

The War for Southern Independence

Part 2

Civil War

Myths

&

MythConceptions

Abe, if you're two-faced,
why are you wearing
that one?

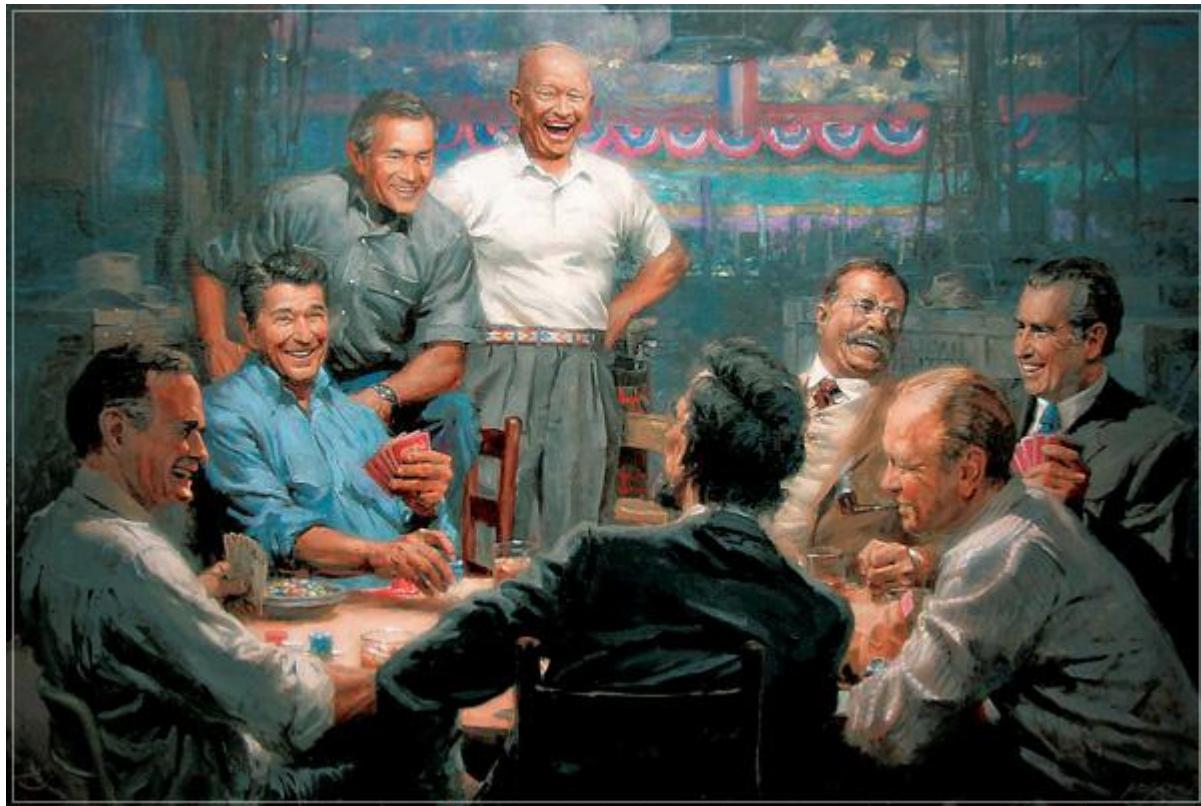


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Introduction

School books are primarily written and produced by Northerners who have had free license and infinite incentive to perpetuate the myths of what I call CivilGate. That propaganda has now been so well established as “fact” that it is extremely difficult for any historian to challenge it without risking professional suicide.¹

Since I don’t have to worry about that, I can bust those myths without fear of becoming a pariah. I have nothing to lose. I can say more things and say them in a way that teachers, authors, historians, scholars, and politicians can’t or won’t. That is one reason why anything I say will and should be treated with a great deal of skepticism. These days, anyone can say anything. And very little of it turns out to be true or worth paying attention to.

So why should you read this? And if you do read it, why should you believe it?

For one thing, just as I have nothing to lose by telling the truth, I have nothing to gain by telling anything but the truth. I didn’t do the research on all these myths. People a lot smarter than I am did the hard work. They and their books are listed in the Source Books section. All I did was read their books, try to fit all the pieces together, and put it into my own words in a way that people can easily understand. I’ve sprinkled in some of my own observations, opinions, snarky pot shots, and conclusions along the way, which do not necessarily reflect the opinions of those authors.

You may not agree, for example, that Abraham Lincoln (AL) was the monster I think he was. Fair enough. And you may not be totally happy with my way of saying things. Okay. But the evidence is overwhelming that what really happened in the Civil War is far

¹ SRK, p25

different than the propaganda we've been subjected to all our lives. I didn't believe it myself at first. I didn't want to.

I didn't start out with plans to write a long rant about the Civil War and AL. Two years ago I was perfectly comfortable with the CivilGate version I'd been taught, like everyone else I knew. When I retired, I decided to study American history on my own. It had been many decades since I was in school, I had forgotten a lot, and a lot of fresh history had been made since then. I wanted to understand what is going on in Washington and what is wrong with our government, so I figured an American history refresher course was the best first step. I didn't have any particular interest in the Civil War. It was just one of the chapters, and not a particularly interesting one as far as I was concerned.

I was surprised at some of the things I was starting to learn. That made me more curious, so I started doing more digging into the Civil War. My surprise soon became astonishment. And astonishment became anger. And anger became determination. I hate being lied to. Some people apparently don't. Some folks, it seems, would much rather have a nice fantasy to cling to than the ugly truth to deal with. If you are one of those, this blogbook is not for you.

If you like your American history straight up, warts and all, you need to understand the true story of the Civil War. You don't have to take my word for it. You can verify all this on your own, pretty much the same way I did, and I hope you will do just that. Much of the proof comes directly from the words of AL himself, and from official Union records.

Why read my version of the Civil War? I have nothing to sell, no score to settle, no bone to pick, no axe to grind, and no affiliations to cloud my objectivity. I am not a registered member of any political party, any political action group, any special-interest organization of any kind. I'm just a retired veteran trying to understand American history so I can understand American politics. I would have been more than happy to have

someone else write this iconoclastic blogbook, but no one else has done so, as far as I know.

We've been lied to about many aspects of our history, but nothing else comes even close to the scope and scale of the propaganda campaign masking the truth of the Civil War. See for yourself.

Myth: The South used *States' Rights* as a euphemism for *slavery*.

The North underestimated the South's determination, their resolve, their belief that they were right, and their willingness to fight and die for their beliefs. Right about what, though? Belief in what?

The South felt they had the right to secede because, after all, it was the 13 states that ratified the Constitution (COTUS) and joined the Union, so any of those states should also be able to *unjoin* the Union. There was nothing in COTUS that said they couldn't. There was no law against it. It had always been understood right from the beginning that secession was a possibility if the new COTUS didn't work out. The South was right.

It's important to understand that not even Abraham Lincoln (AL) claimed in so many words that secession was unconstitutional. He just said he wasn't going to allow the South to do it. What right did AL have to do that? He alluded to COTUS many times in his First Inaugural Address, but he never really explained the Constitutional basis for his arguments. Turns out, he had no Constitutional or legal basis for it. The Southern states didn't violate COTUS, AL did.

Few people in the North spent a lot of time worrying about COTUS. Their actions were more emotional than intellectual. Jefferson Davis (JD), chosen by the Confederate states to be their President, understood the Constitutional issues. He knew in his heart and his head that secession was a natural right. (So did most of the Confederate soldiers). In his farewell address to the Senate, JD stated that even if he had personally felt that seceding from the Union was not the best choice for his state (Mississippi), he still would feel compelled to leave the Senate and support his state's decision. He knew that, Constitutionally, Mississippi had every right to do so. In fact, JD strongly opposed secession until he felt, finally, that the Union had left Mississippi no choice.

AL felt just as strongly that it was wrong. People in the North knew in their gut that those Rebels had to be taught some manners, some respect. Yankees were easily manipulated into wholeheartedly embracing the slogan of *preserving the Union*. But AL understood very well that he didn't have a Constitutional leg to stand on. He just didn't care. He was convinced he knew what was right, and he was not about to let that pesky old COTUS get in his way.

People in the South had something that the North didn't understand. They had a very strong allegiance and attachment to their state. Being from Virginia, for example, really meant something. It was an integral part of their identity. So when their state was threatened by Northerners who were illegally and immorally trying to enforce their will on them, Southern gentlemen were not about to let them get by with that. They would rather die! Their state came first.

And so, die they did. Hundreds of thousands of them. And, as in all wars, once the blood started flowing, it all got a bit closer to home. Then it was mostly about protecting one's own family, and one's fellow soldiers; it was about survival.

Southern soldiers fought because they saw federal troops invading their home states. **Why are you fighting in this war?** Union troops asked a captured soldier. **Because you're here**, he replied.

To claim that the South simply used States' Rights as an excuse to hang on to their slaves is to ignore all that. It's just another part of the elaborate web of deceit woven by the North to camouflage their war of aggression against the South. CivilGate mythmeisters invented the chimerical notion that States' Rights is something the South cooked up at the last minute to try to justify their slavery addiction.

That betrays a profound ignorance of and / or disregard for Constitutional principles. States' Rights was such a vital part of COTUS that the whole structure falls apart

without it. And that is exactly what has happened. AL destroyed COTUS by destroying States' Rights. To the South, States' Rights was a Constitutional principle worth fighting and dying for. To AL, COTUS was something to be ignored. He considered himself much more important than COTUS, and he was willing to sacrifice 650,000 American lives to get his way, no matter what COTUS said. To him, the states had no rights other than whatever rights he was willing to grant them. He was not a president. He was a dictator. The truth is that AL used *Preserve the Union* as a euphemism for presiding over the most rapid expansion of federal power in American history. Some of the expansion can be justified by wartime demands, but too much was little more than political pork-barreling and fulfillment of campaign promises.

The myth that the South was motivated to secede and fight solely or even primarily by their desire to perpetuate slavery is patently absurd, for several reasons, all of which are explained in this blogbook. For example, Yankees point to the fact that, according to the Confederate Constitution, only slave states could be admitted into the Confederacy. True. And Jefferson Davis tells us why in his Second Inaugural Address:²

. . . We determined to make a new association, composed of States homogeneous in interest, in policy, and in feeling.

Why would they admit an anti-slavery state into the Confederacy and introduce seeds of political discord? That would have made no sense at all. Why would any committed non-slave state want to join the Confederacy? It's possible, I suppose, but I'm not aware of any that did. The South was not ready or willing to impose immediate abolition. They never denied that. But the South also knew full well that slavery was dying there, just as it had in the North and throughout the world. They had no illusion that slavery would continue, even in the Confederacy, forever. The question for them was not if slavery would end in the South, but when and how. They did not want the North dictating the terms of the Southern transition away from slavery.

² SRK, p327-329

If the South had been determined to continue the institution of slavery indefinitely, they would have been very active in the slave trade. They were not. One of the things that gets lost in CivilGate is the fact that the Confederate Constitution also bans the importation of new African slaves into any Southern State. Jefferson Davis vetoed a bill that prohibited the import of slaves.³ Why? Not because he favored reopening the slave trade, but because the bill wasn't strict enough. He felt the proposed law left a possible loophole, and it was therefore rejected.

The South overwhelmingly supported and helped ratify the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery in all states. You might be thinking that the only reason the South went along with the 13th Amendment was because they lost the Civil War, and they no longer had a choice. That might be a convincing argument except for one thing. The South refused to ratify the 14th Amendment. In response, the North kicked the Southern states out of Congress, and without their votes standing in the way, the North got the 14th Amendment rammed through Congress. Even then, they faced strong objections from several Northern states, and the North illegally interfered with some states' ratification processes. In the end, the 14th Amendment was never legally ratified. That's just another one of those nasty, ugly, embarrassing details the North doesn't want you to know about. That's CivilGate.

