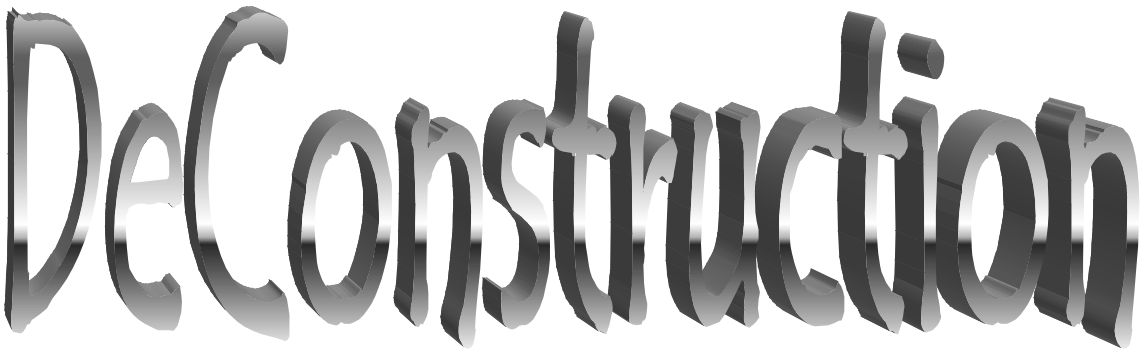
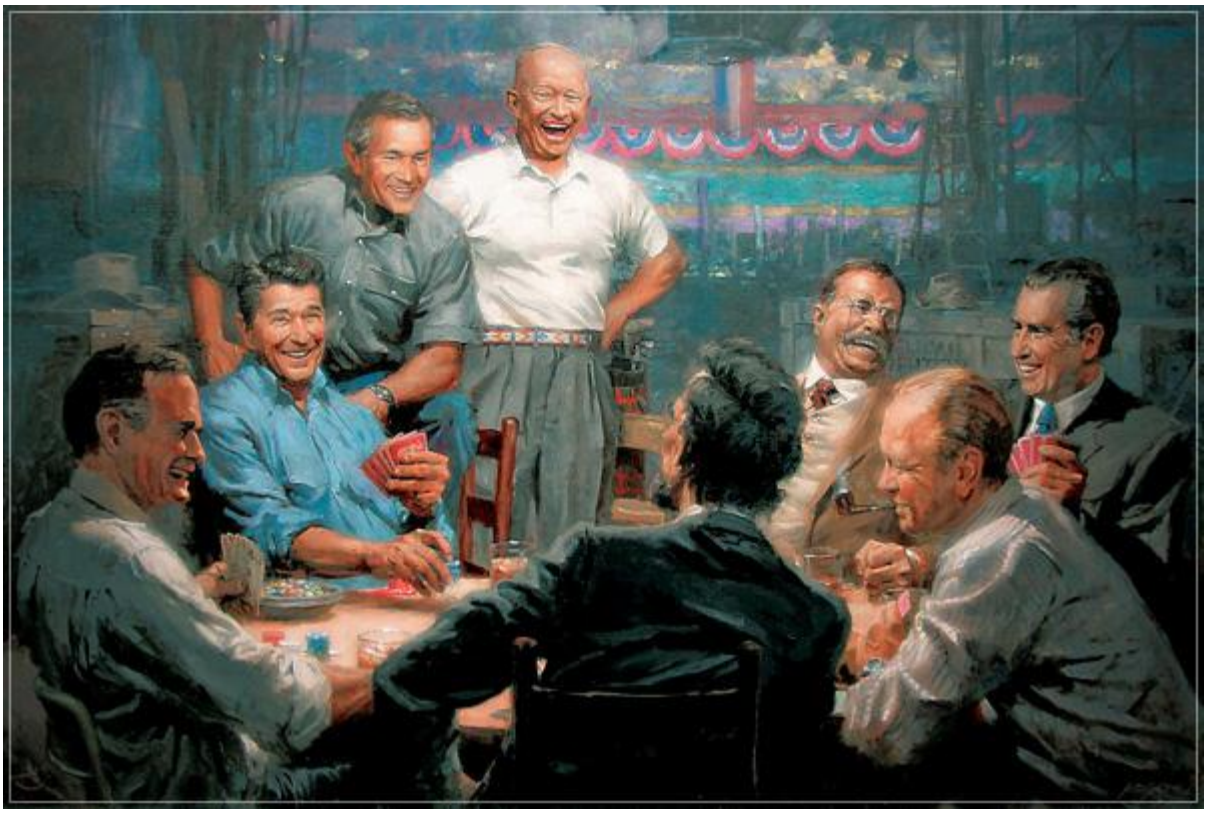
The War for Southern Independence

Part 6



Preserve the Union?
Free the slaves?
If we could lie that well, there'd be no Democrats.



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Introduction

Part 6 is dedicated to further analyzing, breaking down, exposing, and discrediting CivilGate propaganda. This expedition into CivilGate mythology and obfuscation reveals more detailed evidence of the fairytale fabrications foisted on unsuspecting American schoolchildren for 150 years.

The Great Eviscerator

Anyone who still believes in the CivilGate myth of Abraham Lincoln as the *Great Emancipator* is in for some very inconvenient truths about their hero.[1]

In the 1856 election, Lincoln campaigned for the very first Republican Party candidate, Gen John Fremont. Later, Fremont, in charge of Union military operations in Missouri, faced a very effective Confederate guerilla campaign, prompting Fremont to issue a proclamation on Aug 30, 1861. It announced that martial law was in effect throughout Missouri, and that any person(s) who resisted the occupying Union army would face confiscation of their property and emancipation of their slaves. (Unionists were allowed to keep their slaves.)

Lincoln, instead of welcoming an opportunity to free possibly thousands of slaves, nullified the emancipation part of Fremont's proclamation, and he relieved the general of his command on Nov 2, 1861, in spite of a personal plea from Fremont's wife. A similar scenario played out in May 1862, when Union Gen David Hunter tried to emancipate slaves in Union-held territories in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.

Congress passed a series of *confiscation acts* in the early years of the war, allowing Union troops to confiscate slaves and other property of Confederates in Union-occupied territories. They could have easily freed those slaves, but they did not. Some were returned to their owner, but most were simply used as Union slaves and forced to do the most unpleasant tasks in and around Union encampments. One Illinois lieutenant wrote: I have 11 Negroes in my company now. They do every particle of the dirty work. Two women among them do the washing for the company.

[1] RLD, p33-53

In response to angry reactions from abolitionists, Lincoln explained his position in a public letter to *New York Tribune* editor, Horace Greeley, in 1862:

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 some and leaving others alone, I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union.

Here is a prime example of Lincoln the pathological liar. In his First Inaugural Address he claimed that he had no interest at all in interfering with Southern slavery, and he had no constitutional authority to do so, even if he had wanted to. He said he wanted to prevent the spread of slavery into the territories, but that was as far as he was willing or allowed to go. Now, in this letter, he is no longer concerned in the slightest with constitutional or legal restraints. He was prepared to use the slavery issue, and emancipation, in any manner he felt would advance his agenda, the Constitution be damned. In his Second Inaugural Address, he claimed that the Civil War had always been about freeing the slaves. He always said what he thought his audience wanted to hear, whether it bore any resemblance to the truth or not.

We find further proof of Lincoln's pathology in his Emancipation Proclamation. He wanted, for military and political purposes, to start portraying the war as a noble campaign to free the slaves. That too, was a lie. The Proclamation did not free a single slave, nor did Lincoln really want it to. Otherwise, he could have quite easily freed the thousands of slaves then in the territories; in Union-occupied areas of the South, such as Louisiana, Virginia, and much of Tennessee; and in the Union-occupied states of Maryland, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The Proclamation purposefully did not apply to those slaves, and it had no legal effect in the Confederate states.[2]

[2] It alone had no legal effect anywhere in the country, because a president cannot constitutionally emancipate slaves. That is the domain of Congressional legislation or Constitutional amendment.

Lincoln wasn't fooling anybody. Almost everyone in the world recognized that it was a political gimmick and a military tactic, not a sincere effort to free slaves. This appeared in a *New York World* newspaper editorial:

The president has purposely made the proclamation inoperative in all places where we have gained a military footing which makes the slaves accessible. He has proclaimed emancipation only where he has notoriously no power to execute it. The exemption of the accessible parts of Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia renders the proclamation not merely futile, but ridiculous.

