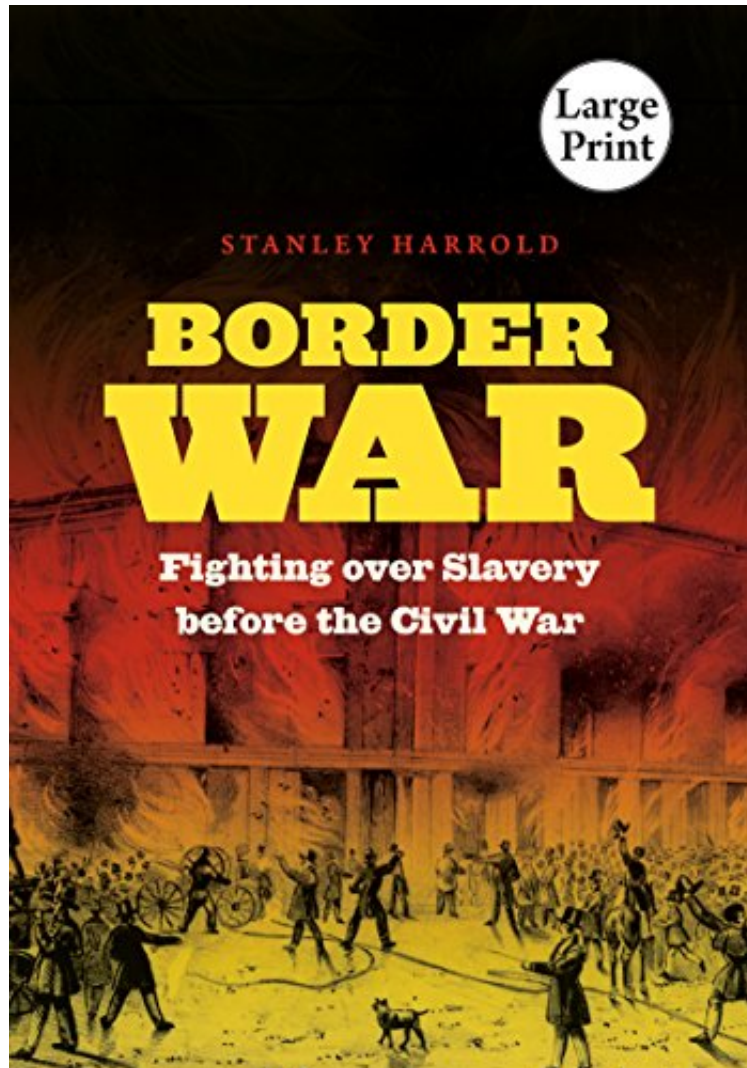


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Border War: Fighting over Slavery before the Civil War (Civil War America)

Stanley Harrold

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Stanley Harrold : Border War: Fighting over Slavery before the Civil War (Civil War America) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Border War: Fighting over Slavery before the Civil War (Civil War America):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Revealing Story By P. R. Smith In 'Border War, Fighting Over Slavery Before the Civil War', Stanley Harrold has scored an A+. Early in the book, he describes how unfamiliar visitors to both regions noticed the prosperity of the free labor north and the dismal condition of the slave south. He

makes clear the differences between the lower North and upper South, states on the boundary line between slave and free that struggled for 30 years over slavery, sometimes coming to fatal blows. Harrold brings to life the terrible impact and great cost that slavery was to the U.S. The 30 year struggle escalated on both sides of the boundary, causing each to become more hardened in defense of their opinion of free vs. slave labor. A great amount of research was no doubt put into making this book so revealing. I have also read 'Disunion' by Elizabeth Varon and 'Fate of Their Country' by Michael Holt, both of which focus more on the political aspect of the road to Civil War. Those two books in combination with 'Border War' gave me a better understanding of the events that led to America's bloodiest conflict. I can't say enough good things about 'Border War' but will end saying that it is a must read for anyone interested in understanding conditions that led to the melt down in 1861.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A thoroughly scholarly history told as an intense page turnerBy Richard S. CarterI would have given this book five stars except that at a few intervals the prose and information become a little bit dry and detailed. It mostly, however, is a very readable rendition of the ongoing violence along the border between slave and nonslave states in the decades prior to the Civil War. For me it was a really absorbing read, and I recommend it for anyone who is interested in politics prior to the war, the Underground Railroad, the abolition movement, or in understanding the war itself. Also, it's a very, very thoroughly academically researched work, giving the story excellent credibility for all it's factual content.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful TextBy drjlfHarrold provides a good narrative with many examples of how the animosity between slave and free states grew over time. It is tempting to simplify the issues that the nation faced at the time as right and wrong. Harrold does a good job in demonstrating just how complex and contentious the issues were.

