated both sides, North and South, that Russell was forced to return to England prematurely in April 1862. My Diary North and South (1863), Russell's published account of his visit remains a classic of Civil War literature. It was not in fact a diary but a narrative reconstruction of the author's journeys and observations based on his private notebooks and published dispatches. Despite his severe criticisms of American society and conduct, Russell offered in that work generally sympathetic characterizations of the Northern and Southern leadership during the war. In this new volume, Martin Crawford brings together the journalist's original diary and a selection of his private correspondence to resurrect the fully uninhibited Russell and to provide, accordingly, a true documentary record of this important visitor's first impressions of America during the early months of its greatest crisis. Over the course of his visit, Russell traveled widely throughout the Union and the new Confederacy, meeting political and social leaders on both sides. Included here are spontaneous - and often unflattering - comments on such prominent figures as William H. Seward, Jefferson Davis, Mary Todd Lincoln, and George B. McClellan, as well as quick sketches of New York, Washington, New Orleans, and other cities. Also revealed for the first time are the anxiety and despair that Russell experienced during his visit - a state induced by his own self-doubt, by concern over the health and situation of his wife in England, and, finally, by the bitter criticism he received in America over his reports, especially his famous description of the Union retreat from Bull Run in July 1861. A sometimes vain and pompous figure, Russell also emerges here as an individual of

exceptional tenacity - a man who abhorred slavery and remained convinced of the essential rectitude of the Northern cause even as he criticized Northern leaders, their lack of preparedness for war, and the apparent disunity of the Northern population. In calmer times, Crawford notes, Russell's independent qualities might have brought him admiration, but in the turbulent climate of Civil War America they succeeded only in arousing deep suspicion.

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My Diary – North and South (Vol. 1&2)

My Diary: North and South is a two-volume memoir of Sir William Howard Russell, Irish reporter and war correspondent, in which he recounts his days spent in America during the Civil War. In 1861 Russell went to Washington and returned to England in 1863 when he wrote of his experiences before and during the conflict fought between the Union ("the North") and the Confederacy ("the South"), which was formed by Secessionists declaring U.S. state Ordinances of Secession.

The Civil War in America

"The Civil War in America" from William Howard Russell. Irish reporter with *The Times* (1820-1907).

My Diary North and South

Discusses problems of America.

The Civil War in America

William Howard Russell was a pioneering journalist and war correspondent who covered some of the most significant conflicts of the 19th century. This biography, written by J.B. Atkins, provides a detailed account of Russell's life and work, including his coverage of the Crimean War and the American Civil War. The book also sheds light on the art of war reporting and the challenges faced by journalists in the field. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the "public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

The Life of Sir William Howard Russell, the First Special Correspondent; Volume 1

A thrilling memoir of William Howard Russell's experiences as a war correspondent during the American Civil War. Russell's vivid descriptions of battles, encounters with soldiers and civilians, and observations of life behind the front lines make this a gripping and informative read. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the "public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

Running the Blockade

The Civil War in America: Fuller's Modern Age, August 1861 by William Howard Russell. The American Civil War (1861-1865), in the United States often referred to as simply the Civil War and sometimes called the "War Between the States," was a civil war fought over the secession of the Confederate States. Eleven southern slave states declared their secession from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America ("the Confederacy"); the other 25 states supported the federal government ("the Union"). After four years of warfare, mostly within the Southern states, the Confederacy surrendered and slavery was abolished everywhere in the nation. Issues that led to war were partially resolved in the Reconstruction Era that followed, though others remained unresolved. Hostilities began on April 12, 1861, when Confederate forces fired on a U.S. military installation at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Lincoln responded by calling for a volunteer army from each state to recapture federal property.