Even Lincoln's own Secretary of State couldn't restrain his sarcasm: We show our sympathy with slavery by emancipating slaves where we cannot reach them and holding them in bondage where we can set them free.

From the *London Spectator*: The principle [of the Proclamation] is not that a human being cannot justly own another, but that he cannot own him unless he is loyal to the United States. Which is pretty much what Lincoln had himself said in his letter to Horace Greeley. All that mattered is what Abraham Lincoln, Dictator of the United States, wanted. The Constitution, civil laws, and the Supreme Court were now irrelevant under the Lincoln tyranny.

British writer Earl Russell put it this way: The Proclamation . . . professes to emancipate all slaves in places where the United States authorities cannot exercise any jurisdiction . . . but it does not decree emancipation . . . There seems to be no declaration of a principle adverse to slavery in this proclamation. Only one principle was important to Lincoln -- implementing the Alexander Hamilton / Henry Clay / Republican Party / Whig agenda.[3] That's why he was so determined to *preserve the Union*. It had nothing directly to do with freeing slaves.

[3] See *Lincoln's Legacy* (p6601).

The American magazine, *Saturday Review*, denounced the Proclamation as a crime [that will] precipitate the ruin of [Lincoln's] cause. Unfortunately, they were wrong about that. It did have the effect of preventing England from entering the war and assisting the Confederacy. Almost all civilized nations had already done away with the institution of slavery. England didn't want the international stigma of fighting in support of slavery.

Even Lincoln himself had to admit, in a letter to his Treasury Secretary, Salmon P Chase, that the Proclamation had no legal basis, and he acknowledged that it was also unconstitutional, calling it a *war measure*. He might have also admitted that it was an act of desperation, because the Union had reached the end of our rope on the [military] plan of operation, after the Confederacy had racked up a series of smashing victories during the first two years of the war. If either England or France had offered assistance to the Confederacy at that point, or if they had offered to broker a peace agreement, Lincoln may well have been forced to compromise. He was not about to let that happen.

To help us understand just how grave the military situation looked for the Union at that point, let's briefly review the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862. The Union army had not achieved a decisive victory since the beginning of the war. But they believed they could turn things around at Fredericksburg, with 121,000 troops led by Gen Ambrose Burnside against only 80,000 Confederates. But the South had been carefully preparing its battle line for the past month, and not one Yankee got within 50 yards of it in any of the Union's 13 charges across an open plain. Again, Federal forces were forced to retreat, this time at night through a raging winter storm.

Union casualties were 12,653; Confederate casualties were 5309. Yankee morale was at an all-time low, for both soldiers and civilians. No one could understand how the great Army of the Potomac could have been so poorly managed. A sudden spike in the price of gold reflected evaporating public support for Lincoln's bloody war and eroding confidence in his ability to win it. Many Yankees were encouraging a reasonable peace

agreement. If England or France decided to join that chorus, Lincoln may have no choice but to sue for peace.

That is the context of the Emancipation Proclamation, effective Jan 1863. It was Lincoln's last card. Englishmen saw it as a desperate attempt by Lincoln to spark a slave insurrection in the South. He believed that slaves would have little difficulty overpowering their masters, because they would be facing women and children, not men. Virtually all Southern men were away, fighting, leaving their families as easy targets for emboldened slaves. Lincoln was gambling that the Proclamation would be enough to push Southern slaves into widespread revolt, allowing them to gain their freedom and then rush to help the Union cause against their former oppressors.

It didn't happen that way. Southern slaves did not revolt against their masters, although they could have done so easily enough. Lincoln, and Yankees in general, did not understand the South at all. Northern opinion of the South was based largely on the fiction of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which Yankees mistakenly considered an accurate portrayal of conditions in the South. When Union soldiers entered the South they were shocked to find that it was nothing like the Yankee propaganda they had been spoon-fed.

Most Southern slaves wanted nothing to do with Yankees or their army. Union troops resorted to taking slaves by force to use essentially as their own slaves. Slaves in the Union Army were not paid, at first at least, nor was there any assistance for their families they were forced to abandon. Slave families suffered tremendously at the hands of their Yankee "liberators". They had not suffered until the despised Yankees arrived. Blacks in the Union army were treated harshly, as well. Yankee racism was raging stronger than ever.

Initial reaction to the Proclamation in the North was violent. Freeing slaves was most certainly not what Yankees had been fighting for, and they were most disinclined to

begin now. Even those who didn't particularly care for the *peculiar institution* didn't consider it worth risking their lives over. Quite the contrary. As long as blacks were mostly confined to the South, Yankees didn't have to worry about free blacks trying to take their jobs away from them.

White immigrant mobs had for decades been assaulting what few blacks there were in Northern cities. Race riots broke out in New York City, with whites attacking, and sometimes killing, all blacks they happened to encounter. They were protesting not only the Proclamation but also Lincoln's new conscription law that had gone into effect in Mar 1863. Lincoln's mandatory draft applied only to whites, and only to those whites who could not come up with the $300 price of avoiding it. They are the ones who formed the hostile mobs. Lincoln's solution, as always, was to rely on federal troops to crush resistance to his will. Five regiments, fresh from Gettysburg, killed between 300 and 1000 citizens.

We have the following eyewitness account of the situation in New York City from Colonel Arthur Freemantle, British emissary to the Confederacy. He was just about to return to London after observing Robert E Lee's army in the Battle of Gettysburg.

The reports of outrages, hangings, and murder, were now most alarming, the terror and anxiety were universal. All shops were shut: all carriages and omnibuses had ceased running. No colored man or woman was visible or safe in the streets, or even in his own dwelling. Telegraphs were cut, and railroad tracks torn up. The draft was suspended, and the mob evidently had the upper hand.

The people who can't pay $300 naturally hate being forced to fight in order to liberate the very race who they are most anxious should be slaves. It is their direct interest not only that all slaves should remain slaves, but that the free Northern Negroes who compete with them for labor should be sent to the South also.

Fremantle inquired of a bystander what the Negroes had done that they should want to kill them, and received this reply: Oh sir, they hate them here; they are the innocent cause of all these troubles.

Recall Lincoln's words from his First Inaugural Address: Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy. It wasn't secession that sparked anarchy. It was Lincoln. Many Union troops were anarchists during the war, many Union representatives were anarchists during Reconstruction, and white Yankee citizens were anarchists as well in New York City in the summer of 1863.

But why at that particular time? The Proclamation had been issued in Jan and the conscription policy began in Mar. Why did whites wait until summer to exercise their hostility? Because prior to Jul 11 Yankees had been counting on Democrat Party officials to intervene for them and protect them from the draft. Once it became clear that Democrats couldn't or wouldn't save them, Republicans became fair targets also.

Violent mobs attacked police and affluent Republicans as well as blacks. Rioters tore through expensive Republican homes on Lexington Avenue and took -- or more often destroyed -- pictures with gilt frames, elegant pier glasses, sofas, chairs, clocks, furniture of every kind. They set fire to an orphanage for black children, and began attacking black men and boys in the tenement district along the downtown waterfront.

Anti-Republicanism remained the refrain of the violence as crowds returned to [Horace] Greeley's *Tribune* office and set the building on fire. A mob hanged a black man named William Jones and burned his body. Racially inspired Yankee anarchists continued their campaign of violent murders for almost a week.

Some 120,000 whites managed to evade conscription by coming up with the $300. Another 90,000 fled to Canada. Thousands more hid out in the mountains of Pennsylvania. At least 200,000 Union soldiers deserted. They believed that the

Proclamation had changed the purpose of the war, they felt betrayed, and they were not willing to fight for emancipation of slaves.

Union officers were frequently heard saying things like: If emancipation is to be the policy of this war . . . I do not care how quick the country goes to pot. A Massachusetts sergeant wrote in a letter: If anyone thinks that this army is fighting to free the Negro . . . they are terribly mistaken. One officer said: I don't want to fire another shot for the Negroes and I wish that all the abolitionists were in hell . . . I do not fight or want to fight for Lincoln's Negro proclamation one day longer.

