4 October: **Secession: Constitutional Conflicts, Politics, and South Carolina**

The constitutional debates by the people, the politicians and the lawyers, that precede the war are fascinating. Constitutional understanding constrained and formed both Calhoun’s arguments for secession, and the opposition. We will briefly comment on the current claims that states can secede from the Union.

**OUTLINE**

I. The Initial Understandings
   a. Articles of Confederation
   b. Constitutional Debates & Federalist Papers
   c. Washington to Madison

II. Calhoun’s Concepts and Jackson’s Response
   a. South Carolina’s problem
   b. Calhoun’s problem
   c. South Carolina Exposition and Protest
   d. Nullification
   e. President Jackson Uses Force!

III. Slavery in the Territories Explained
    a. Real dynamic of slavery
    b. False, accepted dynamic of slavery
    c. Constitutional Implications
    d. The Texas Question

IV. South Carolina’s Further Adventures
    a. Seeking allies
    b. The Mexican Territories Problem
    c. Compromise of 1850

V. Senator Douglas, Kansas, Dred Scott, and John Brown
    a. Economic Development of the West
    b. Bleeding Kansas
    c. Dred Scott and the Supreme Court
    d. John Brown at Harpers Ferry
    e. Dividing the Democratic Party
    f. Triumph of the “Black Republican” Lincoln

VI. The Arguments For and Against Secession
    a. Calhoun’s Argument Refined
    b. Webster’s and Lincoln’s Argument
    c. The Verdict from the Battlefield

VII. Modern Secession Notions

**A Few Good Books:**


__________, *The Road to Disunion: Volume II: Secessionists Triumphant, 1854-1861* (2008)
__________, *Showdown in Virginia: The 1861 Convention and the Fate of the Union* (2010)