³ SRK, p332

Myth: The South fought to preserve slavery.

Some say the war was not about slavery at all. That is false. It was an important underlying issue. But it is also false to claim that the South fought to preserve slavery, or that the Union fought to free the slaves.

Only about one-fourth of Southern families owned any slaves at all, and half of the slave owners owned five slaves or less. Less than 1% of slave owners had more than 50 slaves. In the deep South only 2% of blacks were free, but those few free blacks tended to be wealthy slave owners themselves. About 10% of blacks were free in the upper South, and they were mostly laborers and small tradesmen.⁴

The vast majority of Confederate soldiers were not slave holders, and it is absurd to claim that they were willing to endure four years of unimaginable horror against all odds to preserve something they had no personal stake in. Furthermore, there is no evidence that the black slave owners flocked into the Confederate army to protect their property.

Why did they fight, then? Let them answer for themselves.

Soldier A:

I was a soldier in Virginia in the campaigns of Lee and Jackson, and I declare I never met a Southern soldier who had drawn his sword to perpetuate slavery. . . . What he had chiefly at heart was the preservation of the supreme and sacred right of self-government. . . . It was a very small minority of the men who fought in the Southern armies who were financially interested in the institution of slavery.

The supreme and sacred right of self-government. Not slavery.

⁴ CWC, p17

Soldier B (in a letter home):

The hard fighting will come off here and our boys will have a fine opportunity of showing the enemy with what determination we intend to fight for liberty, and independence. . . . History will record this as being the greatest struggle for liberty that was ever made. . . .

Liberty and independence. Not slavery.

Soldier C (an officer, in a letter to the family of a dead soldier):

He was an excellent soldier and a brave young man. The company deeply mourns his loss but he is gone, another martyr to the cause of Southern Independence.

The cause of Southern Independence, not the cause of slavery.

Soldier D (George Washington Bolton of the Twelfth Louisiana Volunteer Infantry, CSA, in a letter home):

You seem to be in low spirits and fearful we will not gain our Independence. So long as there is an arm to raise in defense of Southern liberties there is still hope. We must prove ourselves worthy of establishing an independent Government.

Southern Independence and liberty. Not slavery.

Soldier E (in a letter home during the siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana):

It is a beautiful Sabbath morning indeed. I feel that I ought to be at Alabama Church this morning. The merry birds are sweetly singing their songs of spring. Oh, that I could sing in truth the songs of peace and liberty this morning to our confederate states.

Peace and liberty. Not slavery.

Soldier F (a soldier from Company K, Seventh Louisiana Infantry, CSA, in a letter home, March, 1865):

... With proud hearts and strong arms we are more determined than ever to apply every energy until our independence is achieved.

Independence. Not slavery.

Soldier G (from Shreveport, Louisiana, April 1865):

I firmly believe that we will yet achieve our Independence.

Independence. Not slavery.

Southern soldiers fought for their independence and liberty. Theirs was the same cause our Founders fought for in the Revolutionary War. And on the same grounds – it was their natural right, as stated in the Declaration of Independence (DOI).

But what about the Confederate leaders? What were they fighting for?

Jefferson Davis stated in a letter to his wife in 1861 that even if the South won the war, slavery would not continue indefinitely. Virtually everyone in the South understood and accepted that.⁵

Furthermore, who could reasonably argue that the South was willing to subject itself to the horrors of the Civil War for something it already had? Why would they fight for slavery, when they already had slavery? The war did not begin over slavery in the South. AL had no intention of taking away the South's slaves; he just wanted to prevent slavery from spreading into the territories. How do we know that? AL himself said so in his First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861:

⁵ SRK, p34-36

I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.

Even after the Emancipation Proclamation (EP), AL assured the South that they could keep their slaves if they would just lay down their arms and rejoin the Union. How do we know that? Because AL himself said so:

My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that.

He issued a preliminary proclamation on 9/22/1862, warning the South that if they did not rejoin the Union, he would end slavery in the South on 1/1/1863 (the date of EP). In other words, if the South had stopped the "rebellion", they could keep their slaves. The South was not interested. Clearly, slavery was not the primary factor in the war for either the North or for the South.

In fact, freeing the slaves was not even the primary motivation for EP. It didn't free a single slave, but it did help AL win the war – which is just what it was intended to do. Of course that didn't stop AL from putting a high-moral spin on it, stating that EP was sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by COTUS.

But that isn't what he said on March 4, 1861. Did he have a change of heart, as the standard CivilGate narrative goes, or was he simply telling another lie? EP was issued for military and political purposes, not for legal or humanitarian reasons.

EP came as quite a shock to people in the North, because the war had never been about slavery to them, and the prospect of suddenly making it about slavery was very unpopular in the Union.

Yes, slavery was an important factor in American life, government, and politics, and therefore in the war, but that is not what motivated the soldiers on either side to fight and die, or their military or political leaders to subject them to such unbelievable slaughter.

Myth: Secession was a violation of the Constitution.

To dispel this myth, all you need to do is read COTUS. Stop when you get to the part that says secession is prohibited.

Review American history and search for a Founder who believed that ratifying COTUS meant giving up the right to secede from the Union. Find one single state that would have ratified COTUS if they had believed that by doing so they were forever forfeiting their right to secession.

Consider what Thomas Jefferson said in 1798 in a letter to James Madison regarding the Alien and Sedition Acts. He said that if the states could not stop the federal government from enforcing those laws, then it would be better for states like Virginia and Kentucky to sever themselves from the Union rather than give up their rights of self-government.

States in the northeast had threatened several times to secede from the Union. No one questioned their right to do so. If they had the right to secede, why didn't the South have the same right? They did. It was not illegal, and it was not a violation of COTUS. But even if it had been, the Confederate states still would have had the right to secede. Why? For the same reason America had a right to secede from Britain. Recall these words from DOI:

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Was the South justified in their belief that things had reached that point? Was secession a wise decision? Was it safe for them or for the Union? Draw your own conclusions. But secession was what the South wanted, and they were entitled to that position, just as our Founding Fathers were when they signed DOI.

Was slavery justified or justifiable in the South? Obviously not. It had never been morally justified or justifiable anywhere in America, at any time, especially once we declared our independence. But unquestionably, the South had the right to secede, according to DOI and COTUS.

Part of the Yankee propaganda campaign to conceal their crimes against the South is to promote the perception that secession was an idea cooked up at the last minute by the South to avoid the noble crusade by the North to liberate Southern slaves. CivilGate

would have us believe that secession was simply a desperate attempt by stubborn Southern slave owners to hold onto their slave property, and thank goodness AL was there to end slavery, uphold the Constitution, and preserve the Union. AL's arguments were sophistry, and such Yankee propaganda is fiction and hypocrisy.

Who was the first to threaten secession? Timothy Pickering, from Massachusetts. Who first mentioned secession in Congress? John Quincy Adams, from Massachusetts in 1811. He was also the first to petition Congress to dissolve the Union. His grandson later testified that John Quincy Adams believed in a state's right to secede. Where was the first convention called to discuss the possibility of secession? In Hartford, CT, in response to the War of 1812.⁶

State sovereignty and States' Rights were not slogans dreamed up by the South as an excuse for slavery, but were Constitutional principles which the North understood and cherished prior to the Civil War. We know that because of what people in the North said.

The attributes of sovereignty are now enjoyed by every state in the Union. – Alexander Hamilton.

The Thirteen States are Thirteen Sovereign bodies. – Oliver Ellsworth.

The States acceded to the Constitution. – Benjamin Franklin. Compare that to AL's chimerical assertion in his First Inaugural Address that the Union preceded the States.

John Quincy Adams, in 1839, and Abraham Lincoln, 1847, make elaborate arguments in favor of the legal right of a State to Secede. – Judge Black of Pennsylvania.

Any people whatever have a right to abolish the existing government and form a new one that suits them better. – Abraham Lincoln, 1847.

⁶ SRK, p311-314

Wouldn't it be great if someone had introduced the AL of 1861 to the AL of 1847? Someone once accused AL of being two-faced, to which AL quipped that if he had been two-faced he wouldn't be wearing that one. It was a witty and humorous response, but no one doubts AL's talents as a wordsmith. The ugly truth, however, is that he had to wear that public persona face to mask the real AL, which was even more hideous, and bloody. He most definitely was two-faced. In fact, he was a pathological liar, as I will demonstrate.

Had [President] Buchanan in 1860 sent an armed force to prevent the nullification of the Fugitive Slave Law, as Andrew Jackson threatened to do in 1833, there would have been a secession of fifteen Northern States instead of thirteen Southern States. Had the Democrats won out in 1860 the Northern States would have been the seceding States not the Southern. – George Lunt, Massachusetts.

That's an amazing analysis of the election of 1860. In other words, secession was inevitable. It was not a question of whether or not there would be secession, but simply a matter of which section would secede first.

Daniel Webster (from New Hampshire) also had quite a bit to say on the subject of secession:

The States are Nations.

If the states were not left to leave the Union when their rights were interfered with, the government would have been National, but the Convention refused to baptize it by the name. (Feb 15, 1833)

If the Union was formed by the accession of States then the Union may be dissolved by the secession of States. (Feb 18, 1833)

The Union is a Union of States founded upon Compact. How is it to be supposed that when different parties enter into a compact for certain purposes either can disregard one provision of it and expect others to observe the rest? If the Northern States willfully and deliberately refuse to carry out their part of the Constitution, the South would be no longer bound to keep the compact. A bargain broken on one side is broken on all sides. (1851)

And we have this from Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune*:

If the Declaration of Independence justified the secession of 3,000,000 colonists in 1776, I do not see why the Constitution ratified by the same men should not justify the secession of 5,000,000 of the Southerners from the Federal Union in 1861.

We have repeatedly said, and we once more insist that the great principle embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence that government derives its power from the consent of the governed is sound and just, then if the Cotton States, the Gulf States or any other States choose to form an independent nation they have a clear right to do it.

The right to secede may be a revolutionary one, but it exists nevertheless; and we do not see how one party can have a right to do what another party has a right to prevent. We must ever resist the asserted right of any State to remain in the Union and nullify or defy the laws thereof; to withdraw from the Union is another matter. And when a section of our Union resolves to go out, we shall resist any coercive acts to keep it in. We hope never to live in a Republic where one section is pinned to the other section by bayonets.

Horace Greeley was expressing the fact that, according to the Founders, there was one natural right that trumped even COTUS: the right of revolution. The South was simply exercising that right by seceding from the Union and forming the Confederation. A

revolution may take many forms. It doesn't necessarily involve armed conflict or violence. The South certainly did not want war. They simply wanted to form their own government, because they felt they were no longer getting a fair shake in the Union. They just wanted to be left alone, just as America did and said in DOI.

Was the American Revolution wise or justified? Who's to decide? DOI doesn't say America had the right to secede from England only if our reasons were valid. Valid according to who? They were valid to Americans, but not to England. If people could agree on what is valid grounds for revolution or secession, there would probably be no need for revolution or secession. DOI says the reasons should not be frivolous, and revolution should be very carefully considered before proceeding. The South did not take secession lightly.

But, didn't AL have to act because the South wanted to keep slavery? Slavery was accepted and tolerated in America for almost a century. It was a right upheld by the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) in the *Dred Scott* decision. AL did not launch the Civil War to suddenly abolish slavery. Far from it. AL himself wanted the South to keep their slaves, as did the North! Yet, according to CivilGate, the compassionate, tolerant Union, led by the brilliant and noble Honest Abe was forced to free the slaves by defeating the evil, cruel, racist Southern slaveholders, who simply would not listen to reason. With a bit of revisionist history, all the sins of the nation for almost a century are swept into the South. What a convenient scapegoat the South became. What a touching and inspiring story! AL and the North are heroes!