Enlistment rates took a dive, as did subscriptions to war bonds, even with sharply declining prices. Clearly, Yankees were not buying into the Great Emancipator hoax. And wisely so. While Lincoln was no emancipator at all, there were a number of worldwide *great emancipator*s. After 3000 years of unchallenged slavery, abolitionist movements sprang up all over the world in the late 18th century. While the abolitionists in America represented only about 2% of the population, and were quite ineffective overall, the first substantial movement was organized in England just before the American Revolution. By 1888, Brazil had accomplished emancipation, thus effectively ending institutionalized slavery in the Americas.

Worldwide (with the exception of the US) emancipation was motivated by religion, philosophy, and economics. Quakers led the abolitionist charge, because they believed that slavery was offensive to God. The Enlightenment promoted individual rights and equality under the law. The Industrial Revolution exposed the inherent inefficiency of slave labor. Since slaves do not directly benefit from working more productively, improving efficiency, or acquiring new skills, they are not motivated to do any of those things. Free laborers are rewarded for such improvements, and thus they are motivated to become more productive and efficient. New and improved machines began to make slave labor unnecessary and undesirable. Economist Ludwig von Mises summarized

the situation this way: Servile labor disappeared because it could not stand the competition of free labor; its profitability sealed its doom in the market economy.

Therefore, slave owners were increasingly motivated to free their slaves. Governments were increasingly motivated to find peaceful solutions to the slavery problem, and they were successful throughout the world, with the notable exception of the US. The only violent slave uprising occurred in Haiti, in 1794. There was violence associated with emancipation in a few countries, such as Columbia and Venezuela, but that was because revolutionaries used emancipation as a means of gaining power. In fact, that describes the situation in the US as well, only the violence here was several orders of magnitude greater than the skirmishes in those countries. Lincoln was conducting a revolution with the express purpose of gaining power for himself and for the federal government at the expense of the Constitution, states' rights, and individual liberties.

Only in the US was war closely aligned with the abolition movement, and even then emancipation was merely an afterthought, a military and political ploy. The Great Emancipator did not free a single slave. The 13th Amendment accomplished that, months after Lincoln's assassination. The Great Emancipator couldn't manage to accomplish what government leaders throughout the world had already achieved -- peaceful emancipation. The Great Emancipator myth is perhaps one of the most insidious lies ever sold to the American people.

The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, and the Lincoln face in Mt Rushmore should be viewed as symbols of the everlasting shame and disgrace Lincoln inflicted on US citizens. Anyone who continues to blather about Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, the Gold Standard of American leadership, etc, is inexcusably ignorant of American history, or is unpardonably a despicable liar. Either way, historians who continue to revere Lincoln and make lame, bizarre, absurd excuses for his tyranny do America a great disservice. That includes you, Bill O'Reilly.

Why was Lincoln unable to follow the example of other national leaders? Why was he so unwilling to even try to emulate their success? How did they manage to pull it off in other countries? They had succeeded through either manumission (where slaveholders voluntarily free their slaves), or through a program of compensated emancipation. Typically, an emancipation law was legally enacted, providing for the freedom of children of slaves after a specified date. Usually that specified date was the child's 18th, 21st, or 28th birthday.

Under such arrangements, slaveholders suffered no loss on existing male slaves or on female slaves who were already past their childbearing years. Having control over the services of a newly-born child until his or her twenty-first or twenty-eighth birthday meant that most, if not all, of the costs of rearing such slaves would be covered by the income they earned between the onset of their productive years and the date of their emancipation . . . In other words, gradual abolition imposed an average cost on slaveholders . . . quite close to zero.[4]

The English were a bit impatient, so they *got-er-done* in only six years. All slaves in the British Empire had been freed by 1840. How did they pull that off? They paid slave owners about 40% of the value of their slaves. That must have been a substantial chunk of change, but the Brits felt it was worth it.

This is a list of countries that achieved peaceful emancipation between 1813 and 1886:

- 1813 Argentina
- 1814 Columbia
- 1823 Chile
- 1824 Central America
- 1829 Mexico
- 1831 Bolivia
- 1842 Uruguay

[4] Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman.

- 1848 French and Danish Colonies
- 1851 Ecuador
- 1854 Peru and Venezuela
- 1863 Dutch colonies
- 1873 Puerto Rico
- 1878 Brazil
- 1886 Cuba

Why didn't Lincoln at least consider a program similar to that used by the British? Chances are great that some sort of reasonable deal could have been negotiated between the North and the South to bring slavery to a rapid and peaceful conclusion in America. Sure, it would have cost a lot of money. But so did the Civil War. The North's share of the cost of the war was about $3.3 billion, according to one estimate. For that, the North could have easily compensated every slaveholder, and provided each freed slave with 40 acres of land and a mule.

That's strictly the money cost of the war. In addition, 650,000 Americans would not have been slaughtered if Lincoln had been anywhere near the great statesman for which he gets credit. The Constitution would still be the foundation of our American democratic republic. Individual liberties would have been preserved, and states' rights would still be a fundamental element of our form of government.

There are lots of other approaches Lincoln could have tried. He could have allowed the South to freely exercise their constitutional and natural right of secession. While it would have doubtlessly imposed some short-term inconveniences on both sections, it also would have achieved some very substantial benefits to the North. For one thing, the issue of extending slavery into the territories would have been solved. The South no longer had any interest in that.

For another, with no Southern states left in the US Congress to block legislation or Constitutional amendments, the North could have quickly and easily achieved total emancipation throughout the Union. That wouldn't have included Southern slaves, but it would have freed the thousands of slaves in border states and the territories. And it would have clearly placed the North on the moral high road in the eyes of the rest of the world.

Slavery was already breaking down in the border states, primarily for economic reasons, but also because of growing political support for peaceful emancipation. If Lincoln had supported those efforts, it would have easily been accomplished in no time. He at times paid lip service to those efforts, but his heart wasn't in it. The Confederacy made several peace proposals during the war, but Lincoln refused to even consider them.

The North could have opened their states up to newly freed slaves and escaped slaves from the South. Instead of enforcing their Black Codes, they could have shed their racist policies and attitudes and welcomed free blacks with open arms. They could have covertly (or maybe even overtly) worked to extend and expand the reach and effectiveness of reasonable abolitionists in the South. One way of doing that would have been by vigorously supporting the Underground Railroad.

The North could have brought tremendous international pressure to bear on the Confederate states to quickly end slavery there, just as the rest of the world had done. No major country would have wanted to trade with the Confederacy, because they did not want to be perceived as the nation willing to support institutionalized slavery. Diplomatic pressure and economic sanctions could have had a significant impact on the South.

The North and South would still have cooperated on strategic matters that were in both their best interests, including national defense and trade. The North would have been in

a much stronger position economically, and they could have used trade agreements as both positive and negative incentives for the South to abandon slavery and rejoin the Union. Had Yankees conducted themselves according to constitutional principles, the South would soon enough have wanted to rejoin the Union and the North would have been worthy of a reunited nation.

Lincoln was unwilling to pursue peaceful emancipation in America, because he did not want peaceful emancipation in America. Neither did his Yankee constituents. As Lincoln himself often confessed, his goal was to *preserve the Union*, which was nothing more than a euphemism for consolidating power in the federal government, while destroying the Constitution, states' rights, individual liberties, and 650,000 lives in the process. He was perfectly willing to try to use the abolition movement to his political and military advantage, but he refused to align himself with abolitionists, because abolition was the last thing he and all Yankees wanted, with the possible exception of a small minority of dedicated abolitionists.

That's the true story of the Great Emancipator. He was neither great, nor was he an emancipator. He was a ruthless tyrant hell-bent on amassing power for himself and the federal government, regardless of the cost in terms of money, morals, laws, the Constitution, individual liberties, or American lives. He was just another of the bloodthirsty dictators that has always littered world history. We know such evil men have consistently inflicted their will on the victims of other countries throughout history. But it wasn't supposed to happen here. The Constitution was designed to avoid that very thing. Thanks to Lincoln, the power of military force prevailed over the rule of law in America. We will never again be a constitutional democratic republic.

Abraham Lincoln was not the Great Emancipator. He was the Great Eviscerator.