The Civil War in America

The first 'Warco's' view of the great Civil War in America The author of this book, William Howard Russell, is renowned as the 'first modern war correspondent.' Even though his first experience of war reporting was in 1850 during conflict between Prussia and Denmark, Russell, an Irishman, first came to wider recognition as a 'Times' newspaper correspondent through his coverage of the Crimean War in 1854. His dispatches from the Crimea became massively influential because, for the first time, the public were able to read about the realities of life and death on campaign and on the field of battle. This earned Russell the antipathy of the command structure, but the affection of the troops, for his honesty and candour, his generosity and sociable nature. His words inspired Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole to create proper medical care facilities for British troops which transformed the nature of military medical care in the British Army. Russell witnessed the most significant actions of the war, including the charge of the Light Brigade, and it was he who brought the phrase 'the thin red line' into the English language. The Indian Mutiny erupted in 1857 and Russell travelled to the sub-continent arriving in time to witness the final recapture of Lucknow. In 1861 the next great story was 'breaking' across the Atlantic, so Russell sailed to the United States to report on the American Civil War. His writings on the war to restore the Union are particularly interesting because Russell provided a non-partisan view combined with a wealth of experience in the observation of conflict and an ability to report it in well crafted journalistic copy. This is a book about war, but it is also a valuable collection of journalistic writing from an early master of the profession. There were many famous war correspondents after Russell but he was the first of his kind. His influence on the reporting of foreign affairs cannot be overestimated and that makes this book invaluable for military historians and those interested in the development of journalism. Leonaur editions are newly typeset and are not facsimiles; each title is available in softcover and hardback with dustjacket; our hardbacks are cloth bound and feature gold foil lettering on their spines and fabric head and tail bands.

The Civil War in America

William Howard Russell's uncompromising dispatches from the Crimea to the London Times, collected in this book, revolutionized war reporting and the public's perception of war. Never before had Britons on the home front been exposed to the grim realities of remote battlefields, and they were shocked and outraged by what they read. Russell's images of the plight of the soldiers and his criticism of medical facilities led the government to vastly improve soldiers' living standards and Florence Nightingale to improve sanitation for the wounded. Even now, more than 150 years after his reporting from the Crimea, readers will find Russell's graphic descriptions to be extraordinarily modern. Among the dispatches reproduced for the book are Russell's eyewitness accounts of the battles of the Alma, Inkerman, Balaklava, and the Tchernaya, and the carnage at the Malakoff and the Redan. His description of the brave fiasco that came to be known as the Charge of the Light Brigade inspired Alfred Lord Tennyson to compose his famous poem. Russell's refusal to compromise and his meticulous attention to detail set a standard that remains today.

Despatches from the Crimea

Relive one of the most tumultuous periods in American history through the eyes of a master storyteller. William Howard Russell's first-hand account of the Civil War offers a unique perspective on the conflict and its impact on the nation. With vivid descriptions and incisive analysis, My Diary: North and South is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of the United States. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it.

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My Diary North and South; Volume 1

Excerpt from The Life of Sir William Howard Russell, C. V. O., LL. D, Vol. 1: The First Special Correspondent It is counted as a prime merit in Montesquieu that he separated biography from history. It would be an easy thing, but also certainly a mistake, to say that to write the history of William Howard Russell is to write the history of the Crimean War, the Mutiny, the American Civil War, the Austro-Prussian War, and the Franco-German War. I have preferred to follow, at a respectful distance, the example of Montesquieu; the background of those wars has been sketched, and the policy which led to them and the episodes in the fighting have been examined or described, in exact accordance with what seemed to be their relevance to Russell's career. This way of writing a biography implies a strict obligation. Since the man himself is the object of attention, the writer is bound to try to present a real picture of him. Yet it should be a picture that will neither be a figure of sawdust nor gratify a debased curiosity. To this obligation I have tried to be faithful. Russell's achievements were inseparable from Russell's character; his reasons for regarding men's actions in this way or that are discoverable only through a knowledge of what manner of man he was himself in his family affections, his friendships, his impetuosity, his fine power of compassion, and in those qualities which caused him to be reckoned as matchless "good company." About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

