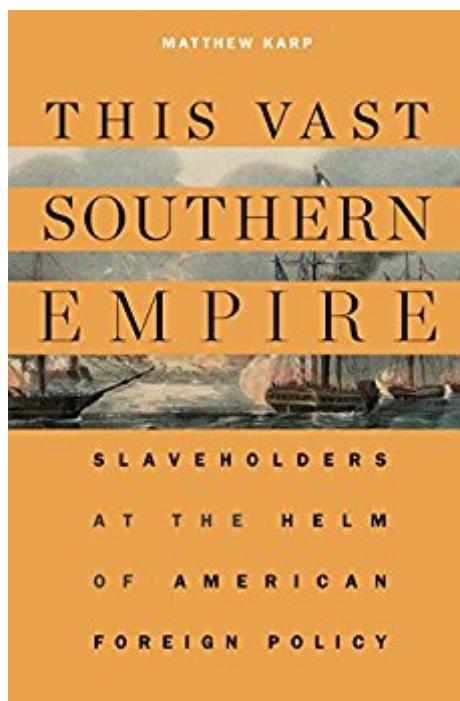


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# This Vast Southern Empire



## **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 Lincolnâ™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.

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## **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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