With Charity for All

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Those are Abraham Lincoln's final words in his Second Inaugural Address, shortly before the end of the war and AL's assassination. It certainly sounds conciliatory, but so had his First Inaugural Address just before he invaded the South and began his campaign of Southern cultural genocide. Drafting eloquent speeches was never much of a challenge for him. He had even managed to sound like a saint at Gettysburg -- an impossible task for mere mortal politicians.

There is little reason to think these words were any less hollow than all his other speeches. On the other hand, there is one possible reason to think Lincoln may have taken a less belligerent stance during Reconstruction than he had during the war. It was probably in his best interest to try to appease the South. That's because the sooner they were able to pick up the pieces and start getting on with their lives, the sooner they would be able to return to their position as the North's cash cow. A relatively contented people tend to be more productive and malleable.

We will never know, because Lincoln was killed before he could begin that process. And in death, he became a martyr, a heroic figure, no matter how brutal his regime had been the last four years of his reign of terror. The Republican Party was emboldened even more than ever, because Lincoln had dramatically expanded the powers of the federal government, and he had gotten by with it.

The South was in no position to quarrel with the North's version of the war, and the North certainly had no motivation to tell the truth. No one in the nation was inclined to speak ill of a slain president, especially given the fact that all those who may have been bold enough to do so were already dead or were rotting in prison.

That placed the North in total control of the South. The bloodied, battered, shattered South was totally at the North's mercy. The North took full advantage of their unrestrained authority, launching an unprecedented power trip, compliments of their helpless victims. They set up puppet governments in the Southern states, denied suffrage to anyone who had been remotely connected with the war, and extended suffrage to all blacks and to Yankees who had been sent there to take charge of the conquered territory.

Giving blacks the right to vote sounds like a very noble thing to do. But it wasn't, and here's why. Blacks were nowhere near ready to suddenly assume the role of responsible voters. They were not educated; they, for the most part, had no job and no prospect of getting one; and they were not welcomed into the Northern states. What jobs were available there were not available to blacks. Emancipated slaves had no idea what to do with their sudden freedom, and they quickly realized that their "freedom" was a far more oppressive form of bondage than slavery had been.

Slavery had at least provided food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and someone to take care of them. Now they were suddenly pawns to be exploited by Yankees, who had no regard for their welfare, and no programs to help their transition from slavery to citizenship. Yankees bribed former slaves to register to vote by promising them land that had been taken from whites. There were Yankees to make sure all blacks voted, Yankees to tell blacks who to vote for, and Yankees at all voting sites to make sure blacks voted the way they were supposed to. And there were Yankees to make sure no black ever got the land they had been promised.

According to CivilGate spin, this massive Southern voter-registration drive among blacks was a noble crusade for social and racial equality. Why, then, did the states of Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Kansas refuse to allow blacks to vote in 1867 and 1868? Why were Yankees not campaigning to extend suffrage to women? The least educated black man could vote in the South, but the most educated woman could not. Yankees yearning for social equality would have addressed that gross, glaring inequality, wouldn't they? Women didn't win the right to vote until 1920.

According to CivilGate myth, Reconstruction was a process of healing the wounds of war, establishing a just peace, and bringing the country back to some sense of normalcy. In fact, it was a time of even greater concentration of power in the federal government, exploitation and complete domination of Southerners, including liberated blacks, and development of a Republican Party strong enough to dominate American politics until Franklin Roosevelt's reign, at which time Democrats proved to be even more statist than Republicans had been.[5]

Sitting governors were thrown in prison without trial. They were replaced by Yankee military dictators, who convened mock constitutional conventions to repeal the secession ordinances of 1860-1861. That seems strange, since, according to Lincoln, those ordinances never had any Constitutional validity in the first place. So, why go to the bother of repealing something that meant nothing? It's further proof of Lincoln's fraud.

President Johnson was unwilling to go along with some of the worst federal intrusions into state government. For example, he vetoed the Civil Rights Bill of 1866, because it federalized law enforcement. Johnson had nothing against civil rights, and that's why he opposed such an unconstitutional law that threatened everyone's civil rights. Congress overrode his veto and declared political war on Johnson.

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[5] RLD, p200-218

Political office was at first the exclusive domain of white men. It was several years before blacks were allowed to hold any public office. Candidates were required to swear allegiance to the Republican Party. Any local public official who failed to toe the Republican Party line was purged by the military. By the end of Reconstruction (1877), federal military authorities had replaced the entire municipal government of every Southern city of significant size with their own Republican Party men.

By 1868, 10 of the 14 US Senators, 20 of the 35 Representatives, and 4 of the 7 governors were Yankee Republicans. They understood nothing about their constituents. They had never even met them until after the war. Civil law meant nothing in the South, because occupying military authorities could overrule any law and impose its own rules.

Southerners grew ever more weary of their second-class status, at best. Blacks and whites were intentionally forced to work at odds against each other, cultivating the racist distrust and hatred that had flourished in the North before the war. State governments, run by Republican political operatives, plundered the South for more than a decade. As if conditions weren't bad enough, Southerners faced oppressive taxes which enriched Yankees instead of helping the South.

Prior to the war, Alexis de Tocqueville had observed that race relations were better in the South than in the North. That changed during Reconstruction, because Republicans used former slaves as political pawns, allies in the Yankee campaign of plundering the South. Blacks received very little in return from Republicans, and they received resentment and hostility from white Southern victims. The Ku Klux Klan was formed to intimidate blacks into not voting. Had it not been for Republican corruption during Reconstruction, the KKK would likely never have been formed, and racial tension that exists even today would have been avoided.

We can hardly blame any of this on Lincoln, can we? This all happened after his death. It is still on Lincoln's hands, because the Republican Party was simply following Lincoln's lead. Dictator Lincoln had paved the way, and he had shown Republicans how to do things in his tyrannical image. He had shown them how to abandon Constitutional principles, civil law, and normal parameters of human decency. It was no longer Lincoln's boot on the Southern throat, but the Republican Party that now enjoyed a monopoly of political power was simply following in their martyr's footsteps.

How did Republicans use their unlimited power? By heavily taxing Southern citizens, for one thing. Those citizens had no vote, so they were at the mercy of people who did have the vote, and who also had the political connections to avoid the tax burden they created. Much of that tax money was applied to a public school system, which guaranteed that Southern (and Northern) children would never be taught the truth about the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. Which helps explain why even today most Americans accept that secession was treason.

Republicans also used their power monopoly to provide taxpayer subsidies to the favored corporations who bankrolled the Party. Railroad subsidies alone accounted for $132 million in Southern state debt between 1866 and 1877. Bonds were often sold before work began, resulting in debt for railroads that were never built. Railroads that were wholly or partially owned by states were notoriously mismanaged and were exploited for political profit. It was no coincidence that there was a strong correlation between Southern state debt and Republican prosperity.

The Southern state legislative process was fueled by fraud and bribery. The federal government was corrupt as well. For example, the feds established a Land Commission tasked with buying properties and converting them to Southern homesteads for former slaves. But the vast majority of the land went to men with strong Republican Party connections, and to front men for mining and timber companies. For example, Robert K

Scott, the Republican puppet governor of South Carolina, helped himself to Land Commission property.

Republican leaders in Southern state legislatures openly sold their votes daily, usually for close to $300 per vote. Black legislators in Florida were offered lower bribes than their white counterparts, so blacks convened a Black Caucus and fixed their bribery rates at roughly the same as those of white legislators. Railroad companies provided a bountiful bribery harvest. Alabama was especially hard-hit, as capital was driven out of the state, industries became paralyzed, labor was demoralized, and Alabama's best citizens were forced to leave their state.

Even under such economic devastation, federal officials placed an oppressive 5-cent tax per pound on cotton, forcing many cotton growers out of business. Even worse, a military order required anyone who had sold cotton to the Confederacy during the war to turn their entire cotton inventory over to the federal government. Hundreds of Treasury agents backed by armed US troops fanned out through the South, confiscating cotton. Most of the revenue ended up in the pockets of Treasury agents, not in the US Treasury. Many of the agents were nothing but con men who threatened to seize a man's property unless he paid a heavy bribe.

Following Lincoln's example during the war, Yankees in the South subsidized Republican newspapers and sometimes granted them monopoly power in their town. Opposition newspapers were, in effect, either censored or shut down, just as they had been under Lincoln's reign of terror.