The Life of Sir William Howard Russell, C. V. O., LL. D, Vol. 1

Armed with only a telescope, a watch, and a notebook he retrieved from a dead soldier, William Howard Russell spent twenty-two months reporting from the trenches for the Times of London during the Crimean War. A novice in a new field of journalism -- war reporting -- when he first set off for Crimea in 1854, the young Irishman returned home a veteran of three bloody battles, having survived the siege of Sebastopol and watched a colleague die of cholera. Russell's fine eye for detail electrified readers, and his remarkably colorful and hugely significant accounts of battles provided those at home -- for the first time ever -- with a realistic picture of the brutality of war. The Crimean War, originally published in 1856 under the title The Complete History of the Russian War, presents a selection of Russell's dispatches -- as well as those of other embedded reporters -- providing a ground-eye view of the conflict as depicted in British newspapers. Fought on the southern tip of the Crimea from 1853 to 1856, the Crimean War raged on far longer than either side expected -- largely because of mismanagement and disease: more soldiers died from cholera, typhus, typhoid, dysentery, and scurvy than battle wounds. Russell's biting criticisms of incompetent military authorities and an antiquated military system contributed to the collapse of the contemporary ruling party in Britain. In his reports, Russell wrote extensively about inept medical care for the wounded, which he termed "human barbarity." Thanks to compelling accounts by Russell and others, authorities allowed Florence Nightingale to enter the war zone and nurse troops back to health. The Crimean War contains reports from military men who acted as part-time reporters, articles by professional journalists, and letters from others at the front that newspapers back home later published. Rapidly pulled together by American publisher John G. Wells, the volume presents a fascinating contemporary analysis of the war by those on the ground. This reissue offers a new introduction by Angela Michelli Fleming and John Maxwell Hamilton that places these reports in context and highlights the critical role they played during a pivotal point in European history. The first first-hand accounts of the realities of war, these dispatches set the tone for future independent war reporting.

The Crimean War

The Civil War in America by Sir William Howard Russell.

The British Expedition to the Crimea

The role of war correspondents is crucial to democracy and the public's discovery of the truth. Without them, the temptation to manipulate events with propaganda would be irresistible to politicians of all hues. It starts by examining how journalists have plied their trade over the years, most particularly from the Crimean War onwards. Their impact on the conduct of war has been profound and the author, an experienced journalist, explains in his frank and readable manner how this influence has shaped the actions of politicians and military commanders. By the same token the media is a potentially valuable tool to those in authority and this two-way relationship is examined. Technical developments and 24-hour news have inevitably changed the nature of war reporting and their political masters ignore this at their peril and the author examines the key milestones on this road. Using his own and others' experiences in recent conflicts, be they Korea, Falklands, Balkans, Iraq or Afghanistan, the author opens the reader's eyes to an aspect of warfare that is all too often overlooked but can be crucial to the outcome. The public's attitude to the day-to-day conduct of war is becoming ever more significant and this fascinating book examines why.

The Civil War in America

The War Correspondent looks at the role of the war reporter today: the attractions and the risks of the job; the challenge of objectivity and impartiality in the war zone; the danger of journalistic independence being compromised by military control, censorship, and public relations; as well as the commercial and technological pressures of an intensely concentrated, competitive news media environment. This new edition substantially updates the original, ending with an extended section on the return of history and ideology to the reporting of international conflict, and interviews with prominent war and foreign correspondents including John Pilger, Robert Fisk, Mary Dvesky, and Alex Thomson.

Dying for the Truth

A British journalist's eyewitness description of American society at the start of the Civil War, published in 1863.

The War Correspondent

Two wars—the 1857 Revolt in PBI - India and the American Civil War—seemingly fought for very different reasons, occurred at opposite ends of the globe in the middle of the nineteenth century. But they were both fought in a PBI - World still dominated by Great Britain and the battle cry in both conflicts was freedom. Rajmohan Gandhi brings the drama of both wars to one stage in *A Tale of Two Revolts*. He deftly reconstructs events from the point of view of William Howard Russell—an Irishman who was also perhaps the PBI - World's first war correspondent—and uncovers significant connections between the histories of the United States, Britain and PBI - India. The result is a tale of two revolts, three countries and one century. Into this fascinating story Rajmohan Gandhi weaves the choices of five extraordinary inhabitants of PBI - India—Sayyid Ahmed Khan, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Jotiba Phule, Allan Octavian Hume and Bankimchandra Chatterjee—and of three towering figures of PBI - World history—Karl Marx, Leo Tolstoy and Abraham Lincoln—to show the continuities between the nineteenth century and the PBI - World we live in today. Scholarly, insightful and gripping, *A Tale of Two Revolts* raises new questions about these wars that changed the PBI - World.

My Diary North and South

Pictures of Southern Life is an objective take on the culture of the American South just before the Civil War. Excerpt: NOTHING I could say can be worth one fact which has forced itself upon my mind about the sentiments which prevail among the gentlemen of this state. I have been among them for several days.

