

Southern Historical Association
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Southern Historical Association announces James A. Rawley Award Winner

Athens, GA: The Southern Historical Association is pleased to announce the winner of the 2017 Rawley Award for the best book on secession or the sectional crisis published over the last two years: Manisha Sinha, Draper Chair in American History at University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT for her 2016 Yale University Press book, *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*.

First awarded in 2007, the Rawley Award was established in honor of historian James A. Rawley, perhaps best known for *Race and Politics: "Bleeding Kansas" and the Coming of the Civil War* (1969) as well as the painstaking quantitative research he undertook for *The Transatlantic Slave Trade: A History* (1981).

In making this year's award, the Rawley prize committee called Sinha's book a "magisterial work" and "a definitive account of abolitionism." "Reaching far and wide across time and space," the committee continues, "the book moves from pulpits to legislatures, from secret hideouts to national conventions, and from novels to newspapers and personal narratives. Sinha persuasively argues that we cannot fully understand who the abolitionists were and what they were all about without looking to the enslaved themselves and to the African-American activists whose ideas and actions were foundational to the movement. This bold, accessible, and well-written book should silence any remaining doubts about the role that abolitionism played in bringing on the war that would end slavery once and for all."

About the SHA: The Southern Historical Association was organized on November 2, 1934 and charged with promoting an "investigative rather than a memorial approach" to southern history. Its objectives are the promotion of interest and research in southern history, the collection and preservation of the South's historical records, and the encouragement of state and local historical societies in the South. As a secondary purpose the Association fosters the teaching and study of all areas of history in the South. The Association holds an annual meeting, usually in the first or second week of November, and publishes *The Journal of Southern History*.

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