It took more than a century for the South to recover from Lincoln's charity for all. Southerners did manage to put up some resistance to Northern statist policies and programs, but by the turn of the century, American government had fundamentally changed. Its antebellum role had been the protection of individual liberty. It's postbellum role was statist domestic policies and an imperialist international agenda.

> All race antagonism [in the South] came from the carpetbaggers using the Negro votes to get their fingers into the Treasury.
> -- Gen Donn Piatt, close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln.

There continues to be a cyclical ebb and flow between the competing philosophies of Hamilton and Jefferson, but America will never be as Jeffersonian as we were before Lincoln. There is a natural tendency for nations to drift toward statism, and it is almost impossible to go back the other way significantly.

The faster we embrace a statist America, the less time it will take to reach the end of our political evolution. There will come a day when New Yorkers and Bostonians feel the boot of a foreign power on their collective throat, just as the South felt the boot of Abraham Lincoln on theirs. That day is rapidly approaching, and all the more so because the din of American self-indulgence masks the march of approaching footsteps.

Death is Mercy

With their Civil War victory, Republican hegemony had been secured for decades.[6] At long last, the old Whig Party, long thwarted and stymied by Southerners, states' rights, and the Constitution, had emerged victorious over all of those, reincarnated as Republicans, but still alive with the same old Henry Clay-inspired mercantilist agenda.[7]

Drunk with new power, Gen Ulysses S Grant was, by the middle of 1865, eager to invade Mexico. He sent Gen Phil Sheridan to Texas to assemble a large force on the Rio Grande. But that invasion didn't materialize. Next, the federal government focused its antagonism on the British, who had traded with the South during the war. Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner led the charge to force the British to pay *reparations* for that trade. The US covertly sent bands of Irish Americans to invade Canada, but they were quickly turned back. A third war with England was close to becoming a reality.

Frustrated, Republicans just had to pick a fight with somebody. They had almost carte blanch power to do whatever they wanted to do, and what they wanted to do was bully someone like they had bullied the South. They missed the fun and excitement of killing people. They missed the thrill of making people suffer. They were itching for a fight, and they wouldn't stop until they found someone to pick on.

It turned out that the answer was right under their upturned Yankee noses all along. Of course! The Plains Indians. They were living on land that was needed for railroads. Who did they think they were, getting in the way of American progress, especially Republican progress. Native Americans still hadn't gotten over the silly notion that their land actually

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[6] RLD, p218-225

[7] See *Lincoln's Legacy* (p6601).

belonged to them, and they had a right to live on it as they pleased. Well, the South used to think that way too, and how did that work out for them?

In July 1865, Gen Grant ordered Gen William Tecumseh Sherman to begin a campaign of ethnic genocide against the Plains Indians. When James J Hill had built his Great Northern Railroad, he did so without government subsidies, and he paid for rights-of-way across Indian land. But the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads preferred to do things the Republican way -- let the taxpayers pay expenses, and let the government get the Indians out of the way. The government obligingly passed federal railroad subsidies, and they killed or confined to reservations all Indians by 1890. The Railroads, in return, gratefully and generously subsidized the Republican Party. And a great time was had by all. Except for Indians and the American taxpayers, but they didn't count in the land of Lincoln.

> We are not going to let a few thieving, ragged Indians check and stop the progress of the railroads. We must act with vindictive earnestness against the Sioux, even to their extermination, men women and children.
> -- Gen Sherman to Gen Grant, 1866

Sherman's new assignment was accepted with all the zeal and enthusiasm of his campaign of cultural genocide and ethnic cleansing against the defenseless women and children of the South. In fact, Indians and Southerners were pretty much the same to Sherman -- they were both impeding the Republican agenda, and they therefore had earned no rights and deserved no mercy. He had once told secessionists that death is mercy. Of course, he meant secessionist death, not Yankee death. Well, he could now make that secessionist or Indian death. It was Sherman and his buddy Gen Phil Sheridan who issued a joint statement with the familiar phrase: The

> During an assault [on an Indian village] the soldiers can not pause to distinguish between male and female, or even discriminate as to age. As long as resistance is made, death must be meted out.
> -- Sherman's instructions to his army.

only good Indian is a dead Indian. The word *Indian* and the word *secessionist* were interchangeable in that context.

Conjuring up his best Lincoln imitation, Sherman instructed West Point graduates to act with due regard to humanity and mercy in their dealings with Indians. Of course, what West Point graduates understood and most Americans did not is that Indians were *due* absolutely no humanity or mercy. Most of the generals who participated in the Indian wars shared Sherman's attitude toward Indians. Many of the 20th century's totalitarian rulers invoked the precedent of Lincoln, Grant, and Sherman, with their embrace of mass murder as a perfectly acceptable solution to all dissent, whether it came from Southerners, Indians, Mormons, or whoever got in their way. If it was okay for Lincoln, Grant, and Sherman, why was it not okay for any dictator anywhere to kill anyone who opposed them, or who might offer resistance?

> Sherman and Sheridan planned their attacks on Indian villages for the winter months, because they knew entire families would be together. In addition to efficiently exterminating Indian families, the US military killed all animals in the village to assure that any Indians who survived the raid would not survive much longer.

The US Army included units known as *Buffalo Soldiers*. They were hundreds of former slaves who had become so indoctrinated with Yankee hatred and passion for violence that they were willing to help subject another oppressed race to death or a concentration-camp existence on reservations.

Where did such extreme hatred come from? What was it that made Yankees so enthusiastic about inflicting violence and death on others? Part of it probably derived from the character of their ancestors who had settled in northern North America from England. To some extent, Yankees had always been that way, because that's how their parents and grandparents had been. Part of that character was a natural need for

greed. It seems that at the very core of what made Yankees tick was a natural, profound sense of self-entitlement, greed, and a highly inflated sense of self-worth. Low self esteem was never a problem for Yankees. If you find all that difficult to believe, consider this . . .

Lincoln and Sherman had formed a strong bond that predated the Civil War. That bond was based on their involvement with the railroad industry. They had both been friends of Grenville Dodge, the chief engineer of the federally subsidized transcontinental railroads. Lincoln had been an attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad. Sherman had been the president of a bank that had invested in a railroad. Sherman lobbied his brother John, a US Senator, to support federal railroad subsidies. With victory in the Civil War, all their planning and scheming was finally about to pay off in a very big way. There was only one more small problem to deal with. Indians. The Plains Indians had to be exterminated, or as close to it as possible, to make way for federally subsidized railroads across Indian land.

It was those federally subsidized transcontinental railroads that lay at the heart of everything Lincoln and Sherman did. It was those federally subsidized transcontinental railroads that gave life to the Republican Party. That, along with the rest of the Alexander Hamilton / Whig / Henry Clay / Republican dream, including a nationalized banking system and protectionist tariffs.

It was greed that drove Lincoln and his generals in the Civil War. It was greed that drove Sherman in the Indian wars, which began just three months after Lee's surrender. And it was greed that eventually destroyed Grant's corrupt administration. Sherman was able to buy a huge swath of land near Omaha, Nebraska at less than one-third its market price. Credit Mobilier stock was given to several political operatives as bribes or payoffs for their contribution to Republican corruption.

For example, Credit Mobilier stock was given to Schuyler Colfax, former Speaker of the House, and later Grant's vice president. Such stock was also given to more than a dozen prominent Republican representatives. W W Belknap, Grant's Secretary of War, was forced to resign because he had accepted bribes. Belknap's private secretary, Orville Babcock, was a conspirator in a ring of stock swindlers. Grant's Treasury Secretary, W W Richardson, was involved in a tax swindle, and his ambassador to England, Robert Schenck, sold worthless American mining-company stock to unsuspecting Londoners.

It is ironic that Grant himself was apparently not personally involved in any of the corruption all around him. In fact, he was known as a man who hated greed and greedy people. It is extremely difficult to comprehend how it was, then, that he could have been so deeply committed to the Union cause that was driven by greed and greedy people, or how he could have not realized that he was swimming in an ocean of corruption throughout his presidency. Or how he could have been swindled out of all his personal savings, leaving him bankrupt at the end of his life.