During the 1840s and 1850s, a dangerous ferment afflicted the North-South border region, pitting the slave states of Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri against the free states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Aspects of this struggle--the underground railroad, enforcement of the fugitive slave laws, mob actions, and sectional politics--are well known as parts of other stories. Here, Stanley Harrold explores the border struggle itself, the dramatic incidents that comprised it, and its role in the complex dynamics leading to the Civil War.

Harrold's book is not only informative but provocative.--Indiana Magazine of History[This book] should immediately be standard reading for all historians of antebellum America.--Journal of Southern HistoryHarrold is at his best when he discusses how, when, and why the violence occurred, and its impact on the ongoing struggle." --The North Carolina Historical Scholars of nineteenth-century America generally, and the Civil War era specifically, would benefit greatly from adding Border War to their collections.--Arkansas Historical QuarterlyOffers a refreshing perspective on disunion by examining the tensions in the North-South borderland. . . [and] sheds new light on how the slave states sought to protect their peculiar institution.--West Virginia HistoryA sobering, meticulously researched and astutely presented historical analysis, highly recommended especially for college library collections.--Midwest Book Fast-paced, lucid, and well-researched.--American Historical This work forces historians to reconsider the fault lines of the origins of the Civil War and promises new directions for research. Highly recommended.--ChoiceThis book is important in understanding the intense feelings on both sides of the conflict that help lead to the start of our American Civil War. . . . Excellent.--Lone Star Book [Border War] is a solid, detailed narrative of the violent conflict that developed along the border between the North and South in the decades before the Civil War.--The Annals of IowaAn excellent addition to the literature on causes of the Civil War.--Journal of NC Association of HistoriansHarrold makes impressive use of newspapers and manuscript sources. His engaging study should appeal to students of many historical subjects." --Journal of American HistoryThis is a unique book and one that is necessary to read if you want to understand politics prior to the war.--TOCWOC: A Civil War Blog[This book] can help those trying to develop a better understanding of the issues that led to secession. . . . Highly recommended.--Blue Gray MagazineIn Border War, Stanley Harrold cements his reputation as one of the leading scholars of sectional tensions in the antebellum and Civil War eras. . . . A must read for historians of the middle nineteenth century.--Tennessee Historical QuarterlyA welcome exploration of the volatile decades of sectional strife that preceded the Civil War.--Canadian Journal of HistoryStanley Harrold has written an excellent book that is sure to prompt debate and additional research. It will be required reading for historians of the slavery controversy in the United States.--Civil War Book A good addition to all Civil War collections.--Library JournalThe impressive research in Border War raises a theme that historians must confront.--Journal of Illinois HistoryThis provocative book . . . will receive its share of attention.--Register of the Kentucky Historical SocietyBorder War is a must-have for anyone seeking to understand the small-scale underlying fights that snowballed the Civil War. . . . Textbooks and many leading historical works leave gaps by portraying the sweeping movements, but Harrold fills in the details without which a true and thorough understanding of the slavery issue and the Civil War is impossible.--Virginia LibrariesRelying on an impressive array of archival and secondary sources, Harrold reconfigures the Underground Railroad into a complex series of events.--Kansas History Writing with admirable clarity and passion, Harrold vividly re-creates the violent and chaotic decade of the 1850s. Harrold's devastating portrait of a nation already at war along the contested border should appeal to all readers of history. His

research, both archival and secondary, is exceptional.--Douglas R. Egerton, Le Moyne College
Arguing for a broader definition of politics, Stanley Harrold successfully takes us into relatively uncharted waters, insisting that, by running away, slaves had a profound effect on the politics of slavery both on the border between slavery and freedom where it was most vulnerable and on the national level.--Richard J. M. Blackett, Vanderbilt University
From the Inside Flap
During the 1840s and 1850s, a dangerous ferment afflicted the North-South border region, pitting the slave states of Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri against the free states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Aspects of this struggle--the underground railroad, enforcement of the fugitive slave laws, mob actions, and sectional politics--are well known as parts of other stories. Here, Stanley Harrold explores the border struggle itself, the dramatic incidents that it comprised, and its role in the complex dynamics leading to the Civil War.