A Tale of Two Revolts

From acclaimed historian Robert H. Patton, author of *The Pattons* and *Patriot Pirates*, a rediscovery and celebration of America's first chroniclers of foreign war. The first war correspondent, William H. Russell of *The Times* of London, described himself and his profession as "the miserable parent of a luckless tribe." But it wasn't long before others saw it differently. *Hell Before Breakfast* is the spectacular tale of larger-than-life Americans who made it their business to bring back news from the front; from Bull Run to the Paris Commune, from Africa to the Ottoman Empire, through decades of lightning-fast technological progress and high adventure. As America matured into a great power and the monarchies

of Europe battled for dominance through a series of brief, bloody imperial wars, with the storm clouds of World War I drawing rapidly closer, these men and their newspapers were at center stage—the vanguard of a golden age of war correspondence.

Pictures of Southern Life, Social, Political, and Military

"The Civil War in America. Fuller's Modern Age, August 1861" by William Howard Sir Russell. Published by Good Press. Good Press publishes a wide range of titles that encompasses every genre. From well-known classics & literary fiction and non-fiction to forgotten or yet undiscovered gems of world literature, we issue the books that need to be read. Each Good Press edition has been meticulously edited and formatted to boost readability for all e-readers and devices. Our goal is to produce eBooks that are user-friendly and accessible to everyone in a high-quality digital format.

Hell Before Breakfast

Focusing on a self-proclaimed "bohemian brigade" of Civil War journalists, this volume considers the nature of combat correspondence. Perry describes how competition drove journalists to file stories prematurely, sometimes erroneously predicting the outcome of battles. He also considers army commanders' distrust of war correspondents in spite of their sometimes important contributions.

The Civil War in America. Fuller's Modern Age, August 1861

Reporting the Wars was first published in 1957. Minnesota Archive Editions uses digital technology to make long-unavailable books once again accessible, and are published unaltered from the original University of Minnesota Press editions. News of the wars has always intrigued the public, from the time of the Napoleonic wars up to the present. In this period of the last century and a half, however, the character both of the public and of the news has changed. Mr. Mathews traces the history of war news coverage from John Bell, who, in 1794, was probably the first war correspondent, to Ernie Pyle of World War II fame. The account is colorful, since war correspondents are notably adventurous individuals, and it is significant for a basic understanding of history, since the reporting of war news has represented a constant struggle against the forces of censorship and propaganda. The book is illustrated with newspaper cartoons.

A Bohemian Brigade

Published in 1863, this is the diary and recollections of Irish newspaper reporter, William Russell's travels through the Northern and Southern during the Civil War. This volume shows a wide range of attitudes and beliefs from both sides of the conflict, which is particularly interesting being reported by someone who is an outsider to the situation.

Reporting the Wars

The mid-nineteenth century's Crimean War is frequently dismissed as an embarrassment, an event marred by blunders and an occasion better forgotten. In *The Crimean War and its Afterlife* Lara Kriegel sets out to rescue the Crimean War from the shadows. Kriegel offers a fresh account of the conflict and its afterlife: revisiting beloved figures like Florence Nightingale and hallowed events like the Charge of the Light Brigade, while also turning attention to newer worthies, including Mary Seacole. In this book a series of six case studies transport us from the mid-Victorian moment to the current day, focusing on the heroes, institutions, and values wrought out of the crucible of the war. Time and again, ordinary Britons looked to the war as a template for social formation and a lodestone for national belonging. With lucid prose and rich illustrations, this book vividly demonstrates the uncanny persistence of a Victorian war in the making of modern Britain.

My Diary North and South

England's battlefields bear witness to dramatic turning-points in the country's history. At Hastings, Bosworth Field, Flodden and Naseby, the battles fought were to have an enormous effect on English life. This double volume, containing Burne's famous "Battlefields of England" and "More Battlefields of England" make it possible for readers to follow the course of 39 battles from AD 51 to 1685, as if they were on the battlefields themselves.