Republicans may claim that they were no more corrupt than Democrats. That is an extremely pathetic excuse for their inexcusable corruption. For one thing, Republicans dominated American government and American politics. Democrats would prove themselves just as corrupt in later years, but it was Republicans who showed them how it was done and who set the stage for massive federal government corruption from the Civil War on.

How could a political party conceived by greed and corruption possibly do anything except give birth to a totally corrupt federal government? Republicans dramatically expanded the size and reach of the federal government at the expense of personal liberty, states' rights, and constitutional restraints. That was an absolute guarantee of a thoroughly corrupt federal government. That was the federal government many of the Framers had feared. It was the federal government the Constitution was designed to

prevent. It was the government the South desperately wanted to escape from before it could mature into its full potential for evil and oppression.

It's the government Hamilton had fought for and Jefferson had fought against. It's the government Whigs had dreamed of but could never achieve until they were reincarnated as Republicans. Neither Whigs nor Republicans ever had strong public support, so they turned to the patronage system for their source of power. A government based on patronage is inherently corrupt, and grows ever more so.

Anyone who somehow manages to cling to the shattered illusion that it was not greed but compassion for slaves that caused the Civil War must wonder why that Yankee compassion did not extend to Native Americans. In fact, they must wonder why that compassion for Southern slaves never even extended to freed blacks in the South.

Once unleashed, a government that is no longer responsive to the will or welfare of the people can never return to a government in which compassion extends to anyone outside its self-perpetuating machinery. Any appearance of compassion or genuine concern for taxpaying citizens is merely a political ploy for increasing its own power. The day will inevitably return when American citizens like you and me mean no more to our government leaders than the citizens of the South did during the Civil War and Reconstruction. No more than the lives of Native Americans meant to those who enriched themselves at taxpayer expense in the transcontinental railroad schemes of the Republican Party.

Please pardon my use of a particularly trite cliché. What goes around comes around. A corrupt government is a self-destructive government. Our American government leaders even now, for the most part, have nothing but contempt for American taxpayers. As long as we keep providing badly needed federal funds, we are useful idiots. When we begin to cost more than we produce, we are entirely expendable. When it comes to defending our country with our lives, it is our expendable lives and meager fortunes that are lost,

not those of government leaders or their family or their corporate sponsors. They always find ways of profiting while mere taxpayers are paying the ultimate price.

But when we go, our government leaders will have lost their support base, and they too will become entirely expendable to a new foreign incarnation of 1860s Republicans. That is when Abraham Lincoln's political descendants will discover for themselves that death is mercy.

White Supremacist In Chief

Because of CivilGate propaganda portraying Abraham Lincoln as the Great Emancipator, it is very difficult to accept the fact that Lincoln was actually a white supremacist, and his racist views were closely aligned with virtually all Yankees, except for a few abolitionists.[8] Not all abolitionists, because many of the folks who advocated emancipation also supported the colonization projects -- rounding up all blacks and shipping them off to Africa or Central America, or some island somewhere. Anywhere but America. Many abolitionists didn't want slavery, but they also did not want free blacks living in the Northern states. That was white-man territory, exclusively. So, even many abolitionists were racists and white supremacists.

How do we know Yankees were white supremacists? It's not just the wild-eyed accusation of a bitter Southerner somewhere. We know, in part, from Lincoln's own words. For example, he said this during a debate with Stephen Douglas in Ottawa, Illinois, 1858:

I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and black races. There is a physical difference between the two, which, in my judgment, will probably forever forbid their living together upon the footing of perfect equality; and inasmuch as it becomes a necessity that there must be a difference, I, as well as Judge Douglas, am in favor of the race to which I belong having the superior position. I have never said anything to the contrary.

He also said this regarding emancipation:

[8] RLD, p10-32

Free them, and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this . . . We cannot, then, make them equals.

He makes it clear that he supports the right of slaveholders to own their slaves as property, and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, requiring Yankees to assist the federal government in returning runaway slaves to their masters:

When they remind us of their constitutional rights [to own slaves], I acknowledge them, not grudgingly but fully and fairly; and I would give them any legislation for the reclaiming of their fugitives.

Yankees despised the law. Not because they felt it was unjust toward slaves, but because it was a great inconvenience to them to suddenly be forced to drop whatever they were doing and assist law enforcement personnel capture runaways so they would be returned to their masters. The Fugitive Slave Act was not a radical new concept. It was based on the Constitution, Article I, Section 9, paragraph 1. It had been upheld by the US Supreme Court and by every state in the North.

Lincoln's views reflected those of virtually all Yankees, including those of his political idol, Henry Clay, who believed in opposition to slavery in principle, toleration of slavery in practice, and vigorous opposition to abolitionists. That goes a long way toward explaining the frequent apparent glaring inconsistencies between Lincoln's own statements, and between what Lincoln and Clay said and what they did.

For example, when delivering his eulogy to Clay in Springfield, Illinois, July 6, 1852, Lincoln pointed out that they shared a deep devotion to the cause of human liberty. Which is difficult to believe, given the fact that Clay owned slaves, and Lincoln got the

Corwin Amendment[9] rolling. How did they rationalize the obvious contradiction? Lincoln explains:

[Clay] did not perceive, as I think no wise man has perceived, how [slavery] could be at once eradicated, without producing a greater evil, even to the cause of human liberty itself.

That is pretty much the same approach our founding fathers had taken from the very beginning of America. They acknowledged that slavery was a great evil, and it contradicted the basic principles of the Declaration of Independence, as well as their sense of morality, virtue, and human compassion and decency. Yet somehow they were able to convince themselves that abolition was even worse. That's why Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, owned slaves and refused to grant them their freedom, even at his death. That's why slavery was tolerated for so long by our elected leaders.

That's why Abraham Lincoln could make an eloquent speech at Gettysburg, saying how much he respected the principle of all men being created equal, yet bitterly oppose abolitionists. That's why throughout his 23-year legal career, trying thousands of cases of all kinds, he never once defended a runaway slave. That's why he could make lofty speeches condemning the institution of slavery, yet strongly support black colonization movements.

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[9] That Constitutional amendment would have made slavery legal throughout the US, and it would have prohibited any Congressional legislation or future Constitutional amendment from ever overturning the Corwin Amendment. Lincoln had instructed one of his Congressional allies to get the measure passed in both houses, then send it to the states for ratification. It had already been ratified by three states, but not Southern states, who wanted nothing to do with it. It stalled when the war started. Otherwise, it may well have become the 13th Amendment instead of the one we have today.

But self-contradiction was a basic Lincoln character trait that was amply demonstrated in almost every topic he discussed. As a very successful lawyer and master politician, he was a highly polished and eloquent speaker, accustomed to saying whatever he thought any particular audience wanted to hear. In practice, his lofty prose rarely coincided with his actions. He was well practiced at saying one thing to one audience, then the opposite to another audience, with his actions not necessarily corresponding to anything he said.

> Lincoln was a master politician, which means that he was a consummate conniver, manipulator, and liar.
> -- Murray Rothbard

Lincoln was, in fact, a pathological liar -- incapable of stopping his lies, and probably unable to distinguish truth from lies throughout his political career. So, how do we know what Lincoln really believed? By his actions, not by his words. Just read his First Inaugural Address. Almost everything he said in that speech was very quickly contradicted by his actions. But even his actions must be understood in their proper context.

Does the fact that the slaves were freed after the war was over prove Lincoln's compassion for blacks and his readiness to embrace them as equals into Yankee culture and society? Doesn't the Emancipation Proclamation prove that, also? No, absolutely not. The Proclamation did not free a single slaved, nor was it even designed to. There are many things Lincoln could have done to end the institution of slavery right away, at least in the Union. But he didn't even try to do any of those things. Instead he devoted much time and energy to promoting the Corwin Amendment and colonization projects.

Lincoln did not free the slaves. The 13th Amendment freed the slaves. It was ratified and placed into effect in December, 1865, months after Lincoln's assassination. It was overwhelmingly ratified by the Southern states, so they did much more to free the

slaves than Lincoln ever did. Was that because the South had no choice, because they were coerced by the North into ratifying? One could easily jump to that conclusion, except for one thing. The Southern states bitterly opposed the 14th Amendment. It was only after a series of illegal, unconstitutional, irrational shenanigans by Northern politicians that the 14th Amendment was declared effective, even though it never was legally ratified.