The only problem is, it's a lie. It didn't happen that way. AL, at least at first, wanted slavery to stay there in the South. Why? Because he didn't want slaves in the North or the territories, and he didn't want free blacks in the North or the territories, either. Except maybe for a few abolitionists, no Yankee wanted blacks in the North. Because of poor agricultural practices, land in the South was being overused and depleted, and

Southerners wanted to take their slaves with them into new territories with fresh soil. AL was determined to make sure that did not happen.

I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. . . . One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute.

But if that were true, AL had no reason to launch the Civil War. The South had already seceded, so that pretty much ended any possibility of slavery spreading into the territories. If AL felt there was still any ambiguity or any need for action, why didn't he fight for the 13th Amendment right at the very beginning of his presidency? Prior to secession the South would have voted against it and defeated it. But the South could no longer do that because they were no longer part of the Union and therefore no longer part of Congress. That would have solved the slavery problem once and for all in the Union. There would have been no more *Dred Scott* decision or fugitive slave law to worry about.

I suppose the problem with that is that since secession was impossible, according to AL, the South had never left the Union, and therefore the South was still able to defeat the 13th Amendment in Congress. But that simply proves that allowing the South to secede would not only have been the Constitutionally correct thing to do, it would have been the most pragmatic thing to do. Furthermore, AL's false assertion that secession was impossible didn't stop the North from recognizing secession when it became necessary to force the 14th Amendment through Congress. Suddenly, according to the North, secession was not only possible, but an accomplished fact.

Of course, that 13th Amendment wouldn't apply to the Confederacy, but remember that AL said he had no desire or authority to interfere with slavery in the South anyway. Not until well into the war did that issue become part of AL's cover for his illegal war.

So why did AL rush into the Civil War when he already had what he said he wanted? (No advancement of slavery into the territories or new states). Why did AL rush into the Civil War when the Union had the political power to do pretty much anything the North wanted, with the South no longer there to interfere? Based on his own words, AL knew full well that the states had the right to secede, and he knew that the Confederate South could not spread slavery into the territories. He had won already, so he didn't need to start a war. Yet he did. Why?

Because AL was lying about his motives. For him and the North, it had never been about abolition of slavery. It had never been about some Constitutional obligation to preserve the Union. It had always been about money and power. With secession, the North was losing its cash cow, and they knew it would have devastating economic consequences for the North. AL had big goals for his administration. He was a big-government guy, and he was not about to stand by and let the South screw up his plans. He had wanted power for a long time, and now that he had it, he was not going to let any of it slip through his fingers.

But he couldn't very well be honest about his motives for the Civil War – greed, lust for power, and racism. So he sold the North on the principle of preserving the Union. To do that, he had to convince them that secession was unconstitutional or illegal. He knew it was a lie, but he had no regard for truth. How do we know he knew it was a lie?

Because he himself admitted this, in addition to his words quoted above:

Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing Government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.

AL was in favor of certain counties seceding from Virginia to form West Virginia. And, referring to Texas' secession from Mexico, AL had claimed that secession is a fundamental, universal human right. He was a lawyer. He understood COTUS. He simply refused to obey and uphold it. He lied. He became a dictator. The time has come to see AL for who and what he really was. He was a pathological liar and a despot.

Yet we continue to treat him as an American hero, and we honor him as one of our greatest presidents. Why? Because of what may very well be the most effective propaganda campaign in world history -- CivilGate.

Myth: Lincoln preserved the Union.

To this day, AL is considered one of our country's greatest leaders for brilliantly, courageously preserving the Union. He, in fact, did no such thing.

According to C C Burr:

The name of our federation is not Consolidated States, but United States. A number of States held together by coercion, or the point of the bayonet, would not be a Union. Union is necessarily voluntary – the act of choice, free association. Nor can this voluntary system be changed to one of force without the destruction of “The Union”. The Austrian Empire is composed of several States, as the Hungarians, the Poles, the Italians, etc, but it cannot be called a Union – it is Despotism. Is the relation between Russia and bayonet-held Poland a Union? Is it not an insult and a mockery to call the compulsory relation between England and Ireland a Union? In all these cases there is only such a union as exist between the talons of the hawk and the dove, or between the jaws of the wolf and the lamb. A Union of States necessarily implies separate sovereignties, voluntarily acting together. And to bruise these distinct sovereignties into one mass of power is, simply, to destroy the Union – to overthrow our system of government.⁷

Burr was editor of
The Federal Government: Its True Nature and Character,
by Judge Upshur.

The Articles of Confederation (AOC) did include these words in its Preamble: *perpetual Union between the States*. COTUS does not. For good reason. Every single state understood that when they ratified COTUS they were not giving up their right to withdraw from the Union if they chose to do so later. If the people of the states had

⁷ SRK, p32-34

believed that they were forever giving up their state sovereignty, forevermore subject to the sovereign will of the federal government, they never would have ratified COTUS. It was only because of repeated guarantees and assurances by the Federalists that they were not eternally subjecting themselves to the whims and tyranny of the federal government that the states reluctantly granted increased (but severely limited) power and authority to the federal government.

By the time of the Civil War, several Northern states had threatened secession several times. How could it be that they had no doubt of their right to secede, but suddenly in 1861 the Confederation was committing such an egregious violation against the Holy Union that a military attack was the only appropriate response?

AL could no more preserve the Union by force than a husband or wife could preserve their marriage by killing their spouse, or by threatening to, or by handcuffing them to the bedpost. Of course, the states had every intention of preserving the Union when they ratified COTUS, just as a couple has every intention of staying married to each other for the rest of their lives when they say "I do". But about half of them end up getting a divorce. The South simply wanted a divorce. And they had every right to secede from the Union. Secession is not prohibited by COTUS, even though AL tried to fool the North into believing it was. Honest Abe lied about that, as well as a multitude of other things. (And Yankees were dumb enough to fall for it.)

True, AL preserved the federal government's authority over the geographical area known as the United States, but he did not preserve the Union. He destroyed COTUS, 650,000 Americans, and roughly half the country in a pathetic, dishonest attempt to *preserve the Union*. He utterly destroyed the United States of America and created the United States of America. As one historian in Ken Burns' Civil War documentary put it, before the war people said *the United States are*; after the war they said *the United States is*. For that we celebrate AL's birthday, build monuments, and carve his face in Mt Rushmore.

AL was no hero, no great leader. He was America's worst nightmare. He was a brutal dictator. It is time to give him the recognition he deserves.

Myth: [The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves and proved Lincoln's compassion for blacks.](#)

Whatever AL's racist views of blacks and slavery before the war, the standard Civil War narrative assures us that he had a change of heart somewhere along the way, and EP proves it. Surely that brave act proves his heart was in the right place, doesn't it? At least eventually, if not initially.

Not at all. EP didn't actually free a single slave. It was simply an afterthought, a means to achieve AL's political and military objectives. When he issued it in on Sep 22, 1862 (with effective date of Jan 1, 1863) most Northerners were quite surprised, because AL had never said that freeing black slaves in the South was why they were going to war. Nor was abolition something the North was willing to go to war over. EP was not well received by Yankees, and it certainly didn't make the war more popular in the North.

As a lawyer, AL had earned a pretty good living representing slave owners, prosecuting fugitive slaves, and returning them to their masters. Before the 1860 election, AL had suggested that all blacks (whether born here or brought here by force) should be rounded up and shipped to Africa, by force if necessary. He had talked about slavery being extended into the territories, and he was right to oppose that. But EP didn't apply to the thousands of slaves that remained in the border states and the territories. It was directed only at the Confederate states, where AL no longer had any jurisdiction or authority. In fact, he never did. We know that because of what he himself said in his First Inaugural Address:

I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. . . . One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute.

EP wasn't even directed at all slaves in the Confederacy. It excluded slaves in the areas of the South under Union control. Why do you suppose the "great emancipator" would go and do a durn fool thing like that? Because it wasn't about the slaves at all. The Civil War was not started because of slavery, and even EP was not about abolishing slavery.

EP was not a law, because only Congress can pass laws, and a POTUS, as AL himself admitted, cannot legally issue a decree contradicting SCOTUS. (Of course, a dictator can.) Remember, the

Supreme Court ruling in the *Dred Scott* case still made slavery legal in every state. AL had no legal authority to violate that. So EP was worthless in terms of freeing slaves, and it was

How did the *Dred Scott* decision make slavery legal?

SCOTUS ruled that slaves are not people, but property, and COTUS guarantees the right of citizens to own and protect property.

Therefore, no state had the Constitutional right to interfere with slavery, which was simply a type of property ownership.

meaningless in legal terms. Its only value, and its only intent, was in terms of politics, public support for AL's bloody war, international perception of the conflict, public relations, and hopefully, its military implications.

EP was designed, in part, to weaken the South, because AL believed that "freed" slaves would revolt against their owners, and that they would join the Union army. He understood that since almost all Southern men were involved in the war effort, it was mostly their wives and children who would have felt the brunt of a slave uprising. He had no problem with that prospect. In fact he welcomed and encouraged it. (But it didn't happen). In the Proclamation AL said:

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

A considerable number of blacks did eventually serve in support of the North, and the South. (They even started getting equal pay in June 1864 in the Union.) But slave support for the Confederate Army was completely voluntary. Most blacks who served in the Union Army were there by force. Whatever hopes AL may have had of EP significantly helping the North militarily quickly evaporated. For one thing, a lot of fighting units in the North did not welcome blacks into their ranks, and even the prospect caused considerable problems. Which is not at all surprising, since virtually all Yankees disliked blacks and refused to let them settle in their states.

EP boosted the morale of abolitionists, though, and it ended any hope of international aid for the South. AL had been concerned that England or France might intervene on behalf of the Confederacy. But after EP, neither of those countries wanted to be seen by the rest of the world as the country still fighting for slavery. It gave the Union the moral high road in the battle for public perception and support. That's why the North finally embraced EP, too, even though they most certainly did not relish the prospect of a bunch of freed blacks flocking to their neck of the woods. The old battle cry of preserving the Union had worn mighty thin in view of the staggering casualties. AL needed to rebrand the war under the moral banner of freeing the slaves to shore up Northern support for his war. Yankees reluctantly went along with it, eventually realizing that it was probably their only hope of securing victory. No doubt that was easier for them because most Yankees finally realized that EP was totally impotent in terms of ending slavery.

The thousands of slaves that were still in border states, Northern states, the territories, and areas in the South under federal control, were intentionally excluded from the provisions of EP. So in fact, EP did more to protect slavery than to end it. EP was a military tactic, a political gimmick, a PR stunt. That's all. Yankees eventually realized all that, plugged their noses, and supported EP.

The federal government did not officially and effectively recognize emancipation until the 13th Amendment was ratified on 12/6/1865. Since most Southern states voted to ratify the 13th Amendment, they did more to free the slaves than AL or EP did. The real significance of EP is that it marks the point at which the perception of the Civil War began to change from being a political struggle by the North to preserve the Union into a moral crusade by the North to end slavery.

But it's important to understand that when EP changed the Yankee battle cry from *preserve the Union* to *free the slaves*, it was not because Yankees thought slavery in the South was so evil, but simply because they realized that EP was their best trick to help them win the war.

If you still can't quite bring yourself to accept these truths, just take a look at state laws in the North prohibiting new black settlers there. Also, look at what AL had said:

There is a natural disgust in the minds of nearly all white people to the idea of indiscriminate amalgamation of the white and black races . . . A separation of the races is the only perfect preventive of amalgamation, but as an immediate separation is impossible, the next best thing is to keep them apart where they are not already together. . . . If white and black people never get together in Kansas, they will never mix blood in Kansas.