The Crimean War and Its Afterlife

In corners of the globe where fault-lines seethe into bloodshed and civil war, foreign correspondents have, since the early nineteenth century, been engaged in uncovering the latest news and - despite obstacles bureaucratic, political, violent - reporting it by whatever means available. It's a working life that is difficult, exciting and glamorous. These stories from the last 200 years celebrate this now endangered tradition

The Battlefields of England

Filled with fresh interpretations and information, puncturing old myths and challenging new ones, *Battle Cry of Freedom* will unquestionably become the standard one-volume history of the Civil War. James McPherson's fast-paced narrative fully integrates the political, social, and military events that crowded the two decades from the outbreak of one war in Mexico to the ending of another at Appomattox. Packed with drama and analytical insight, the book vividly recounts the momentous episodes that preceded the Civil War--the Dred Scott decision, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry--and then moves into a masterful chronicle of the war itself--the battles, the strategic maneuvering on both sides, the politics, and the personalities. Particularly notable are McPherson's new views on such matters as the slavery expansion issue in the 1850s, the origins of the Republican Party, the causes of secession, internal dissent and anti-war opposition in the North and the South, and the reasons for the Union's victory. The book's title refers to the sentiments that informed both the Northern and Southern views of the conflict: the South seceded in the name of that freedom of self-determination and self-government for which their fathers had fought in 1776, while the North stood fast in defense of the Union founded by those fathers as the bulwark of American liberty. Eventually, the North had to grapple with the underlying cause of the war--slavery--and adopt a policy of emancipation as a second war aim. This "new birth of freedom," as Lincoln called it, constitutes the proudest legacy of America's bloodiest conflict. This authoritative volume makes sense of that vast and confusing "second American Revolution" we call the Civil War, a war that transformed a nation and expanded our heritage of liberty.

We Chose to Speak of War and Strife

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER 10 BEST BOOKS • THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW • 2011 NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post • The New Yorker • Chicago Tribune • The Economist • Nancy Pearl, NPR • Bloomberg.com • Library Journal • Publishers Weekly In this brilliant narrative, Amanda Foreman tells the fascinating story of the American Civil War—and the major role played by Britain and its citizens in that epic struggle. Between 1861 and 1865, thousands of British citizens volunteered for service on both sides of the Civil War. From the first cannon blasts on Fort Sumter to Lee's surrender at Appomattox, they served as officers and infantrymen, sailors and nurses, blockade runners and spies. Through personal letters, diaries, and journals, Foreman introduces characters both humble and grand, while crafting a panoramic yet intimate view of the war on the front lines, in the prison camps, and in the great cities of both the Union and the Confederacy. In the drawing rooms of London and the offices of Washington, on muddy fields and aboard packed ships, Foreman reveals the decisions made, the beliefs held and contested, and the personal triumphs and sacrifices that ultimately led to the reunification of America. "Engrossing . . . a sprawling drama."—The Washington Post "Eye-opening . . . immensely ambitious and immensely accomplished."—The New Yorker WINNER OF THE FLETCHER PRATT AWARD FOR CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Battle Cry of Freedom

A series of letters describing the American South during the Civil War, dated March 29 to June 20, 1861, written for the London Times by a special correspondent, the first three from Washington, the remainder from various southern points.

A World on Fire

In the fall of 1862 W. C. Corsan, an English steel merchant and manufacturer from Sheffield, visited the Confederacy to judge the impact of the American Civil War, especially the blockade, on his business prospects. Upon his return to Britain, Corsan penned his observations about the South and its Cause, and his memoir was published in London the following year. With the author identified in the book only as an "English Merchant," Corsan remained obscure for more than 125 years. In this new edition, Benjamin H. Trask's marvelous research identifies Corsan as the heretofore anonymous merchant and tracks his

course from New York to New Orleans and across the Deep South. Trask's introduction gives the first published information about Corsan's life and firm, and also ably places the merchant's visit in the context of England's possible intervention on the side of the Confederacy. In a clear, lively, and at times humorous style, Corsan details his experiences, which include nearly being drafted into the Rebel army. He also records southerners' attitudes toward the war and, as was natural given his background and mission, economic and financial matters. Trask's footnotes provide welcome commentary on the text. A rosy view of the Confederacy emerges from Corsan's narrative. Everywhere he went, the Englishman found southern morale very high. As he traveled, he analyzed the relative strengths of the opposing sides and concluded that the South would easily win the war. Although Corsan was opposed to slavery, he adamantly believed blacks incapable of rising in rebellion against their masters or of engaging in combat against southern troops. Corsan's accurate descriptions of his surroundings reveal much about the Confederacy; his inaccuracies disclose much about himself and the British merchant class. With Trask's notes illuminating the distinction, *Two Months in the Confederate States* is an invaluable resource for students of both the Civil War and the Victorian era.