Lincoln and the Republican Party did strongly oppose allowing Southerners to take their slaves with them into the territories. But again, that was not for the benefit of slaves. It was for the benefit of whites. Yankees did not want blacks, slave or free, settling in the territories, because that was exclusively white-man's land, just as were the Northern states. They did not want blacks competing for white jobs. They wanted blacks to stay in the South, where they belonged. Either that, or they wanted them all deported from the US. Colonization was Lincoln's only solution to slavery, and he never gave up on it.

According to Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Seward:

The motive of those who protested against the extension of slavery had always really been concern for the welfare of the white man, and not an unnatural sympathy for the Negro.

This from Horace Greeley, *New York Tribune* editor, and a staunch Republican:

All the unoccupied territory . . . shall be preserved for the benefit of the white Caucasian race -- a thing which cannot be except by the exclusion of slavery.

Lyman Trumbull, US Senator from Illinois, Lincoln confidant:

We, the Republican Party, are the white man's party. We are for the free white man, and for making white labor acceptable and honorable, which it can never be when Negro slave labor is brought into competition with it.

When we say that all men are created equal, we do not mean that every man in organized society has the same rights. We don't tolerate that in Illinois.

Gotta love that bizarre Yankee logic. What, then, did Yankees think the phrase did mean? If being *created equal* does not translate into being afforded equal civil rights and liberty, in what sense are blacks created equal to whites? Trumbull also agreed that colonization was the best solution to the race problem. And he vowed that he would never consent to Negro equality on any terms.

Historian Eugene Berwanger:

[Throughout the 1860 campaign] Republicans made no pretense of being concerned with the fate of the Negro and insisted that theirs was a party of white labor. By introducing a note of white supremacy, they hoped to win the votes of the Negro-phobes and the anti-abolitionists who were opposed to the extension of slavery. [Republican Party leaders --] especially from the Middle West -- made it sufficiently clear that they had no intention of uplifting the Negro or equalizing his place in society.

Mr Berwanger also wrote in *North of Slavery* that as of 1860:

In virtually every phase of existence [in the North], Negroes found themselves systematically separated from whites. They were either excluded from railway cars, omnibuses, stagecoaches, and steamboats or assigned to special "Jim Crow" sections; they sat, when permitted, in secluded and remote corners of theaters and lecture halls; they could not enter most hotels, restaurants, and resorts, except as servants; they prayed in "Negro pews" in the white churches, and if partaking of the sacrament of the

Lord's Supper, they waited until the whites had been served the bread and wine. Moreover, they were often educated in segregated schools, punished in segregated prisons, nursed in segregated hospitals, and buried in segregated cemeteries . . . racial prejudice haunts its victim wherever he goes.

Hard as it may be to believe today, the racist attitudes and widespread segregation that are always associated with the postbellum South were found in the antebellum North, not in the South. CivilGate propagandists are happy to expose postbellum Southern racism and segregation, but Yankees don't want you to know that they are the ones who took that racism with them into the South during Reconstruction. The South learned about segregation and racism from the North.

Alexis de Tocqueville stated in *Democracy in America* that:

The prejudice of race appears to be stronger in the states that have abolished slavery than in those where it still exists; and nowhere is it so intolerant as in those states where servitude has never been known.

He also said that in the North, if laws did not discriminate against blacks, then popular prejudices did. Northern Blacks were not allowed to marry, vote, or use the judicial system. During the 1850s Yankees discriminated against blacks in cruel and inhumane ways. Black Codes existed in the North decades before they were enacted in the South after Reconstruction (1865-1877).

Let's look at the *Revised Code of Indiana*, for example. Negroes and mulattos were not allowed to enter the state, and the ones already there were not allowed to vote, testify in court against white people, send their children to public schools, or hold any political office. All contracts with Negroes were null and void. Any white person encouraging blacks to enter the state was subject to a $500 fine. No one having even one-eighth Negro blood could marry a white person, subject to a $5000 fine and ten years in

prison. Any person who counseled or encouraged interracial marriage faced a fine of up to $1000.

Similar laws were in effect in virtually every Northern state by 1860. When Virginia statesman John Randolph freed 518 slaves and tried to relocate them in Ohio, an Ohio congressman threatened to send armed men to greet them at the border and prevent them from entering his state.

It wasn't just slaves that Yankees were determined to keep out of the territories. They didn't want free blacks settling there, either. If blacks were allowed entrance at all, they were required to post a bond of up to $1000, which would be forfeited for "bad behavior". According to an 1853 Illinois law, violators could be whipped, hired out, or sold into slavery.

Prior to 1861, the federal government required every new state or territory to deny suffrage to blacks. The only Northern states which allowed blacks to vote were Massachusetts (the only Northern state that allowed blacks to serve as jurors), New Hampshire, Vermont, and Main, but they accounted for only 6% of free blacks in the North, and they were often too intimidated to even go to the polls. As of 1860, 94% of Northern blacks were not allowed to vote. New Jersey and Connecticut went to the trouble of amending their constitutions in the 1840s to deny suffrage to blacks.

Illinois, Indiana, and Oregon also amended their constitutions (by huge margins) to prevent blacks from settling there. Lincoln had no problem with that, and he supported all Illinois laws that denied blacks basic rights and freedoms. Illinois Senator Lyman Trumbull said:

There is a great aversion in the West -- I know it to be so in my State -- against having free Negroes come among us. Our people want nothing to do with the Negro.

The state of New York overwhelmingly rejected an 1860 proposal to allow black suffrage, and they continued to reject similar proposals as late as 1869. Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin overwhelmingly rejected such proposals between 1849 and 1857.

Northern labor unions fought hard for laws and regulations preventing blacks from competing for jobs, which they considered the rightful exclusive domain of whites. Unions did not allow black members, and they fought hard against abolition. According to one Connecticut union official:

Unless the legislature adopted appropriate entry restrictions . . . the sons of Connecticut would soon be driven from the state by the great influx of black porters, black truckmen, black sawyers, black mechanics, and black laborers of every description.

That reflected the attitude of virtually all white Yankees, and every Northern state legislature considered similar measures, depriving blacks of economic liberties. Blacks were often victims of mob violence, especially from Irish immigrants, who considered themselves extremely vulnerable to black competition for jobs.

White supremacist attitudes were also expressed in Northern newspapers. From the *Philadelphia Daily News*, Nov 22, 1860:

It is neither for the good of the colored race nor of our own that they should continue to dwell among us to any considerable extent. The two races can never exist in conjunction except a superior and inferior . . . the African is naturally the inferior race.

The *Republican*, Niles, Michigan, Mar 30, 1861: This government was made for the benefit of the white race . . . and not for Negroes. The *Daily Chicago Times*, Dec 7, 1860: Evil and nothing but evil has ever followed in the track of this hideous monster, abolition . . . Let [the slave] alone -- send him back to his master where he belongs. The *Providence Daily Post*, Feb 2, 1861: We have no more right to meddle with slavery in

Georgia than we have to meddle with monarchy in Europe. The *Columbus Crisis*, Ohio, Feb 7, 1861: We are not abolitionists nor in favor of Negro equality.

The *New York Herald*,[10] Mar 7, 1861: The immense increase in the numbers [of slaves] within so short a time speaks for the good treatment and happy, contented lot of the [Southern] slaves. They are comfortably fed, housed and clothed, and seldom or never overworked.[11] The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, in support of Lincoln's colonization plans, Mar 11, 1861: Hayti lies in the torrid zone, the proper residence of the Negro. The *Concord Democrat Standard*, New Hampshire, Sep 8, 1860: The proposition that the Negro is equal by nature, physically and mentally, to the white man, seems to be so absurd and preposterous that we cannot conceive how it can be entertained by any intelligent and rational white man. The *Boston Daily Courier*, Sep 24, 1860: We believe the mulatto to be inferior in capacity, character, and organization to the full-blooded black, and still farther below the standard of the white races.

The *New York Times*, Jan 22, 1861, in opposition to abolition, proposed an alternative approach. Slaves should be allowed to legally marry, they should be taught to read and write, they should be encouraged to invest their money in savings accounts, and all this together would make slavery a very tolerable system. What a clever way for those kind-hearted, generous Yankees to get their grubby hands on more Southern money. Everything to Yankees was always about money.