AL also said this:

Racial separation must be effected by colonization of the country's blacks to foreign land. The enterprise is a difficult one, but where there is a will there is a way . . . Let us be brought to believe it is morally right and, at the same time, favorable to, or, at least, not against, our interests, to transfer the African to his native clime, and we shall find a way to do it, however great the task may be.

There's your "great emancipator". That's the real Abraham Lincoln. And that's pretty much how all Yankees felt about it, too. Yankee contempt for blacks, as well as Southerners, was proudly displayed by them throughout the antebellum period, during the Civil War, and through Reconstruction. They didn't even bother to start trying to pretend otherwise until after EP.

But even then, their racist attitudes and bigoted ways hadn't changed. They had long ago abandoned AL's bizarre scheme of shipping blacks back to Africa or some island, or pretty much anyplace but here in America. That simply was not possible. So the next best thing was to keep as many of them as possible in the South, where Yankees felt blacks belonged. If they were in the South, they wouldn't be in the Northern states or territories or new Western states competing for jobs which, according to Yankees, rightfully belonged to whites, and only to whites. EP did not change Yankee minds or attitudes, and it did not reflect a change in AL's racist views, either.

Yankees finally got rid of their state discriminatory laws against new black settlers in Northern states, but they went kicking and screaming. They abandoned those laws, but they did not abandon their racism.

In fact, they took it with them into the South during Reconstruction. Blacks and whites before the war had gotten along much better in the South than in the North. Widespread racial strife and segregation practices had not existed in the antebellum South. It had existed in the North. The racism almost universally associated with the South today was the product of Yankee culture, with its racism and bigotry, being inflicted on the South during Reconstruction.

Myth: [Abe was the American exemplar of honesty.](#)

AL and the North were driven to invade the South by economic considerations, not moral values, principle, or compassion. They had to find a way to put a Yankee happy face on AL's unconstitutional, immoral, unnecessary war. How did Abe convince the people of the North and other countries that his war was just and right and moral? He had to come up with a good excuse, and we find it in his First Inaugural Address.

He talks a great deal in that speech about contracts. Why would he do that? What did legal mumbo jumbo about contracts have to do with the war? Absolutely nothing. But Abe was a superb liar, so he was able to fool almost everyone except the South.

The “contract” he talked about referred to COTUS. He pointed out that when two parties sign a contract, one party cannot legally simply back out of the contract agreement. If they do so, the other party has a right to enforce it. Although he didn’t directly say so, he implied that the Confederate States were violating COTUS by seceding from the Union, and therefore he and the North had the right, and in fact the duty, to enforce COTUS and preserve the Union.

But if that’s what he meant, why didn’t he just say that? Why beat around the bush with all the nonsense about contracts? Why didn’t he just say straight out that secession was a violation of COTUS? He couldn’t come right out and say that because it wasn’t true, and he knew it wasn’t true, and he knew that anyone could easily prove that it wasn’t true (just by reading COTUS).

Is there a possibility that AL truly believed that secession was a violation of COTUS? Absolutely not. AL was a lawyer, and a good one. He understood COTUS very well. He knew exactly what it said and what it didn’t say. He just didn’t care. And he knew that Yankees would fall for his obfuscation hook, line and sinker. After all, they were worried

about losing their Southern tariff revenue. That's what they cared about, not COTUS. They admitted as much.

All the stories about Honest Abe are pure fiction. Myth. It's one of the biggest lies ever told. His speeches are filled with noble, lofty words, but his actions prove him a liar every single time. His First Inaugural Address, for one, proves it. Here's another example.

AL decided to award a promotion to Gen Rosecrans. But, according to military protocol, the promotion should have gone to Gen Thomas, who had more seniority. In spite of that, AL had good reason to promote Rosecrans. But instead of stating his case honestly, an easily justified decision, he chose to simply change the official date of Thomas' commission.⁸ Honest Abe consistently went to great lengths to conceal and disguise his true motives and character. That's why I say that, far above and beyond the honesty issues common to all politicians, AL was not just a liar, but a pathological liar. It appears that AL simply was unable to stop lying, that it was such an integral part of his character that he most likely could no longer distinguish clearly between fact and fiction by the time he took the oath of office.

⁸ CWC, p118-119

Myth: Lincoln was a compassionate man, the champion of human rights, a brave soldier in the fight for liberty, especially for slaves.⁹

AL assumed dictatorial powers, not only by invading the South, but by terrorizing the North. Hundreds of Yankee newspapers and journals were shut down on AL's orders. One member of his cabinet bragged that he could have any American thrown in jail simply by ringing the bell on his desk. AL had, according to some estimates, up to 40,000 political enemies imprisoned. They were held indefinitely, with no possibility of bail; they were not informed of the charges against them; they had no attorney; their families, in many cases, were not even told where they were being held.¹⁰

One such political prisoner was Capt Robert Tansill, US Marine Corps. He was serving aboard the USS Congress when he heard of AL's inauguration. When he submitted his resignation, the Secretary of the Navy (Gideon Welles) refused to accept it, firing him instead. That evening Tansill was arrested and jailed at Fort Lafayette. He wrote letters to AL, asking about the charges against him, but he received no reply. His wife was eventually granted a meeting with AL, and this is part of her account of what happened at that meeting:

He spoke, still looking me full in the face. "I did receive that letter and it has got all the answer it will have." Mr President, I said, you are aware of the circumstances under which my husband was arrested – of his having just returned from sea after an absence of two years from his family and of his being hurried off like a common felon to prison, without giving him any reason for it. Was it, I asked Sir, for any other reason than his having resigned? His face then turned perfectly livid. He jumped up from the table at which he was sitting, and brought his clenched hand down hard upon it with an oath. . . . He began to walk the room in violent excitement, stamping his feet, and averting his

⁹ SRK, p31

¹⁰ SRK, p28

head from me. . . . Mr Lincoln, you understand, I hope that the only object of my call upon you was to ask if my husband's letter had reached you, and I have received my answer! "You have most positively!" was his reply, with head turned from me. I took my little son by the hand, and closed the door, and thus shut away from my sight, I trust for evermore, the greatest despot and tyrant that ever ruled a nation.¹¹

On 9/24/1862 AL implemented martial law and suspended habeas corpus. That right can be suspended during time of rebellion when necessary to assure the public safety. The problem is, POTUS was not authorized to suspend it -- only Congress could do that. But that didn't stop AL.

Habeas corpus is your Constitutional right to appear before a judge who determines if you are being imprisoned legally, or if you must be released.

One prisoner, John Merryman, petitioned SCOTUS for a writ of habeas corpus, and it was granted by Chief Justice Roger Taney. The AL administration didn't challenge the ruling, but Merryman never got to see the judge, either. AL simply ignored SCOTUS.

A mayor, a Congressman, 31 state legislators, and Francis Scott Key's grandson were imprisoned without trial. And that was just in the state of Maryland. Civilians were murdered, many of AL's critics were executed, and many others were jailed because they exercised their right of free speech. Thousands of newspapers were shut down, and thousands of journalists were charged with treason.

¹¹ SRK, p28-29

AL argued that he did have the right to suspend habeas corpus, because as commander in chief

In 1863 Congress did finally pass a law granting POTUS the right to suspend habeas corpus.

No doubt AL was relieved to hear that.

he had the authority to take any measure necessary to defeat the enemy. Chief Justice Taney pointed out that the Framers never intended such extensive powers, because if they had, COTUS would have no meaning at all -- there would be absolutely no limits to POTUS's powers. He could even take over Congress and SCOTUS. AL apparently endorsed that concept, because he was waging war without the required consent of Congress. Nor did he bother with congressional approval for expanding the Army and Navy, or for buying weapons and ammo.

AL's men terrorized the South, also. It was well known in Washington that Union military personnel were subjecting Southern people to robbery and rape, among other war crimes. This was not the isolated occasional case of a soldier gone wild, but continued, intentional crimes committed by AL's military personnel against Southern civilians. Yet AL did nothing to stop it. In fact, he rewarded such conduct, as shown by the case of Colonel John B Turchin.

This is what a court-martial found:

[Turchin] allowed his command to disperse and in his presence or with his knowledge and that of his officers to plunder and pillage the inhabitants. . . . They attempted an indecent outrage on a servant girl . . . destroyed a stock of . . . fine Bibles and Testaments . . . defaced and kicked about the floor and trampled under foot. . . . A part of the brigade went to the plantation . . . and quartered in the negro huts for weeks, debauching the females. . . . Mrs Hollingsworth's

Published on August 6, 1862,
by Gen Don Carlos Buell,
commander of
the Army of the Ohio.

house was entered and plundered. . . . The alarm and excitement occasioned miscarriage and subsequently her death. . . . Several soldiers . . . committed rape on the person of a colored girl. . . . The court finds the accused [guilty as charged] . . . and does therefore sentence . . . Colonel J B Turchin . . . to be dismissed from the service of the United States. . . . It is a fact of sufficient notoriety that similar disorders . . . have marked the course of Colonel Turchin's command wherever it has gone.¹²

AL's reaction? He promoted Turchin to Brigadier General of the United States Volunteers on August 5, 1862.

Here is another example of AL's compassionate crusade for human rights. In 1862 General John Pope was sent by AL to deal with several Indian tribes in Minnesota who were revolting against what they considered cruel US government policies. Pope put an end to hostilities, conducted a "trial", and ordered the hanging of over 300 Indians. AL knew the trial had been a sham, but he also knew that Minnesota whites wanted the executions, and he couldn't afford to lose their votes. AL personally selected 39 of the warriors for execution – enough to appease the mob and secure their vote in the 1864 election. No other American POTUS has ordered a mass execution.

One of AL's generals, William Tecumseh Sherman, had a well-deserved reputation for waging war against innocent Southern civilians, stealing and demolishing millions of dollars of private property, stealing millions of dollars from banks, and burning whole cities, including Jackson, Mississippi, even though confederate soldiers had already evacuated. He was proud of it, in part because he believed that all those civilian casualties would help end the war sooner. But it was also for revenge, and nothing less than deliberate cultural genocide. Sherman had the full support of AL, the Secretary of War, Northern politicians and members of Congress, Yankee newspapers, and virtually all Yankees.

¹² SRK, p30-31

Another way AL financed the war (besides Sherman's looting) and other big government programs was by taxing American citizens to the max. One way he did that was through the nation's first income tax. Problem is, at that time an income tax was a clear violation of COTUS (Article I, Section 9).

Before EP, Union soldiers in the South encountered lots of slaves, and Union commanders often didn't know what to do with them. Some were freed, given supplies, and sent north to start a new life. But others were sent back to their masters, because the Union didn't have enough money or supplies to take care of them.

So Congress passed the Confiscation Acts, which said that all slaves encountered by the Union in Confederate territory were to be set free. But they wouldn't be staying in America -- they would be returned to their country of origin or some other tropical country. Okay, but that's Congress. Can't blame that on AL. Fair enough, but AL didn't argue for their civil rights or citizenship or residence in the North. Why? Because he was happy to see them go so he didn't have to worry about them.

Unfair? During the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, AL said:

I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races -- that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes.

If a POTUS and his staff committed those crimes today against American citizens, would we consider him one of our greatest presidents? Would we celebrate him as a great leader and humanitarian?

Myth: The North was motivated by high moral principles.

