the last decade when the finality of secession was slowly maturing. Drawn from a great variety of sources (though the student of political history would have wished for the availability of more private unpublished or published sources), the author traces his chronological way without getting lost in the vast maze of trivia which could easily have engulfed and trapped him. His work for Georgia should be duplicated for each of the Southern states.

*Louisiana State University* Edwin Adams Davis


*South Carolina Goes to War, 1860-1865* is a political history of the state that contributed more than any other to the disunion movement. The weight of this responsibility rested heavily upon the South Carolina leaders. Men whose temperament and background fitted them for the role of critical opposition or factious dissent were constrained to urge co-operation with the other states in the Confederacy to defeat the common enemy. The spirit of localism, support of state at the expense of Confederate measures, and indifference or resistance to the war regardless of the authorities conducting it appeared in South Carolina later and to a less degree than in some of the other states.

The bombardment of Fort Sumter comes midway in this book. The first half, an account of how South Carolina became involved in war, stresses conflicting issues and leaders. The second half, a story of what the state did after the war arrived, is primarily about governmental organization and operations, although politics during the war period is not ignored. One of the best chapters is on the relationship of various leaders and factions to the Davis government.

Mr. Cauthen’s competent and thorough scholarship may be accepted as authoritative on the various topics he treats, except perhaps for the introductory summary of the historical origins of the secession movement. His chapters on the presidential election of 1860, the decision of South Carolina
to assume leadership of the secession movement, the secession convention, and the republic of South Carolina are equal to previous treatments in soundness of interpretation and exceed others in the completeness of narrative detail. A chapter on propaganda summarizes for the first time numerous documents that were published by the secessionists in 1860. His treatment of the forts diplomacy and precipitation of war is based on a critical use of both the sources and the contradictory interpretations of recent historians. Although he does not commit himself explicitly, he seems to lean toward the late Professor Ramsdell's interpretation of Lincoln's motives for the reinforcement order. The six chapters that describe the workings of the South Carolina government during the war, which include extended accounts of the executive council of 1862, state finances, and conscription of men and supplies, were of necessity prepared with almost no assistance from previous historical writings. Not the most exciting parts of this book, they are invaluable for what they tell of the activities of state governments in the Confederate War.

University of Vermont

Harold S. Schultz


The first edition of Professor Winther's study of _The Great Northwest_ appeared in 1947. The volume was a welcome addition to the historical literature of the West, and satisfied, for many, the long-felt need for an authoritative single volume survey of Pacific Northwest history incorporating the findings of recent scholarship. Although several regional investigators had written satisfactory state histories and numerous excellent monographs for professional publications, no person since Joseph Schafer (A History of the Pacific Northwest, 1905) had attempted to tell the whole story of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. This book was well received by the reading public and by the historical profession, in general, but some reviewers were harsh in their adverse criticism. As is usually the case with reviews of general