



# **The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South)**

*Robert E. May*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South)

Robert E. May

## **The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South)** Robert E. May

"The great value of the book lies in the manner in which May relates the expansionist urge to the "symbolic" differences emerging between the North and the South. The result is a balanced account that contributes to the efforts of historians to understand the causes of the Civil War."--*Journal of American History*

"The most ambitious effort yet to relate the Caribbean question to the larger picture of southern economic and political anxieties, and to secession. The core of this superbly documented book is a detailed description of expansionist ideology and activities during the 1850s."--*Civil War History*

A path-breaking work when first published in 1973, *The Southern Dream* remains the standard work on attempts by the South to spread American slavery into the tropics--Cuba, Mexico, and Central America in particular--before the Civil War. Robert May shows that the South's expansionists had no more success than when they tried to extend slavery westward. As one after another of their plots failed, southern imperialists lost hope that their labor system might survive in the Union. Blaming northern Democrats and antislavery Republicans alike for their disappointed dreams, alienated southerners embraced secession as an alternative means to achieving the tropical slave empire that they craved. Had war not erupted at Fort Sumter, Confederates might have attempted to conquer the Caribbean basin.

May's book serves as an important reminder that foreign policy cannot be divorced from the writing of American history, even in regard to seemingly domestic matters like the causes of the Civil War. Contending that America's Manifest Destiny became "sectionalized" in the 1850s, he explains why southerners considered Caribbean expansion so important and shows how southerners used their clout in Washington to initiate diplomatic schemes like the notorious Ostend Manifesto and presidential attempts to buy the slaveholding island of Cuba from Spain. He also describes southern filibustering plots against Latin American domains, such as the aborted designs on Mexico of the colorful Knights of the Golden Circle and the actual invasions of Central America by native Tennessean William Walker. Walker struck a major blow for the expansion of slavery when he legalized it during his occupation of Nicaragua. Most important, May relates how Caribbean plots affected American public opinion and ignited sectional friction in congressional debates. May argues that President-elect Abraham Lincoln might have saved the Union in the winter of 1860-61, had he agreed to last minute concessions facilitating slavery's future expansion towards the tropics. May's fascinating and often surprising account internationalized the causes of the Civil War. It should be read by anyone who wishes to understand the complex reasons why Americans came to blows with each other in 1861. This reprinting features a new preface by the author, which addresses the latest research on the Caribbean question.

Robert E. May is professor of history at Purdue University.

 [Download The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-186 ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1 ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) Robert E. May**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mark McCarver:**

Throughout other case, little folks like to read book The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South). You can choose the best book if you'd prefer reading a book. Given that we know about how is important a book The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South). You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world by a book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can realize everything! From your country until finally foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple factor until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, we can easily open a book as well as searching by internet product. It is called e-book. You can use it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's go through.

#### **Rhonda Joiner:**

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the publication untitled The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) can be good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

#### **Charlie Hartman:**

As a university student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher questioned them to go to the library in order to make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's heart or real their passion. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful pics on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) can make you experience more interested to read.

#### **James Fitzpatrick:**

Reserve is one of source of expertise. We can add our understanding from it. Not only for students but native or citizen have to have book to know the up-date information of year to help year. As we know those publications have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, could also bring us to around the world.

By the book *The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South)* we can take more advantage. Don't you to be creative people? To get creative person must love to read a book. Simply choose the best book that suited with your aim. Don't become doubt to change your life with that book *The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South)*. You can more desirable than now.

**Download and Read Online *The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South)* Robert E. May #LCY0HNUSJ68**

## **Read The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) by Robert E. May for online ebook**

The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) by Robert E. May Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) by Robert E. May books to read online.

### **Online The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) by Robert E. May ebook PDF download**

**The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) by Robert E. May Doc**

**The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) by Robert E. May Mobipocket**

**The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861: With a New Preface (New Perspectives on the History of the South) by Robert E. May EPub**