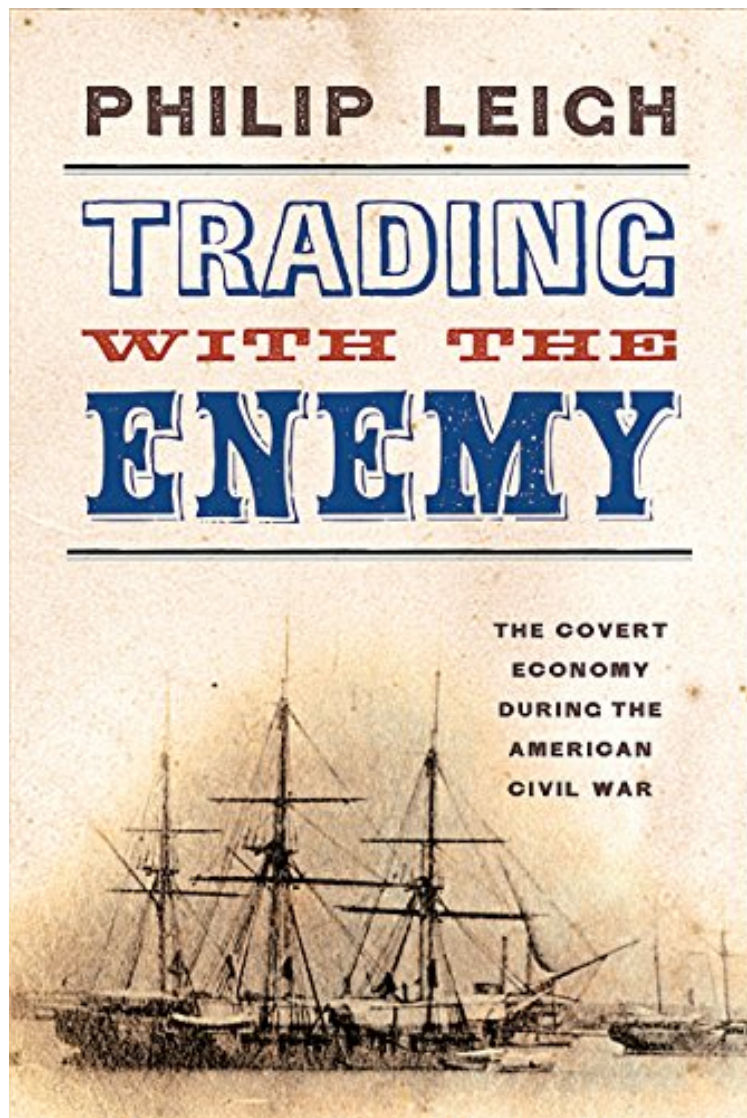


(Download) Trading with the Enemy: The Covert Economy During the American Civil War (New York Times Disunion)

## Trading with the Enemy: The Covert Economy During the American Civil War (New York Times Disunion)

*Philip Leigh*

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**Philip Leigh : Trading with the Enemy: The Covert Economy During the American Civil War (New York Times Disunion)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trading with the Enemy: The Covert Economy During the American Civil War (New York Times Disunion):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More trade than you would thinkBy James D. CrabtreeBefore the Civil War the economies of the North and South were distinct but interlinked. The South's economy was based upon

the production of cotton. The North's economy was based upon finished products (including cotton cloth)... and food. The Confederacy found itself cut off from the cornfields of Ohio, the wheat fields of Illinois, the meat-packing plants of Chicago, etc. The Union found itself cut off from the tons of raw cotton needed for its mills. Leigh concentrates on the corruption which erupted because of the skyrocketing value of cotton bales and the relative ease in which cotton could be bought, stolen or captured near the front lines. While the author is very good at detailing incidents of smuggling and licensed trade he neglects to discuss how, even with an imperfect blockade and imperfect enforcement of the Federal laws, the cotton trade was never able to feed the Confederate coffers. He also doesn't speak much of the secondary trade of food from Union lines to the Confederate armies. In the last weeks of the war, after the fall of Fort Fisher, Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was being fed via trading posts in North Carolina and Norfolk... keeping the war going for at least a month if not longer. Leigh's writing suggests that no Union campaign was launched unless there was some way of making money off of the cotton trade. This is certainly a stretch, although there were no doubt many opportunists on the Union side.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Little Known Trade of Cotton Between The North and South During the Civil War. By Kyle J. Cherry This book gives in detail the illegal trade in cotton trade between the North and the South during the Civil War. The North bought the cotton from traders in the South used the proceeds to finance the war and the North resold the cotton to England to also finance the war. Union military general got trading cotton and the traders were made wealth in the South during private sales of cotton to the North. This is an area that has had little or no coverage in previous books.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The only book written on the subject by a good writer. Phillip will be a presenter on the ... By Customer The only book written on the subject by a good writer. Phillip will be a presenter on the annual Sarasota Civil War Symposium in January, 2015. Lots of statistics of the back and forth trading of goods between the embattled North and South.

While Confederate blockade runners famously carried the seaborne trade for the South during the American Civil War, the amount of Southern cotton exported to Europe was only half of that shipped illicitly to the North. Most went to New England textile mills where business "was better than ever," according to textile mogul Amos Lawrence. Rhode Island senator William Sprague, a mill owner and son-in-law to Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, was a member of a partnership supplying weapons to the Confederacy in exchange for cotton. The trade in contraband was not confined to New England. Union General William T. Sherman claimed Confederates were supplied with weapons from Cincinnati, while General Ulysses S. Grant captured Rebel cavalry armed with carbines purchased in Union-occupied Memphis. During the last months of the war, supplies entering the Union-controlled port of Norfolk, Virginia, were one of the principal factors enabling Robert E. Lee's Confederate army to avoid starvation. Indeed, many of the supplies that passed through the Union blockade into the Confederacy originated in Northern states, instead of Europe as is commonly supposed. Merchants were not the only ones who profited; Union officers General Benjamin Butler and Admiral David Dixon Porter benefited from this black market. President Lincoln admitted that numerous military leaders and public officials were involved, but refused to stop the trade.

In *Trading with the Enemy: The Covert Economy During the American Civil War*, New York Times Disunion contributor Philip Leigh recounts the little-known story of clandestine commerce between the North and South. Cotton was so important to the Northern economy that Yankees began growing it on the captured Sea Islands of South Carolina. Soon the neutral port of Matamoros, Mexico, became a major trading center, where nearly all the munitions shipped to the port—much of it from Northern armories—went to the Confederacy. After the fall of New Orleans and Vicksburg, a frenzy of contraband-for-cotton swept across the vast trans-Mississippi Confederacy, with Northerners sometimes buying the cotton directly from the Confederate government. A fascinating study, *Trading with the Enemy* adds another layer to our understanding of the Civil War.

"[The] story is all the more shocking because of the persons involved. One primary villain was US Senator William Sprague of Rhode Island." —Washington Times