According to CivilGate, the North fought courageously, selflessly sacrificing themselves for the cause of freedom and equality for all men. They were forced into that role because of the South's stubborn refusal to abandon slavery and racism. But AL did not launch the war to rid the South of slavery. Nor did the South have a monopoly on racism. The true motives of the North are not nearly as noble, so they perpetuate the myth that they were motivated by high moral principles.

What was it, then, that made AL so determined to "preserve the Union"? What was it that was worth invading a sovereign country, destroying COTUS, and killing 650,000 Americans? Who better to answer that question than AL himself, who does so with another question:

Let the South go? Let the South go! Where then shall we get our revenues!

There you have it. The war, for AL, was really about money. Of course, he couldn't justify the war on those grounds. To gain public support, he had to wrap the war in the flag and high morals. But most Yankees understood that the official Union justification for invading the South was really a myth.

In the very early months following secession, Northern newspapers expressed the prevailing opinion that the South should be allowed to freely exercise its natural right of self-determination and self-government. But the Confederacy had established a tariff rate of ten percent – much lower than the North. When Northerners began to realize that the lower Southern tariff would shift commerce from Northern ports to New Orleans, they were no longer so concerned with natural rights.

Tariffs had been a bone of contention from the very beginning of the nation. Part of Alexander Hamilton's economic program was federal assumption of all state

Revolutionary War debts. Why was Hamilton eager to make such a generous offer to the states? Because it helped the North and hurt the South. For example, Virginia had already paid its war debts to the federal government, and Hamilton's plan meant that they would now be required to help pay other states' war debts as well.

Hamilton got his way when he agreed to let the nation's capital be located in the South.

More importantly, most of the nation's tariff revenue came from the South. The disproportionate tariff burden on the South continued from shortly after the Revolution right up to secession. In 1859, all Northern exports totaled \$78,217,202. The South exported \$161,434,923 in cotton alone. The North began to realize that if they let the South secede, they would be losing their cash cow, and, as some writers predicted, New Orleans would flourish while grass grew in the streets of New York.

While the South generated most of the revenue, very little of it flowed back into the South from Washington, DC. It was diverted, by federal legislation, to the North for their own public improvements. It was this exploitation of the South that motivated many of the Northern abolitionists as well. They used the threat of abolition, not because of their concern for slaves, but simply as a way to put pressure on the South to agree to the North's tariff policies.

AL could not sell his war of aggression based on the truth. It's not the kind of thing that citizens are usually willing to fight and die for. At least not openly. Furthermore, he was afraid other countries would come to the aid of the South against the Northern bully. So he had to find a noble-sounding excuse for it. Tyrants always do. Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait because it really legally was still part of Iraq. Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia to protect and support German nationals there. Britain occupied India for their own good.

AL's cover story was that it was all about preserving the Union. There had been no secession, because secession was impossible. It was really nothing more than a riot, a rebellion which might require a few extra marshals and judges to tamp down and sort out. Slavery was a secondary issue at first for the North, and only the extension of slavery into territories, not existing slaves in the South. Slavery became more important as the war waged on, but for political and military goals, not for moral reasons.

The North bought AL's lie, and they rationalized the whole thing, at first, as a domestic dispute, a police matter, at worst a rebellion that needed to be stopped, just as other rebellions had been suppressed. They pretended that this was fundamentally no different, and they were eager to teach those Rebels some Yankee manners. So they weren't too concerned with the fact that no other "rebellion" had ever involved several states or an entire section of the country. Nor did they consider it important that no other "rebels" had ever bothered to go to the trouble of seceding from the Union and drawing up their own constitution.

Preserving the Union certainly sounded more noble than preserving their cash flow. But the North had always been motivated primarily by economics, not principle. Before the Revolution they made several attempts to give Spain control of the Mississippi Valley. Why? Because they were afraid that if the Mississippi River and the land around it were free and open to American trade, that commerce would flow through New Orleans, not Eastern ports. That fear of losing their commercial advantages continued, and it became a prime motive for invading the South in 1861.

This March 30, 1861 piece in the *New York Times* spells it out for us:

The predicament in which both the Government and the commerce of the country are placed, through the non-enforcement of our revenue laws, is now thoroughly understood the world over. . . . If the manufacturer at Manchester [England] can send his goods into the Western States through New Orleans at a less cost than through New

York, he is a fool for not availing himself of his advantage. . . . If the importations of the country are made through Southern ports, its exports will go through the same channel. The produce of the West, instead of coming to our own port by millions of tons, to be transported abroad by the same ships through which we received our importations, will seek other routes and other outlets. With the loss of our foreign trade, what is to become of our public works, conducted at the cost of many hundred millions of dollars, to turn into our harbor the products of the interior? They share in the common ruin. So do our manufacturers. . . . Once at New Orleans, goods may be distributed over the whole country duty free. The process is perfectly simple. . . . The commercial bearing of the question has acted upon the North. . . . We now see clearly whither we are tending, and the policy we must adopt. With us it is no longer an abstract question – one of Constitutional construction, or of the reserved or delegated power of the State or Federal Government, but of material existence and moral position both at home and abroad. . . . We were divided and confused till our pockets were touched.

And there is this Manchester, New Hampshire editorial:

The Southern Confederacy will not employ our ships or buy our goods. What is our shipping without it? Literally nothing. The transportation of cotton and its fabrics employs more ships than all other trade. It is very clear that the South gains by this process, and we lose. No – we MUST NOT “let the South go”.

And this from the *New York Evening Post*:

That either revenue from duties must be collected in the ports of the rebel states, or the ports must be closed to importations from abroad. . . . If neither of these things be done, our revenue laws are substantially repealed; the sources which supply our treasury will be dried up; we shall have no money to carry on the government; the nation will become bankrupt before the next crop of corn is ripe. . . . Allow railroad iron to be entered at Savannah with the low duty of ten per cent, which is all that the Southern Confederacy

think of laying on imported goods, and not an ounce more would be imported at New York; the railways would be supplied from the southern ports.

There you have it. Not from the mouth of a bitter Southerner, but in the North's own words. To them, the Civil War wasn't about the Constitution or natural rights or slavery or Southern racism or any other high moral principles. It was all about money. Greed. Their passion for preserving the Union was simply to enforce compliance with their tariff policy.¹³

That should come as no surprise. To the North, it had always been about money. As mentioned above, as manifest destiny began to capture the hearts and minds of most Americans, the northeastern states were eager to see Spain take control of the Mississippi River and territory to the west. They didn't want commerce on the Mississippi to compete with their own ports. Nor did they want to see men attracted to the western territories at a time when they needed those men to work in northeastern factories and ports.¹⁴ It was never about principle or patriotism to Yankees. It was always about money. They cared more about their own wallets than the welfare of America. That's why they invaded the Confederacy.

¹³ SRK, p47-53

¹⁴ SRK, p228

Myth: Yankees were the champions of racial equality and tolerance.

On the campaign trail, AL had argued that slavery is a moral, social, and political evil, totally contrary to DOI. Why, then, was he willing to tolerate slavery? Why didn't he issue his Emancipation Proclamation (EP) as soon as he was inaugurated? What was he waiting for? Previous POTUSs, Founders, and Congressional leaders had been unwilling to take such a bold step for fear of preventing or destroying the Union. But AL had nothing to lose, since secession had already been declared. If he had worked with Congress right off the bat to pass legislation or a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting slavery throughout the United States, and making compliance with that a condition of any Confederate State returning to the Union, AL would have earned at least some of the respect and admiration we bestow upon him today. He did not do that. Why?

Again, Northern policy was based on money. Not high moral values, compassion for blacks, democratic principles, racial equality, respect for DOI, or Constitutional obligation, but greed and Yankee racism.

The institution of slavery ended in the North simply because slaves were no longer needed. In fact, they were no longer wanted, because they were seen as a threat to the jobs of white men. And that perceived threat did not disappear as Northern slavery gradually disappeared. Blacks were still viewed by whites as unwelcomed economic competition, so they were denied opportunities for education or social or economic advancement.

University of Pennsylvania professor McMaster observed that free blacks in the North were despised and poverty-stricken. A commentator stated that free blacks had been better off when they were slaves. Authors of William Lloyd Garrison's biography stated:

The free colored people [in the North] were looked upon as an inferior caste to whom their liberty was a curse, and their lot worse than that of the slaves.

When Rhode Island passed its emancipation legislation, it had to be written very carefully. That state still had a very lucrative slave trade, and they didn't want the legislation to interfere with that in any way. In one year in New York City alone there were 33 cases of blacks being kidnapped and sold into slavery. Connecticut passed a law barring non-resident blacks from attending public schools, because they didn't want to attract free blacks to their state. New Jersey simply prohibited free blacks from settling in their state. Massachusetts legislation allowed a black who stayed there more than two months to be flogged. Indiana's constitution prohibited blacks or mulattos from entering or settling in that state. An Illinois law barred immigration of free blacks to that state. Later, during the war, they made it part of their state constitution, just to make sure everyone knew they were serious about it. Oregon's constitution provided that any free negro or mulatto who didn't already reside in that state when their constitution was adopted would not be allowed to enter or reside there.

What did AL think of all this?

But why should emancipation South send free people North? . . . And in any event cannot the North decide for itself whether to receive them?

Apparently so. During the war, the governor of Massachusetts refused to allow a number of escaped slaves from the South to relocate in his state. His reason? **The Northern states are of all places the worst possible to select for an asylum for negroes.**

There you have it. That's why AL was in no hurry to free the slaves. That's why emancipation was not the chief motivator in the North. They didn't want a flood of freed slaves into the North or the territories, competing with Northern whites for jobs. That's why AL's eventual EP was initially very unpopular in the North. That's why AL kept assuring the South, even after EP, that they could keep their slaves. Northerners simply

did not like blacks, they did not want them around, and they certainly did not want them suppressing wages in Northern states.

Nor did they want them in the territories. According to AL:

Whether slavery shall go into Nebraska, or other new territories, is not a matter of exclusive concern to the people who may go there. The whole nation is interested that the best use shall be made of these territories. We want them to be homes of free white people. This they cannot be, to any considerable extent, if slavery shall be planted with them. Slave states are the places for poor white people to move from.

That attitude was about as racist as anyone could possibly get. That racist attitude did not exist in the antebellum South. It was the prevailing attitude of Yankees. Those words were spoken by none other than Abraham Lincoln. And yet today we think of one of the most racist Americans who ever lived as some sort of heroic slave liberator? Pulling that off was no easy task for CivilGate mythmeisters. But Yankees were extremely gifted liars, and their propaganda was easier to sell to each successive generation of gullible and ignorant Americans.

In other words, according to AL, Northerners didn't want slavery in the new territories because they didn't want blacks in the territories. Northerners, not Southerners, typically envisioned an all-white future. Not throughout the nation, though, only outside the South. AL realized by then that his idea of shipping all blacks back to Africa or some Central American country or an island was never going to happen. So, the next best option was to keep them all in the South. He didn't necessarily want them to be slaves, but he was perfectly willing to live with that as long as the blacks stayed in the South and out of the North and the territories. Most Northerners felt the same way.

Notice the last sentence of that last quote. AL wanted whites to move out of the South and into the territories. Poor whites, to be more precise. Poor Southern whites looking

for opportunities to make a better living in the territories, where they would most likely learn, in time, to become good Yankees. Why didn't AL encourage poor Northern whites to move to the territories? Because they were needed for Northern factories. Everything was based on money in Yankee culture, and everything was calculated to achieve maximum Yankee profit and benefit.

If the Yankee myth of Northern racial toleration and concern for racial equality were true, one might reasonably have expected to see a rather dramatic increase in the number of blacks living in the North. One might reasonably have expected to see policies encouraging free blacks and escaped slaves to settle in the North and enjoy the freedom it offered. But black population in the North actually declined. Racist attitudes and policies in the North were well known.

