

# ANZA PUBLISHING

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**Did the South Violate American Law by Seceding?  
Perceptive Book by Political Advisor Gives Intriguing Answers**

## **IS SECESSION TREASON?** by Albert Bledsoe

*Albert Bledsoe is one of the ablest thinkers and writers on philosophical subjects, which our country can show — New Englander and Yale Review*

*He seemed like a Titan fighting against all the tendencies of modern life and thought — Dictionary of American Biography*

General Robert E. Lee uttered to Albert Bledsoe these important words: “You have a great work to do; we all look to you for our vindication”. The “work” Lee was referring to was in essence a Confederate political bible, that would clarify and explain the principles of self-determination upon which the Secession from the United States of America was based. Bledsoe was truly inspired to write a most deftly argued book defending the South’s “unthinkable” action. This treatise, **IS SECESSION TREASON?**, is finally returned to print in a new edition, with a preface and index not present in the original.

**IS SECESSION TREASON?** (Quanterness Press) represents the pinnacle of Bledsoe’s work. The centerpiece of his position is the critical distinction between the words “constitution” and “compact”. Drawing from the texts of numerous political and philosophical documents, he presents ample justification for the assertion that the union of former colonies in the 1780s was voluntary and not perpetual, and their inherent independence was not taken away by their acceding to the “compact” that joined them. Limitation on the power of the central authority over the states was actually a key factor in the minds of the participants attending the Constitutional Convention, as the author so ably proves. In the pursuit of honesty and openness, Bledsoe strives to present both sides of the debate, and states with great clarity and force the positions of Webster, Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton, Calhoun and many others.

After careful reflection and analysis, he arrives at two powerful conclusions: Secession was allowed under the Constitution, and the military attack by the Federal government on the Confederacy was illegal. So well-reasoned were his arguments, that his book proved to be a source of material for the defense of Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy, from charges of treason.

Despite Albert Bledsoe’s unwavering devotion to his beloved homeland, one could say that his treatise is more of a fair and balanced treatment of Secession, than many recently published works covering the same subject.

Restored in a new unabridged edition, with a new introduction, **IS SECESSION TREASON?** is an essential part of the library of anyone interested in the Constitutional issues surrounding secession, the Civil War period, its Secessionist movement, and the attempts to try Jefferson Davis for treason. This book contains far more fair and balanced treatments of these issues than found in many recent works.

Albert Taylor Bledsoe (1809-1877) could be characterized as a traditionalist, an “unreconstructed Southerner”, a fighter for various causes and a firm believer in the dangers of modernism and foreign influence. Yet he was no stooge working for the Southern “Brahmins”— he was an intelligent man of letters, soldier and educator, clergyman and lawyer, friend of wealthy men, social investigator, and seasoned traveler. Because of his intellectual perspicacity, and his connections to important leaders in the South, he became an apologist for the Southern Confederacy, and the pre-war Southern “mentality”.

Indeed, Bledsoe’s life story shows that he was a man of tremendous capability who had a remarkably rich career; whether this variety was due to innate restlessness or a desire for intellectual stimulation is not certain. He was at times a soldier, professor of mathematics, lawyer, and church minister. The Civil War forced a change in Bledsoe’s life yet again, and he re-entered military service as a Confederate colonel, but then was “kicked upstairs” holding assignments as chief of the War Bureau and assistant Secretary of War.

When he returned in February 1865, he had collected enough material so that in 1866 he published the fruit of his work: *Is Davis a Traitor? or Was Secession a Constitutional Right previous to the War of 1861?* The Confederacy’s agonizing defeat impelled Bledsoe to commit the rest of his life to defending Southern integrity and cultural principles. This defence found its voice in the *Southern Review*, a quarterly that Bledsoe founded and edited in Baltimore.

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship; Liberating Love; The Concept of Family; and Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **IS SECESSION TREASON?**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, Paul Dennis Sporer, please contact Cassandra Foxton, [inform at anzapublishing.com](mailto:inform@anzapublishing.com). The publisher’s website address is [AnzaPublishing.com](http://AnzaPublishing.com).

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