William Gilmore Simms has long been a critical problem and opportunity. In the fitfully vanishing days when literary canons were confidently negotiated, he was nominated as the Old South's candidate for its greatest man of letters. The hope was that the American schoolchild, in declaiming the names of the mighty, would chant, "Irving, Cooper, Hawthorne, Melville, Simms, Twain" and not stumble over the word "Simms" in puzzlement, that The Yemassee and "How Sharp Snaffles Got His Capital and Wife" would be as routine as The Scarlet Letter, that Simms would be as familiar in our mouths as household words. This would be a final vindication, when all the wounds of Gettysburg would be healed, when we might get back to the collegial moment when Simms, Melville, and the men of Young America in the 1840s broke bread amiably together in the cause of an American national literature. This aspiration required some trimming, roughly upon the lines of New South ideology. New York was supposed to canonize Simms, if southern critics carefully repackaged him by deprecating his sectionalism and his pro-slavery writings, by making him a proto-Faulkner who happened to fall into bad company and worse times. On the whole, southerners have kept their half of the bargain and, for a generation and more, have tried to make his texts available, written his letters, studied his criticism, and made their case. But New York never responded, as it had when a similar offer had been made at roughly the same time for the canonization of Faulkner. (On this, see Lawrence H. Schwartz's Creating Faulkner's Reputation: The Politics of Modern Literary Criticism, 1988.) Rather, Simms has appeared and disappeared in anthologies of American literature, been mentioned here and there, usually dismissively, has been rarely reprinted by metropolitan publishers, and has been thought never quite to have made the grade. Further, canons have moved on from the 1940s and 1950s, when the Simms brigade first made their big push. Irving and Cooper have been retired from the front, Hawthorne is in danger of court-martial for that remark about scribbling women, and canons themselves are supposed to have fallen silent, now that authors are dead. So the Simms scholars seem often to be amassing ammunition for a war no one is fighting anymore, to be poring over maps of countries that no longer exist. To claim that Simms is a great American novelist to a critical generation that dismisses greatness, refuses nationality, and deconstructs genre, is somewhat like (to change the metaphor) applying for membership in a club whose building was demolished a generation ago; under such circumstances, one cannot even have the comforting indignity of a black ball.

Charles Watson stands as a mild representative of the old logic, in a brief book that has the merit of clarity. There are those things for which Simms should be honored;...
Do ethnic federations undergoing democratization promote or discourage regional secessionism? This article argues, based on evidence from the Russian Federation, that when democratization produces a transfer of political accountability from center to region, the incentives of regional leaders shift, forcing them to react to local constituencies in order to retain office. If these constituencies desire autonomy, regional leaders must respond, making separatism not merely an opportunistic strategy but a necessary one for their own political survival. Democratization, then, can transform administ H-Nationalism is proud to publish here the first post of its “Secessionism and Separatism Monthly Series,” which looks at issues of fragmentation, sovereignty, and self-determination from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Today’s contribution, by Associate Professor Aleksandar Pavković (Macquarie University, Sidney), introduces the concepts of secession, secessionism, separatism – and other related terms – examining their main features and typologies. Please feel free to participate in the discussion by commenting on the piece. Secession and Secessionism. Define secessionism. secessionism synonyms, secessionism pronunciation, secessionism translation, English dictionary definition of secessionism. n. The policy of those advocating secession or supporting the right of secession. se·ces'sion·ist n. American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language secessionism. the doctrines and practices of the secessionists. — secessionist, n., adj. — secessional, adj. See also: Politics. Secession and Secessionism. October 2015. Conference: H-Nationalism network. At: Humanities and Social Sciences Network. Authors This short post discusses the principal elements of secessionist projects, distinguishes such projects from separatism, irridenta and decolonisation and outlines various obstacles that secessionist mobilization faces. It argues that secessionists projects can be (and are) carried out by various means, including violence. This is a commissioned post on the H-Nationalism network. Discover the world's research. 17+ million members. View Secessionism Research Papers on Academia.edu for free. Nationalist organizations increase the likelihood of state-seeking nationalism but they cannot produce nationalist mobilization as they please. They do it under structural conditions beyond their control that constrain or ease their mobilization. Although I find strong evidence for historical institutionalism, the theory and findings presented in this article suggest that the accumulation of non-hegemonic state power does not help rulers contain state-seeking nationalism. I find no evidence for primordialism, economic/political modernization theories, or globalization-breeds-nationalism argume