Yankees also did not want blacks gaining political power in the Northern states. New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania are among the states that disenfranchised blacks. This in spite of the fact that the black population in the North was insignificant compared to the South. In 1867, while Congress was forcing the South to accept unqualified black suffrage, Ohio voters rejected a law allowing blacks to vote in their state. Yankee hypocrisy ruled. Racism was rampant in the North. It had not been in the South.

In 1858 William H Seward (Lincoln's Secretary of State) said: **The white man needs this continent to labor in and must have it.**

On April 2, 1862, William Tecumseh Sherman's brother, John, said:

We do not like the negroes. We do not disguise our dislike. As my friend from Indiana said yesterday: "The whole people of the Northwestern States are opposed to having many negroes among them and that principle or prejudice has been engraved in the legislation for nearly all the Northwestern States".

Furthermore, Yankee racism and arrogance was not inflicted only on blacks and Southerners. It extended also to Native Americans. When the US government sent Gen John Pope in 1862 to Minnesota to suppress an Indian uprising, he described Native Americans this way: **They are to be treated as maniacs or wild beasts, and by no means as people with whom treaties or compromises can be made.**

US Navy Secretary Gideon Wells admitted that the war on Minnesota Indians was racially motivated, and driven by lust for Indian land.

Yankee mythmeisters would have us believe that such racism and discrimination, if it existed at all, somehow evaporated during the war. No it didn't. It was still going strong during the war, during Reconstruction, and it continues to some extent even today. That's not to say that some racism did not exist in the South. The difference is that it was much more pervasive in the North prior to Reconstruction, and Yankee racism was transferred to the South during Reconstruction.

The facts speak for themselves, in spite of the best efforts of CivilGate propagandists. In the summer of 1919, race riots broke out in several Northern US cities. Not in the South. In the late 1960s, Newark, New Jersey, and Detroit, Michigan were prominent among cities that experienced violent race riots. It was Boston that violently resisted forced busing. Recent studies have shown that today the North is more segregated than the South.¹⁵

Yet today, thanks to CivilGate, racism is always associated exclusively with the South. It's a lie. CivilGate principals desperately need Americans to stay ignorant and gullible.

¹⁵ SRK, p53-58

Myth: General Lee was a reluctant Southern nationalist.

The South had a genuine hero in Gen Robert E Lee. That does not fit well into the fictitious Civil War narrative of the North. So CivilGate propagandists are determined to minimize and marginalize his role and his stature, especially among Southerners. They attempt this in two ways.

First, they point out that prior to the war, Lee was opposed to secession. While that is absolutely true, it is also true that prior to the war most Southerners were opposed to secession. For good reason. As Thomas Jefferson explained in DOI:

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Southerners understood that secession was not something to be undertaken without very careful deliberation. It was because of such due diligence that most Southerners opposed secession right up to the point at which they felt they had no choice. One can only look with great sorrow on the fact that AL did not likewise perform appropriate due diligence before invading the South.

The other way Yankees attempt to marginalize Lee is by pointing out that after the war Lee had very little to say. Therefore, they speculate, Lee was satisfied with the outcome of the war, his heart was never really in it in the first place, he fought more to protect Virginia than for Southern independence, and possibly Lee even realized finally that the North had been right all along.

Gen Lee himself sets the record straight:

I know they [Yankees] watch my words, and if I should speak unadvisedly, what I say would be caught up by their speakers and newspapers, and magnified into a pretext for adding to the load of oppression they have placed upon our poor people; and God knows, . . . that load is heavy enough now. . . . If I had foreseen the use those people [Yankees] designed to make of their victory, there would have been no surrender at Appomattox Courthouse; no, sir, not by me. Had I foreseen those results of subjugation, I would have preferred to die at Appomattox with my brave men, my sword in this right hand.

He said those words in a private conversation with Texas Governor Stockdale, who sheds light on why Texans had also been silent after the war.

The people of Texas will remain quiet, and not again resort to forceful resistance against the Federal Government, whatever may be the measures of that government. But, . . . candor requires me to explain the attitude of my people. The people of Texas have made up their minds to remain quiet under all aggressions and to have peace; but they have none of the spaniel in their composition. No, sir, they are not in the least like the dog that seeks to lick the hand of the man that kicked him; but it is because they are a very sensible, practical, common-sense people, and understand their position. They know that they resisted the Federal Government as long as any means of resistance was left, and that any attempt at resistance now must be in vain, and they have no means, and would only make bad worse. This is the view of the matter which is going to keep Texas quiet.

It is logical to assume that this reflected sentiments throughout the South. I have often wondered why people in the South did not speak up against all the Yankee myths and

point out their lies loud and clear. Why did they let the Yankees get by with their blatant propaganda? Governor Stockdale explains why.

Now, however, the time has come to set the record straight. It will be difficult after a century and a half of Yankee indoctrination, but it can be done. It must be done.¹⁶

¹⁶ SRK, p40-43

Myth: [Secession would have destroyed the United States.](#)

Really? Based on what evidence? The American colonies seceded from England. That worked out fairly well for America, at least until AL came along. And England seems to have survived quite nicely as well.

Ireland seceded from Britain. That has been working well for both. Norway seceded from Sweden. That didn't spark a war, nor did it create a disaster. Several counties seceded from Virginia and became West Virginia. Did AL invade West Virginia to force it to abandon secession? No, he applauded that secession. And it didn't harm the Union. Nor did it destroy either state.

Texas seceded from Mexico. Should we give it back? You know, with secession being so evil and destructive and everything, we never should have annexed the Texas territory or made it a state. In fact, given our strong convictions about secession and preserving unions, we should probably give all the Southwest and California back to Mexico. Don't you think?

Portugal seceded from Spanish rule. Both Spain and Portugal flourished.

Panama seceded from Columbia. The US played a significant role in that, just as we did in Texas. If secession was so good for Texas and Panama, why would we assume it would have been disastrous for the Confederacy or for the Union?

Myth: [Lincoln was justified in using whatever means and force were necessary to preserve the Union and free the slaves.](#)

Not according to COTUS or civil law. Not according to international law, either. There is only one law that supports this myth: might makes right. Dictators throughout history have relied on that principle, and COTUS was supposed to lift America above that barbaric approach. But we resorted to it in the Civil War, and we continue to honor AL for doing so, even while we condemn other dictators for using force against their own people. Libya, Egypt, Syria, China – the leaders of those countries have all been held in contempt by Americans for doing essentially the same thing AL did in the Civil War. They are using whatever force is necessary against their own people. We may not consider their motives moral or noble, but those leaders are just as convinced of their own righteousness as AL was of his.

Why did we fight against North Korea? Weren't they just trying to preserve their Union? Isn't it supremely hypocritical to use force to prevent a unified Korea, when we celebrate the American dictator who slaughtered 650,000 Americans, including women and children, to *preserve our Union*? Even AL finally realized that that was not going to fly as justification for such slaughter and tyranny. Then, and only then, did he change the perception of the war into a holy crusade against Southern slavery. And only when the North was successful in its tyrannical invasion of the South were they free to manufacture the mythology we know and accept today as Civil War history.

If the Civil War had in fact been about slavery, AL would have gained some moral high ground. If he had said, in his First Inaugural Address, that POTUSs throughout America's history had been unable or unwilling to take a firm stand against slavery, and it was time to stop kicking that can down the road, he would deserve some respect. If he had stated unequivocally that slavery was morally, legally, and politically wrong, and that he would, therefore, do everything within his Constitutional power to immediately abolish it throughout the US, that would have been a bold, courageous, and noble

stand. He did not do that. He talked the talk, to audiences who wanted to hear that message. But he did not walk the walk when he became POTUS. Instead, he was content to preserve slavery in the South, and in much of the rest of the country as well, throughout the war.

Abolition was not the goal of the Civil War. It wasn't even a goal of the war. It was more of an unintended consequence. Freedom from slavery didn't happen because of AL so much as it came about in spite of AL.

But even if he had taken such a bold stand against slavery right from the very beginning of his administration, he still would not have been justified in trampling on COTUS, ignoring laws, slaughtering 650,000 people, and demolishing roughly half the country. Nothing in COTUS or international law granted him dictatorial powers, even in the pursuit of what AL considered a greater good. Yes, slavery was wrong, it was evil, it contradicted everything American liberty was supposed to stand for, and it had to be abolished. But not by violating and abandoning all the principles and liberties America stood for. AL's war was not Constitutional, legal, moral, or right in any way. The fact that the North won does not change that.

Nor was the Civil War necessary to abolish slavery. Slavery was already dying in the South, and the people there knew that. Nor were most of them sorry to see it go. To them it was not a question of if, it was simply a matter of working out how and when. There were lots of other, much better, options, but AL wasn't interested in considering them. Because what he was concerned about was money, not slavery. The North was losing its cash cow. That had to be stopped, and there was no time to waste. That's why he wasted no time invading the South. That's why he and his generals would stop at nothing. It was all about greed and lust for power. What part of COTUS or international law justifies that?

Myth: *Nullification is the same as secession.*

They are not the same thing, and they are only tangentially, if at all, connected.

Nullification is a peaceful form of civil disobedience. It is the refusal of a state to enforce within its borders a federal law or Supreme Court ruling that the state considers unconstitutional. It is an attempt to work within the Union to bring about change.

Secession is the last resort of a state when it feels the federal government is no longer meeting its Constitutional obligation to provide each state with a republican form of government, all efforts have been unsuccessful to return the federal government to compliance, and there is no realistic hope of bringing about required changes.

Secession is a complete break with the Union, while nullification is an attempt to work within the Union.

No state would reasonably take such a drastic step without careful deliberation. The Union offers many advantages and benefits that simply cannot be replaced, and no state is willing to forfeit those benefits without a compelling argument that the disadvantages of a tyrannical federal government have come to outweigh the advantages. Even some minor forms of oppression are not sufficient reason for a state to secede from the Union, any more than a few disagreements would cause most married couples to rush into a divorce.

Myth: [State sovereignty never existed. Even if it had existed, it did not survive ratification of the Constitution.](#)

That would come as quite a shock to all the states, the Founders, and especially the Framers.

This language comes from a state constitution adopted in 1792 (three years after COTUS was ratified):

The people of this [state] have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent State; and do and forever hereafter shall exercise and enjoy every power, jurisdiction, and right which is not, or may not hereafter be, by them, expressly delegated to the United States.

That from the radical Southern slave state of . . . New Hampshire.

With the Revolutionary War the colonies became sovereign states. At no time since have they ever been anything less. They were so afraid of losing that sovereignty that they started out with a very weak central government under AOC. It quickly proved to be too weak to meet the needs of the country, so it gave way to COTUS. Under that document, each state retains its sovereignty, and the states did not give up any rights at all. They simply delegated some basic powers to the federal government. Only enough power to meet the needs of the nation, and no more, at least that was their intent.

Part of COTUS states that federal law is the supreme law of the land. But that applies only to those limited powers delegated by the states, such as national defense. And the states retained the right to reclaim any or all of those delegated powers if they deemed such action necessary. Many states explicitly declared their position as part of their ratification. The *Virginia Act of Ratification of the United States Constitution* is a good example.

So when the South talked about state sovereignty and States' Rights, they were talking about COTUS, and about the state sovereignty that it protects. When Yankees said the South used those expressions only as a euphemism for the perpetuation of slavery, they once again betrayed their profound ignorance of and contempt for COTUS. AL, in fact, used *preserving the Union* as a euphemism for his illegal, immoral, unconstitutional, unnecessary invasion of the sovereign Southern states and the sovereign nation of the Confederacy.

