



# War, Politics, and Reconstruction: Stormy Days in Louisiana (Southern Classics (Univ of South Carolina))

*Henry Clay Warmoth*

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## **War, Politics, and Reconstruction: Stormy Days in Louisiana (Southern Classics (Univ of South Carolina))** Henry Clay Warmoth

A memoir of the ambitious life and controversial political career of Louisiana governor Henry Clay Warmoth (1842-1931), *War, Politics, and Reconstruction* is a firsthand account of the political and social machinations of Civil War America and the war's aftermath in one of the most volatile states of the defeated Confederacy. An Illinois native, Warmoth arrived in Louisiana in 1864 as part of the federal occupation forces. Upon leaving military service in 1865, he established himself in private legal practice in New Orleans. Taking full advantage of the chaotic times, Warmoth rapidly amassed fortune and influence, and soon emerged as a leader of the state's Republican Party and, in 1868, was elected governor. Amid an administration rife with scandal and corruption, the Louisiana Republican Party broke into warring factions. Warmoth survived an impeachment attempt in 1872, but a second attempt in 1873 culminated with his removal from office. This fall from Republican grace stemmed from his allegiance with white conservatives, remnants of the old guard, and staunch opponents of those Republicans who sought a wider role for African Americans in Louisiana's changing political landscape. Despite Warmoth's obvious self-serving biases, the volume offers unparalleled depth of personal insight into the inner workings of Reconstruction government in Louisiana in the words of one of its key architects.

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