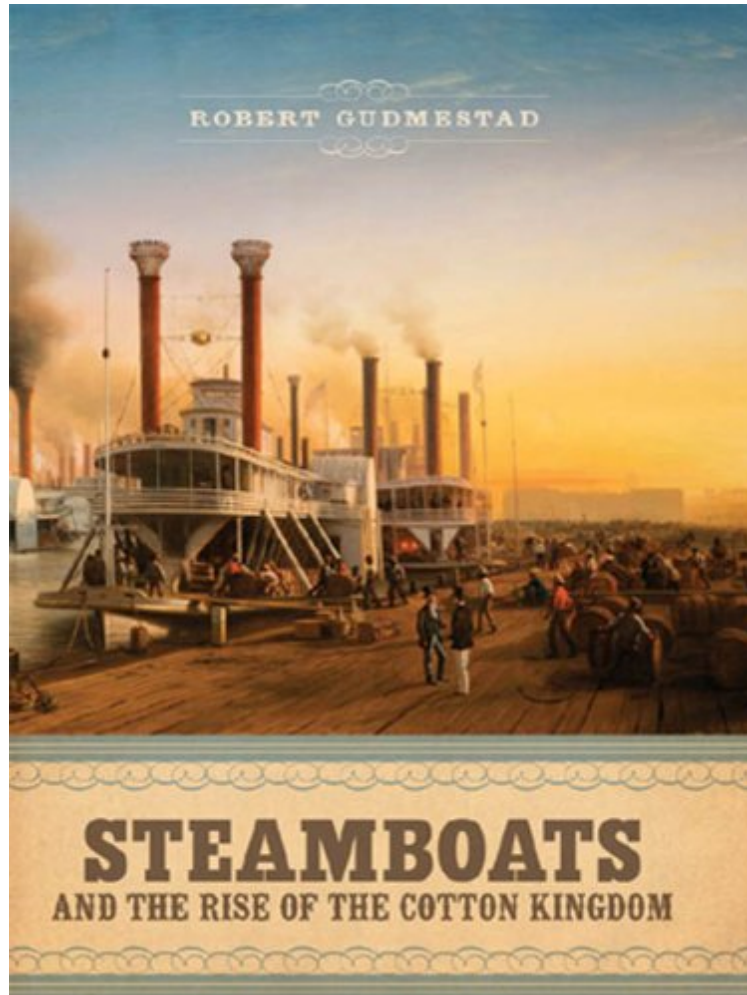


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Steamboats and the Rise of the Cotton Kingdom

Robert H. Gudmestad

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Robert H. Gudmestad : Steamboats and the Rise of the Cotton Kingdom before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Steamboats and the Rise of the Cotton Kingdom:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Met the author who was a professor of my daughter's Civil War course. Enjoyed lively conversation with Gudmestad. Book is GREAT By T. G. Franke I purchased this book for my college-age daughter who is studying to be a high school teacher of US History. At a recent banquet at Colorado State University, I had the pleasure of sitting at the table with my daughter's history professor, and we were talking about books that gave the most accurate portrayal of the Civil War. When I discovered that this same professor (Robert Gudmestad) had written a book, it seemed like a good idea to buy the book for my daughter as a remembrance of her Civil War class under his teaching. The book itself is a wonderful account of the effects of a new technology in the travels of river boats and the effect on the economy of the South. If you are a history buff, this is a great addition to your personal library 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good Overview of the Importance of

Steamboats in the Anti-Bellum South By Prince Bertram It's rather remarkable how influential the role of Mississippi and other Western River steamboats were in, not only in shaping the Anti-bellum South, but affecting the entire economy and culture of the entire nation in the years 1820 through 1860 and beyond. It's not the fault of the book, because the title clearly states what is to be covered, but I would've liked to have had more details on the actual steamboats themselves as to design, construction, operation, and every day life aboard. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great look into our history. By S. Grace The author, R. Gudmestad, is exceptional and the book is full of great stories. I am very happy with my purchase.

The arrival of the first steamboat, The New Orleans, in early 1812 touched off an economic revolution in the South. In states west of the Appalachian Mountains, the operation of steamboats quickly grew into a booming business that would lead to new cultural practices and a stronger sectional identity. In *Steamboats and the Rise of the Cotton Kingdom*, Robert Gudmestad examines the wide-ranging influence of steamboats on the southern economy. From carrying cash crops to market to contributing to slave productivity, increasing the flexibility of labor, and connecting southerners to overlapping orbits of regional, national, and international markets, steamboats not only benefited slaveholders and northern industries but also affected cotton production. This technology literally put people into motion, and travelers developed an array of unique cultural practices, from gambling to boat races. Gudmestad also asserts that the intersection of these riverboats and the environment reveals much about sectional identity in antebellum America. As federal funds backed railroad construction instead of efforts to clear waterways for steamboats, southerners looked to coordinate their own economic development, free of national interests. *Steamboats and the Rise of the Cotton Kingdom* offers new insights into the remarkable and significant history of transportation and commerce in the prewar South.

"Robert Gudmestad has written a useful, important, and perhaps definitive study of steamboats in the antebellum South." --William G. Thomas, *Journal of Southern History* "Concise and engaging....Robert Gudmestad [writes] with incisive analysis and often harrowing detail....Painstakingly researched, elegantly organized, and attractively written." --Calvin Schermerhorn, *Journal of the Early Republic* "Overall, then, how to sum up this book? It is the best book on southern steamboats for two generations. It is engagingly written and based upon first-class scholarship....It is an intriguing story which greatly enhances our understanding of the Cotton Kingdom. I recommend it thoroughly." --John Armstrong, *International Journal of Maritime History* About the Author Robert Gudmestad is an assistant professor of history at Colorado State University and author of *A Troublesome Commerce: The Transformation of the Interstate Slave Trade*.