It is also wrong to claim that COTUS was ratified by the states, not by the people. The states and the people are not separate entities, mutually exclusive. They are one and the same. The state is simply an administrative tool used for expressing the will of the people within its borders. The state is the people. The people, according to the structure of COTUS, express themselves at times as individuals, and at other times as states. It is a very carefully crafted structure, and without it, the entire Constitution falls apart.

That is exactly what happened in the Civil War. AL ignored COTUS and, with no legal, moral, or Constitutional authority whatsoever, assumed dictatorial powers. AL became precisely what COTUS was designed to protect us against. Because of that war, the united States became the United state. Before the war, people said the United States are. Now we say the United States is. Small grammatical difference, but with vast implications for the country.

There have always been opposing viewpoints about COTUS. While most people felt the Framers got the balance pretty much right between state and federal powers, some people, like Patrick Henry, were convinced that COTUS would quickly put an end to state sovereignty, and that ratifying COTUS was basically giving up the liberty we had won in the Revolutionary War.

Others, like Alexander Hamilton, were convinced that COTUS did not go nearly far enough to empower the federal government. He proposed his own plan during the Philadelphia Convention, which much more closely mirrored England's style of government. He talked about it all day. The delegates listened patiently and politely, then completely ignored it and went on with hammering out a constitution, because they had no interest in returning to a monarchy. Hamilton was so miffed that he left the Convention and did not return until toward the end.

During the ratification debates, Hamilton, along with Madison, became a powerful spokesman in favor of ratification of the Constitution he despised. Why would he do that? Because he realized that it was the only way to get the kind of strong central government he wanted. His plan was to get COTUS passed, then gradually weaken it, and eventually replace it with a much stronger federal government.

Had Hamilton been alive in the 1860s he would have heartily applauded AL, because he accomplished much of Hamilton's dream. Later, Woodrow Wilson (WW) was a big fan of AL for much the same reason. WW was the father of American progressivism. A progressive believes that COTUS is obsolete and no longer relevant. He believes that the dusty old document served its purpose, but we have *progressed* well beyond that now. WW thought our Founding Fathers were foolish for believing in natural rights. He believed in a strong federal government, ruling over the people not necessarily with their consent, but in their best interest (as defined by politicians and bureaucrats), whether the people realized it or not, whether they liked it or not.

WW didn't speak of COTUS in those terms to the people, however. He realized that it was in his best interest to allow, even encourage, the people to continue to believe in COTUS, and to have the masses cling to the illusion that it was still the basis of the American government. By doing so, he could appeal to their patriotism to manipulate them into supporting his programs. WW was a master of propaganda, because he had to be. Since he refused to accept COTUS as the legal basis of his authority, he knew

that his power, and that of his administration, were no longer subject to Constitutional restraints, and that they were limited only by their ability to persuade the people to go along with their policies and programs. As long as the people didn't stage some sort of rebellion, he and his government could do whatever they wanted to do, whatever they could get away with. By appealing to emotions and patriotism, he knew he could get away with a lot. And he did. He was so good at that sort of propaganda that Adolph Hitler and his regime were inspired to emulate WW's propaganda machine.

What WW started, others built on later. FDR, LBJ, and now Barack Obama. All champions of progressivism. Some have preferred not to call it that, though. That name lost much of its luster because people were sick of WW by the time his term was up. But it made a comeback, and Hitler and Mussolini were also big progressives. Those two, along with FDR, admired and emulated each other. But, of course, after the world became aware of the holocaust, progressivism wasn't considered such a great thing any longer, and progressives knew they had to rebrand. They never abandoned their principles or goals, but they changed their label from *progressives* to *liberals*. It's the oldest political trick in the book. (That's why, for example, the Muslim Brotherhood now wants to be known as the Freedom and Justice Party).

Progressives, by whatever name, have made tremendous strides toward their vision of an all-powerful federal government, with a lot of help from the Supreme Court. And that's where we are today. There is no Constitution forming the foundation of our government, and there are no States' Rights. There are only the memories and illusions of those things. Progressives love to have us talk about COTUS and pretend it is still in effect, and they appeal to it often, if it helps their cause. Otherwise, they ignore it except to pay lip service to it. And most Americans, blissfully ignorant, play along, happy to buy into the myths of the Civil War that we have been taught all our lives.

It all started with AL. The federal government since that time has been gradually eroding our liberty, and we don't even realize it. They push only as hard as they think they can

without causing a backlash or rebellion. They continue to cloak all their actions in patriotic sounding phrases and names, and they always emphasize that they are doing what's best for the people. So we don't seem to mind, or even notice, that it's what they think is best for us, not what we think is best for us, or what COTUS authorizes the feds to do.

People rarely even bother to consider COTUS now, because it doesn't matter, progressives insist. All that matters is what the federal government thinks is best for us. If a state tries to reassert its sovereignty, the feds simply cut off funding until they submit. Similarly, the feds control individuals through ever-expanding entitlement programs and an explosion of regulations implemented by bureaucrats who are not elected by the people and are not accountable to them in any way. That's our form of government today. We are not a democratic Constitutional republic. That ended with the Civil War. We have to understand that if we are to survive as a free country.

States and citizens have only those "rights" the federal government decides to grant us. They decide to grant us fewer and fewer real rights each year. Anything more than that, we are going to have to be willing to fight for. That's what the South did. We lost in the Civil War much of what we gained in the Revolutionary War. Eventually, one way or another, there will be a tie-breaker.

So, contrary to this myth, the idea of state sovereignty and States' Rights is not something cooked up by a bunch of cigar-smoking plantation owners in 1860 to justify their use of slaves. Colonial Rights had been well established in the hearts and minds of Americans well before the Revolutionary War. Based on state sovereignty, secession was contemplated many times by Northern states before the Civil War. The New England States, for example, threatened to secede from the Union because of the Embargo Act that crippled their shipping industry.

This little gem of a myth is so ludicrous that it deserves little serious consideration. It is debunked here primarily to demonstrate the utter lack of concern CivilGate propagandists have for truth or logic. It shows how desperate CivilGate mythmeisters are to cover up the truth, and why they so badly need you to accept their mythology.

Myth: [The Articles of Confederation expressly stated that the Union was *perpetual*. Although the Constitution does not include that phrase, we are the same Union, and therefore we are still *perpetual*.](#)

This is one of my favorites, because it clearly demonstrates the folly of Northern efforts to twist, bend, parse, stretch, and torture words and phrases in a pathetic, futile attempt to force logic, reason, and reality to conform to their mythology. And this myth comes directly from AL in his First Inaugural Address. Let's just briefly review some facts.

COTUS went into effect when it had been ratified by nine of the thirteen states. At that time, it was in effect only for those nine states. Is it possible that the other four states would have refused to ratify, and therefore would never have become part of the Union? Of course. In fact, no one was celebrating when the ninth state ratified COTUS. Why not? Because one of the remaining states was New York, and everyone knew that without New York in the Union, ratification of COTUS would have been a very hollow victory.

Would the non-ratifying states have been part of the Union? No. What would have been their status? They would have continued to be sovereign states. Sovereign countries, in fact. Would they have still been under AOC? That would have been up to them to sort out.

Two states, Rhode Island and North Carolina, did not ratify and join the Union until more than a year after COTUS had been ratified by the first nine states. But, according to the *perpetual Union* theory, they were already somehow part of the new Constitutional Union, simply because they had subscribed to the old AOC. Why, then, did they bother to continue with their ratification debates and votes? Would military force have eventually been used to compel them to participate in the Union? Was there any talk of that? Were federal troops sent to the borders of those states to threaten enforcement of some *perpetual Union* theory?

When the procedures for ratification were hammered out at the Philadelphia Convention, did they include a provision that once nine states had ratified COTUS, the rest of the states were automatically in, or they had no choice but to join? I don't remember reading that in COTUS or its earlier drafts or in Madison's notes of the convention debates and negotiations. There seems to be no hint of the chimerical *perpetual Union* theory until the merry mythmakers from the North began grasping at straws to justify a clearly illegal invasion of the South.

AOC itself states clearly that the states were in no way forfeiting their sovereignty. Assigning so much significance to the word *perpetual* is pure and deliberate obfuscation. AL was a master at that. He knew very well that not one single state under AOC believed that they no longer had the right to secede from that Union. AL would have been laughed out of the Union if he had uttered such a ridiculous notion at the Philadelphia Convention in 1787.

Furthermore, the suggestion that it was the same Union under AOC and COTUS betrays a profound ignorance of both documents. And the contention that the word *perpetual* in AOC precluded forever any possibility of secession betrays a profound ignorance of DOI as well. This myth, in fact, betrays an ignorance of American history. It may have been ignorance that allowed the North to fall prey to AL's sophistry, but for AL himself it was not ignorance at all. For him it was profound arrogance and utter disregard for American liberties.

The first Union in North America was formed in 1643 by four New England colonies who called themselves the United Colonies of New England. They acted as independent, sovereign colonies, and they declared that their Union was *perpetual*. That *perpetual Union* lasted about 40 years. The *perpetual Union* under AOC didn't last that long. So a union (like a marriage) is only as *perpetual* as its members want it to be. Or, in the case of the Civil War, as *perpetual* as the side with the strongest army wants it to be.

What does, in fact, seem to be perpetual is CivilGate silliness and mythology.

Myth: Secession was just an excuse to protect slavery, or a plot to destroy the Union.

I have already proven that the South didn't need an excuse to protect slavery. They didn't need to protect Southern slavery at all. They already had the full force of the federal government doing that for them (including the *Dred Scott* ruling), and AL had no desire (or authority, according to AL himself) to interfere with slavery in the South. Even after EP, Northern negotiators promised the South that they could keep their slaves if they would just give up the idea of secession and rejoin the Union (even though they insisted that secession was impossible, so the Confederate states had never really left the Union). The North wanted slavery in the South, because that helped keep blacks out of the territories and the Northern states. They did not want freed slaves (or any other blacks) coming up North and competing for jobs or driving down wages. Their state laws clearly show that.

So, the first part of this *mythconception* is comically flawed, and it has already been thoroughly discredited. The second part is one more example of CivilGate casuistry. If the South dreamed up secession as part of a sinister plot to overthrow the Union, the North had to be part of the conspiracy. Yankees had been teaching that secession was a clear-cut right of any state, and the federal government had been paying for such instruction. Where? At the United States Military Academy at West Point, in New York.

From 1825 to 1826, that institution used *Views of the Constitution*, by William Rawle as its textbook on Constitutional law, and it was used after that as a reference book.¹⁷ The book was well received and regarded by the North. It was used in many colleges. Rawle was an abolitionist from Philadelphia, who had been a friend of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. This is what the book says about secession and state sovereignty:

¹⁷ SRK, p210

It depends on the state itself to retain or abolish the principle of representation, because it depends on itself whether it will continue a member of the Union. To deny this right would be inconsistent with the principle of which all our political systems are founded, which is, that the people have in all cases, a right to determine how they will be governed. This right must be considered as an ingredient in the original composition of the general government, which, though not expressed, was mutually understood . . .

The South couldn't have said it better themselves. But no matter how many times the South did say it in 1860/1861, or how loudly, the North simply refused to listen. Why? Did something happen between 1826 and 1861 to fundamentally change the nature of state sovereignty or the right of secession? No. Did something happen to change the North's understanding of that right? No. The North in general, and AL in particular, knew very well that the South had every right to secede. There was no doubt or confusion about it. They simply didn't care.

