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**CIVIL WAR CONTINUED REVOLUTION'S FOCUS; [City Edition]**

James B. Walton. **Richmond Times - Dispatch**. Richmond, Va.: Oct 16, 1998. pg. A.18

**Full Text** (275 words)

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**CORRESPONDENT OF THE DAY**

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

Robert Alley is wrong {"Avert Civil War - But Violate Constitution," October 10}. He is wrong about the Constitution, he is wrong about the cause of the Civil War, and he is wrong about why Southerners fought.

Alley should ask himself why the descendants of the Founding Fathers would revolt against the nation they created. The answer is simple: This conflict was a continuation of the principles of the Revolution.

The war began over the right of secession and self-determination. If Alley thinks this is an unsound constitutional position, then perhaps he could provide us with a specific clause or Amendment that prohibits it. Any unanswered question on the sovereignty of the Commonwealth can be answered by a simple reading of the preamble to the Virginia Act of Ratification:

We, the delegates of the people of Virginia, duly elected . . . in behalf of the people of Virginia, declare and make known that the powers granted under the Constitution, being derived from the people of the United States, may be resumed by them, whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression; and that every power not granted thereby, remains with them and at their will; that, therefore, no right, of any denomination, can be canceled, abridged, restrained, or modified.

Yet Virginia's withdrawal from the Union was reluctant and measured. It was forced by the illegal acts of Lincoln and the federal government. Our people fought with tremendous spirit and determination. The details of this extraordinary effort that repeatedly repulsed and almost destroyed an invading force of more than a quarter-million men should be celebrated and praised, not vilified.

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