

Enemies of the Country: New Perspectives on Unionists in the Civil War South



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Exploring family and community dynamics, *Enemies of the Country* profiles men and women of the Confederate states who, in addition to the wartime burdens endured by most southerners, had to cope with being a detested minority.

With one exception, these featured individuals were white, but they otherwise represent a wide spectrum of the southern citizenry. They include natives to the region, foreign immigrants and northern transplants, affluent and poor, farmers and merchants, politicians and journalists, slaveholders and nonslaveholders. Some resided in highland areas and in remote parts of border states, the two locales with which southern Unionists are commonly associated. Others, however, lived in the Deep South and in urban settings. Some were openly defiant; others took a more covert stand.

Together the portraits underscore how varied Unionist identities and motives were, and how fluid and often fragile the personal, familial, and local circumstances of Unionist allegiance could be. For example, many southern Unionists shared basic social and political assumptions with white southerners who cast their lots with the Confederacy, including an abhorrence of emancipation.

The very human stories of southern Unionists—as they saw themselves and as their neighbors saw them—are shown here to be far more complex and colorful than previously acknowledged.

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