They refused to allow the South to exercise that right only when they began to understand that with secession they were losing most of their tariff revenue. The North was perfectly willing to let the South go until they started reading in the newspapers how devastated the North's economy would become. Because the Confederacy had adopted a much lower tariff rate, international commerce would shift from Northern ports to New Orleans. Before secession, the South had been forced to accept the North's high tariff rates. The South had generated a huge chunk of tariff revenue that flowed North and, for the most part stayed there. The South generated a lot of federal tariff revenue, but they didn't get to use much of it for their own improvements or development. The North kept almost all of it for their own uses. That arrangement was coming to a screeching halt with secession, and the North was not about to let that happen. COTUS, the law, morality, principle . . . all that was casually brushed aside for the one cause that had always been first and foremost in the hearts and minds of Yankees – money.

Yes, there certainly was a most sinister plot to destroy the Union. AL was the principle author of that scheme, and he was quite successful. AL did destroy the Union. There was a conspiracy by the Northern states to deny the Confederacy their right to secession, and there was a massive propaganda campaign to conceal the truth of the Civil War from the American people. The South was the primary victim. Don't blame secession for trying to destroy the Union. Don't blame the South. Place the blame for destroying the Union at the bloody hands of AL and the greasy palms of Yankees, who had become addicted to Southern tariff revenue. That's where it rightfully belongs.

Myth: Ft Sumter marked the beginning of the Civil War.¹⁸

It would . . . be as difficult to say at what moment the Revolution began, and what incident set it in motion, as to fix the moment that the embryo becomes an animal, or the act which gives him a beginning.

Thomas Jefferson said that in 1818. It is no easier today to pinpoint the incident that set the Civil War in motion. Of course, almost everyone believes it was when the Confederates fired on Ft Sumter. But that is simply another product of CivilGate. It's true that the Ft Sumter incident was significant, but not in the way most people think it was. Firing on Ft Sumter was not why or when the Civil War started.

Ft Sumter was located on an island in Charleston Harbor. Charleston was the heart of the secession. The South would never, could never allow the fort to remain in Union hands with its guns pointed at Charleston. AL knew that as well as anyone in the South.

The Confederacy sent delegates to meet with Union officials to negotiate mutually satisfactory arrangements for the fort. That's how they had handled all southern forts, except for the two remaining in Union control. In addition to Ft Sumter, there was Ft Pickens at Pensacola, Florida. Ft Pickens was much less urgent, because it wasn't such a clear and present danger to the Confederacy and it didn't have the symbolic significance of Charleston

Ft Pickens remained under Union control. Union troops fended off Confederate attacks for four years and kept Pensacola Bay open to federal ships throughout the war.

That's precisely why AL chose Ft Sumter to force the South to make the first move. All other federal territory in the South had been surrendered. Southern delegates offered to

¹⁸ CWC, p30-32

pay a fair price for Ft Sumter. They also offered to pay the South's portion of the federal debt. The South did not want to fight over Ft Sumter. They didn't want to fight over anything. They didn't want war. Does their settlement offer sound like hot-headed Rebels itching for a fight? Yet AL wanted no part of it. He refused to even meet with the Southern representatives. Two Supreme Court Justices tried to persuade him to sit down and work out a deal, or at least listen to what the South had to say. AL refused. Why would he do such a thing?

Because AL did not want a deal. He didn't even particularly want Ft Sumter. What he wanted was an excuse for the war he had already decided to launch. He knew his illegal, unconstitutional, immoral invasion of the South was inevitable. He just needed an excuse to get started. The South gave it to him at Ft Sumter. The Confederacy got their fort, and AL got his PR victory. That's all he needed to finish whipping the North into a frenzy of *preserve-the-Union* fever.

AL said in his First Inaugural Address that if there was to be a war, it would be the South that chose that path, not the North. Honest Abe knew the South didn't want war, and that they would need a little nudge to get them to fire first. So he goaded them into firing on Ft Sumter. He did that by sending federal men and supplies on Apr 6, 1861, to Ft Sumter. The federal troops were under strict orders to not fire unless fired upon. If some loose federal cannon jumped the gun, that would spoil AL's elaborate scheme.

The Confederates knew that allowing the fort to remain in Union hands would be suicidal. And they knew that, with Union reinforcements and supplies on the way, they had to act quickly. When all attempts to negotiate a peaceful solution to the crisis ended in failure (as AL intended), the South fired on Ft Sumter on Apr 12, 1861. Two days later, it was all over. The South had been forced to act in self-defense, and they did so. Not a single troop on either side was killed. No doubt AL was disappointed that he could not claim that Northern blood had been spilled there, but forcing the South to fire first was good enough. Now he could call secession a *rebellion*, and everyone knew that

military force was a perfectly legitimate response to a rebellion. Not many Northerners really understood much about secession, but they were quite familiar with rebellions, because they had started a few. Secession didn't get them too riled up, but rebellion did.

Why did AL want war so badly? And why was he in such a hurry to get it started? He had opposed the Mexican War and continued to believe it was wrong. AL was so skeptical of America's justification for the war that he demanded to know the exact spot where American blood had been spilled by Mexican forces. But now he was perfectly willing to manufacture an excuse to start a war which would result in the slaughter of 650,000 Americans, including innocent and defenseless women and children, and including many of the blacks he gets credit for liberating.

The US gained (with little resistance) California, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas in the war with Mexico.

Why? It wasn't to free the slaves. That was just another PR gimmick that came much later. Nor was it to keep slavery from spreading into the territories or new states, as he said in his First Inaugural Address. The North had been right to oppose new slave territories and states, but that issue had already been settled. That fight was no longer between North and South. It was between the North and the Supreme Court. The *Dred Scott* decision had made slavery legal throughout America. The only solution to that problem was to get a Constitutional amendment ratified – the one that did in fact come later: the 13th Amendment.

If it was really stopping the extension of slavery into the territories that AL wanted, he would have welcomed secession, because when the Southern states seceded, they surrendered any plans to take their slaves with them into the territories. That's what they had wanted. They hadn't wanted to fire up the slave trade again, they just wanted to be

able to take their existing slaves with them into the territories. Was AL right to oppose that? Absolutely. But secession had already handed him a total victory on that issue. He didn't need to start a war over that. And neither did the South. The *Dred Scott* decision had already handed that victory to the South. In secession, the South handed it to AL. War over that issue made no sense at all for either side.

AL wanted to preserve the Union. He also said that in his First Inaugural Address. And that was one of those rare occasions when Abe was honest. But even there he was not being totally honest. He implied that secession was a violation of COTUS, although he knew it wasn't. But he needed an excuse for his war that sounded plausible and noble. So *preserving the Union* was initially the Northern battle cry.

Preserving the Union was not a bad idea. The South had wanted to preserve the Union, too, and they resisted secession until they felt they had no other choice. But even level-headed Northerners, what few there may have been, understood that no POTUS had a Constitutional or legal authority to use force to preserve the Union. Even AL himself had argued passionately for the right of secession.

So why didn't AL work with the Confederate leaders and try to come to some peaceful solution? There were lots of possible approaches he could have tried. Sure, secession was inconvenient, and maybe even dangerous from a national security standpoint, but it was perfectly legal and Constitutional, and AL knew that probably better than anyone. If AL had been a tiny fraction of the great leader we pretend he was, he would have tried to find a peaceful way to reunite the country. He did not do that. Instead, he had barely taken the oath of office before he was goading the South into firing on Ft Sumter. Why? How does that make sense?

The answer is money. The South had been the North's cash cow for decades. Tariffs had been a primary source of federal revenue since 1789. Because of high tariffs, the South in the 1830s was financing more than 70 percent of the cost of the federal

government.¹⁹ Tariffs generated 95% of federal revenue in 1860. The issue of a new tariff came up in the 1860 campaign, and AL supported it. The South (and England) opposed it. The North won, as always, and on Mar 2, 1861, the Morrill Tariff was signed by Buchanan, two days before he left office.

It more than doubled tariff duties. That helped the North and hurt the South, partly because the South had to pay more for Northern manufactured goods. Furthermore, although the South collected the lion's share of the tariff revenue, that money flowed to the North and stayed there. The North used it for their own improvement projects, and very little of it was returned to the South. That was the straw that broke the camel's back from the South's perspective.

So, you might well argue that the Morrill Tariff marked the beginning of the Civil War. Or you could argue that the war started on Apr 15, 1861, when AL ordered 75,000 volunteers to march into the South, subdue them, and enforce collection of tariff revenues for the North to use.

When the South seceded, the tariff spigot was turned off. The North had always considered the South inferior, yet they had always been willing to sell them slaves, profit from slave labor in the South, and take Southern tariff revenues for their own Yankee uses. They had always tolerated the South as long as they could exploit them. But that all ended with secession. The South had had enough of the North, but the North could never get enough (revenue) from the South. In a way, the North thought of Southerners as their slaves. They weren't about to let the South escape from the Union, because Yankees knew they would either have to start earning their own keep or starve.

That's why AL was in such a hurry to go to war. There was no time to try to negotiate. He realized that the North's very survival depended on his being able to force the South to continue collecting tariff revenue and sending it North. He knew the South would

¹⁹ CWC, p20

never agree to that, and so he would have to force them to do so. The sooner the better.

Ft Sumter was important, but it was not the start of the war. The Morrill Tariff was a much more likely candidate for the beginning of the war. Secession by South Carolina on Dec 20, 1860, was another likely starting point. Or when the first Union troops entered Confederate territory and began their invasion of the South. Or the first election of a POTUS without the support of a single Southern state. Or you could go all the way back to DOI, when John Adams and Benjamin Franklin forced Thomas Jefferson to remove language condemning England for America's dependence on slavery. Instead of dealing with slavery head on right from the start of the Union, we treated it like a hot potato, tossing it off from one generation to another until the Civil War finally helped settle the matter. To some extent. And even then, only as an afterthought, a political ploy, an unintended consequence.

If you absolutely insist on having gunfire involved in any bona fide beginning of the war, Ft Sumter still doesn't necessarily win. There was gunfire in Jan 1861 at Ft Barrancas (just across the bay from Ft Pickens), at what is now Pensacola Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Florida. No one was killed, but then no one was killed at Ft Sumter, either. Hours later, in South Carolina, cadets from The Citadel military academy manning a battery on Morris Island fired on the steamship *Star of the West* as it tried to resupply 200 federal troops at Fort Sumter. The cadets forced the steamship to turn back.²⁰ Was that the start of the Civil War? Some think so.

The exact starting point of the Civil War is not really important now, any more than pointing to one specific incident to mark the beginning of the Revolutionary War is important. What's important for us to understand is that AL needed Yankees to believe that it was Ft Sumter, and CivilGate perpetuates the myth, so we wouldn't go snooping

²⁰ From an April 13, 2011 article in *The Blaze*, written by Jonathon M Seidl.

around and accidentally discover the ugly truth of why AL felt he had to go to war, and he had to win, and he had to do it quickly.

It was all about money in one way or another. Tariff money, specifically. But even the slavery issue was about money to the North. They didn't want slaves in the territories or new states or in the existing Northern states, because they didn't want the competition for jobs. Also, because they just didn't like blacks. They were racists. The last thing in the world the North wanted was for a bunch of freed blacks flooding into the North, taking jobs and driving wages lower. Except for a few abolitionists, the North wanted the South to keep their slaves so the North didn't have to deal with them. State laws in the Northern states prove that.

At first, the North wasn't too concerned about secession. Preserve the Union? No Yankee was going to go to war over that idea. Who cared? Let the South go. Good riddance. They couldn't stand Southerners, anyway. Barbaric, slave-beating racists! Who needed them?

Well, it turned out the North did. And as soon as they realized how badly they needed the South, they changed their tune about secession. Suddenly, it was the most vile and disgusting idea they had ever heard of. They loved hating the South, but when they realized the South had cut off their generous allowance, they were ready to fight to keep them in the family. Not to liberate slaves, and not to preserve the Union, but to preserve their generous flow of Southern tariff revenue.

Now you know.