

CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS: LESSON 7: HANDOUT 1**CONFEDERATE MONUMENT, SHUNNED BY ONE KENTUCKY CITY, IS
WELCOMED IN ANOTHER¹**

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by Jonah Engel Bromwich

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The New York Times

Even as some cities in the South are dismantling Confederate memorials that leaders say celebrate a shameful past, at least one is eager to host a statue that its leader calls an important historical marker.

On Monday, a crowd of hundreds gathered to celebrate a Confederate monument's new home in Brandenburg, Ky., where it was moved after it was **disassembled** in November and taken away from its original site near the University of Louisville campus, about 45 miles away. As a small group of protesters looked on, holding signs with messages such as "celebrate freedom, not slavery," others were dressed in **replica** uniforms of Confederate soldiers and waving battle flags.

Brandenburg's mayor, Ronnie Joyner, said in a phone interview on Tuesday that he estimated between 400 and 500 people had attended a dedication ceremony, which took place at a city park overlooking the Ohio River. He said he was unconcerned about any controversy the work might attract, and defended its historical value, saying that the monument would be placed in its proper context in Brandenburg.

"I never looked at this statue as a black versus white thing or that it had a link to slavery or anything like that," he said. "It's actually a monument to the Confederate Veterans who fought in the Civil War."

He said that plaques would soon be added to the site, elaborating on the issues that motivated each side in the war, including slavery. The monument is topped by an anonymous Confederate soldier and includes two other figures. It was originally dedicated as a "tribute to the rank and file of the armies of the South."

Not everyone welcomed the statue, according to local news reports, and one resident, Peter Bruinsma, said that the monument "reflects badly on our town." But photographs of the event showed that the protesters were heavily outnumbered by the monument's supporters.

¹ Jonah E. Bromwich, "Confederate Monument, Shunned by One Kentucky City, Is Welcomed in Another," *The New York Times* (May 2017). Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/30/us/kentucky-confederate-statue-brandenburg.html?module=inline>

The statue's removal from Louisville last year came amid pushback from supporters. Announcing plans for the statue's removal in April of last year, Mayor Greg Fischer of Louisville said, "The stain of slavery and racism that this monument represents for many, many people has no place in a compassionate, forward leaning city."

But Louisville had to withstand a lawsuit from a group of residents and the Sons of Confederate Veterans for the statue to be removed.

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Confederate statues that have been taken down at other sites have found new homes. New Orleans, which recently removed four of them, has said that it is taking proposals from nonprofits and government entities that aim to put the works in "their proper historical context from a dark period of American history." Brandenburg's monument joins two others near the town's waterfront, including one that commemorates the city's place as a significant stop on the underground railroad and another dedicated to the Native American tribes that lived in the area.

Kentucky was officially neutral at the beginning of the Civil War, but the Confederate cause attracted significant support from the state's many slaveholding residents. According to Amy Taylor, a history professor at the University of Kentucky, both Confederate and Union troops violated that neutrality. In September 1861, the state's lawmakers hoisted the United States flag as a sign of its loyalty to the Union, while the governor "remained staunchly Confederate," she said.

Confederate General John Hunt Morgan, a Kentucky native, launched an infamous raid in 1863 into Indiana and Ohio from Brandenburg, and the city holds a biennial re-enactment of his exploits. One of the statues at the waterfront commemorates General Morgan.