The Civil War in America

In *Ambivalent Nation*, Hugh Dubrulle explores how Britons envisioned the American Civil War and how these conceptions influenced their discussions about race, politics, society, military affairs, and nationalism. Contributing new research that expands upon previous scholarship focused on establishing British public opinion toward the war, Dubrulle offers a methodical dissection of the ideological forces that shaped that opinion, many of which arose from the complex Anglo-American postcolonial relationship. Britain's lingering feeling of ownership over its former colony contributed heavily to its discussions of the American Civil War. Because Britain continued to have a substantial material interest in the United States, its writers maintained a position of superiority and authority in respect to American affairs. British commentators tended to see the United States as divided by two distinct civilizations, even before the onset of war: a Yankee bourgeois democracy and a southern oligarchy supported by slavery. They invariably articulated mixed feelings toward both sections, and shortly before the Civil War, the expression of these feelings was magnified by the sudden emergence of inexpensive newspapers, periodicals, and books. The conflicted nature of British attitudes toward the United States during the antebellum years anticipates the ambivalence with which the British reacted to the American crisis in 1861. Britons used prewar stereotypes of northerners and southerners to help explain the course and significance of the conflict. Seen in this fashion, the war seemed particularly relevant to a number of questions that occupied British conversations during this period: the characteristics and capacities of people of African descent, the proper role of democracy in society and politics, the future of armed conflict, and the composition of a durable nation. These questions helped shape Britain's stance toward the war and, in turn, the war informed British attitudes on these subjects. Dubrulle draws from numerous primary sources to explore the rhetoric and beliefs of British public figures during these years, including government papers, manuscripts from press archives, private correspondence, and samplings from a variety of dailies, weeklies, monthlies, and quarterlies. The first book to examine closely the forces that shaped British public opinion about the Civil War, *Ambivalent Nation* contextualizes and expands our understanding of British attitudes during this tumultuous period.

Two Months in the Confederate States

Book review (H-Net).

Ambivalent Nation

Draws on diaries, unpublished letters, and other archival sources to trace the events of the Civil War campaign that sealed the fate of the Confederacy and was instrumental in securing Abraham Lincoln's reelection.

The Battle of Bull Run

Between the Confederacy and recognition by Great Britain stood one unlikely Englishman who hated the slave trade. His actions helped determine the fate of a nation. When Robert Bunch arrived in Charleston to take up the post of British consul in 1853, he was young and full of ambition, but even he couldn't have imagined the incredible role he would play in the history-making events to unfold. In an age when diplomats often were spies, Bunch's job included sending intelligence back to the British government in London. Yet as the United States threatened to erupt into Civil War, Bunch found

himself plunged into a double life, settling into an amiable routine with his slavery-loving neighbors on the one hand, while working furiously to thwart their plans to achieve a new Confederacy. As secession and war approached, the Southern states found themselves in an impossible position. They knew that recognition from Great Britain would be essential to the survival of the Confederacy, and also that such recognition was likely to be withheld if the South reopened the Atlantic slave trade. But as Bunch meticulously noted from his perch in Charleston, secession's red-hot epicenter, that trade was growing. And as Southern leaders continued to dissemble publicly about their intentions, Bunch sent dispatch after secret dispatch back to the Foreign Office warning of the truth—that economic survival would force the South to import slaves from Africa in massive numbers. When the gears of war finally began to turn, and Bunch was pressed into service on an actual spy mission to make contact with the Confederate government, he found himself in the middle of a fight between the Union and Britain that threatened, in the boast of Secretary of State William Seward, to “wrap the world in flames.” In this masterfully told story, Christopher Dickey introduces Consul Bunch as a key figure in the pitched battle between those who wished to reopen the floodgates of bondage and misery, and those who wished to dam the tide forever. Featuring a remarkable cast of diplomats, journalists, senators, and spies, *Our Man in Charleston* captures the intricate, intense relationship between great powers on the brink of war.

The War

Ashe County's Civil War