When Republican Representative David Wilmot, Pennsylvania, introduced legislation (the Wilmot Proviso) to exclude slavery from the territories acquired after the Mexican War, he wanted to make sure that his colleagues did not misunderstand his motives. He explained that he had:

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[10] The *New York Herald* had the largest circulation in the country at that time.

[11] That would have come as quite a shock and disappointment to Harriet Beecher Stowe.

No morbid sympathy for the slave [but pled] the cause and the rights of white freemen. I would preserve to free white labor a fair country, a rich inheritance, where the sons of toil, of my own race and color, can live without the disgrace which association with Negro slavery brings to free labor.

However, that wasn't the only reason Republicans so fiercely opposed the extension of slavery into the territories. They knew it would artificially inflate the Democrats' congressional power, because of the 3/5ths clause in the Constitution. Lincoln compared Maine to South Carolina, which had equal representation in Congress, even though Maine's white population was twice that of South Carolina. That meant that for every white vote in Maine, South Carolinians' white votes counted twice as much, because of her 384,984 slaves. According to Lincoln's calculations, the South had an additional 20 representatives because of the 3/5ths clause, and extending slavery into the territories would only make that situation worse. Once again, Yankee opposition to slavery in the territories was not about concern for slaves or slavery. It was about concern for white Yankees.

Democrats saw Lincoln as representing only Northern interests, so it is no surprise that he did not get the vote of a single Southern state in the 1860 election. That made Lincoln the first sectional president in American history. So, it is also no surprise that Southerners felt they would no longer get a fair shake in federal government, prompting the secessionist movement.

Double Whopper with Sleaze

Was secession legal and Constitutional? Abraham Lincoln, in his First Inaugural Address, said no. He used his considerable powers of persuasive obfuscation to confuse the ignorant and gullible Yankees, and trick them into drinking his bilge.

There are a great number of prominent early Americans who knew very well that secession was a natural right,[12] revealed by the Declaration of Independence, demonstrated by the American Revolutionary War, upheld in the Constitution, and universally accepted by early Americans. No one prior to Lincoln had ever made the absurd argument that secession was impossible.

Thomas Jefferson (1815?): [If] any state in the Union will declare that it prefers separation . . . to a continuance in union . . . I have no hesitation in saying, "let us separate".

John Quincy Adams expressed his support for the right of secession by cramming a simple sentence into a very wordy paragraph, typical of himself and his father. The short version (1839): If the day should ever come (may Heaven avert it!) when the affections of the people of these States shall be alienated from each other . . . [it is better] to part in friendship from each other than to be held together by constraint.

Alexis de Tocqueville directly contradicted Lincoln's chimerical notion in *Democracy in America*: The Union was formed by the voluntary agreement of the States; and in uniting together they have not forfeited their nationality, nor have they been reduced to the condition of one and the same people. If one of the states chooses to withdraw from the compact, it would be difficult to disprove its right of doing so, and the Federal

[12] RLD, p85-113

Government would have no means of maintaining its claims directly either by force or right.

Alexander Hamilton, the ultimate warrior for concentrated federal power, opposed, in The Federalist Papers, especially in number 81, the use of military force to compel a state to act against its will, or to prevent it from seceding.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall was one of the founding generation's strongest supporters of concentrated central power. He agreed with Hamilton, saying that a state could not be called at the bar of the Federal court.

There are countless other ways to prove that Lincoln deliberately and purposefully misled Americans in his First Inaugural Address (and in every other speech he made as president). They have been discussed in some detail in other sections of this blogbook. But the most compelling argument in favor of the right of secession, directly contradicting Abraham Lincoln in 1861, was Abraham Lincoln himself (Jan 12, 1848):

Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable, a most sacred right -- a right which we hope and believe is to liberate the world. Nor is this right confined to cases in which the whole people of an existing government may choose to exercise it. Any portion of such people, that can, may revolutionize, and make their own of so much of the territory as they inhabit.

So, Lincoln's position in 1861 contradicted most of the Founders, Lincoln himself, and most of his contemporaries. Prior to Ft Sumter, allowing the Southern states to peacefully secede was the predominant view of Yankees. In fact secessionist fever had spread into the middle states -- New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. Those states, together representing more than 40% of the nation's GNP, were home to three kinds of secessionists: (1) those who favored joining the Southern

Confederacy, (2) those who preferred to let the South go in peace, (3) those who wanted to secede and form a Central Confederacy.

Overall, the second type of secessionist was most common in the middle states. That position was supported by strong elements within Lincoln's own party, including the leadership of the New York Republican Party. New Jersey had the largest secessionist movement. Baltimore, New York, and Philadelphia were struck hard with secessionist fever. New York City mayor, Fernando Wood, wanted the city to secede from the Union, and from the state, making it a free-trade zone. It was not such a goofy idea, since that would have prevented losing its international trade to New Orleans.

It was an idea Lincoln should have seriously considered. Not necessarily the secession of NYC, but reducing tariff rates nationally. Thurlow Weed, one of the top Republican leaders, urged Lincoln to do that, and to reduce Lincoln's reliance on the patronage system. Those were two of the biggest problems dividing North and South. *New York Times* editor, Henry J Raymond, advocated peaceful secession and some program of compensated emancipation. That certainly would have been a responsible approach, but it would not have reunited the regions, because slavery was not the key issue dividing them.

Lincoln should have listened to the voice of the nation. He loved to say the words *of the people, by the people, and for the people*, but he did not listen to the people, and he didn't much care what they wanted. Historian Howard Cecil Perkins gathered almost 500 editorials published in Northern newspapers between late 1860 and mid-1861. They clearly show that, especially in the weeks after the 1860 election, the constitutional right of secession was not questioned. Here are a few examples.

Albany Atlas and Argus, 11/1/1860: We sympathize with and justify the South because their rights have been invaded to the extreme. [If they wish to secede,] we would wish them God-Speed.

Davenport (Iowa) *Democrat and News*, 11/17/1860: The leading and most influential papers of the union believe that any State of the Union has a right to secede.

Providence Evening Press, 11/17/1860: [Sovereignty] necessarily includes what we call the "right of secession". This right must be maintained [lest we establish a] colossal despotism [against which the founding fathers] uttered their solemn warnings.

New York Tribune, 12/17/1860: [If tyranny and despotism justified the Revolution of 1776, then] we do not see why it would not justify the secession of Five Millions of Southrons from the Federal Union in 1861.

New York Tribune, 2/5/1861: [Lincoln's latest speech contained] the arguments of the tyrant -- force, compulsion, and power. Nine out of ten people of the North [are opposed to forcing South Carolina to remain in the Union.] The great principle embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration is . . . that governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed. [Therefore, if the southern states want to secede,] they have a clear right to do so.

It's important to understand that the mood of the North began to shift dramatically in 1861 away from letting the South go in peace. But it was not because Yankees changed their minds about the right of secession. They just decided that they were not willing to let the Confederate states exercise that right. Why? For two reasons. (1) They began to read articles in their newspapers describing the inevitable consequences of secession. Since the South had (or was about to) become a free-trade zone, all international shipping would bypass Northern ports and dock at one of the Southern ports -- New Orleans, Charleston, or Savannah. That would ruin the North's economy while the South flourished economically. Money trumped principle. (2) Lincoln decided that he was not willing to allow Yankees to exercise their First Amendment right of free speech, such as upholding the right of secession. Newspapers that did not wholeheartedly

embrace the Lincoln agenda were shut down, and their editors were thrown in jail. So were individual citizens who expressed the slightest disagreement with Lincoln's policies. Just being in favor of peace rather than war was enough to get any citizen thrown in jail, indefinitely, without access to council, without writ of habeas corpus, without ever being allowed to visit or even speak with family.

Lincoln ignored the voice of the nation, the advice of his own party, the principles of the Declaration, the federal restrictions of the Constitution, civil law, the Supreme Court, and anyone who dared oppose him in any way. But he had to come up with some political cover for his tyranny, some way to camouflage his blatant power grab. That was a very tall order, even for a superbly skilled liar like Lincoln. How do you get the people to deny something they know to be true?

The best solution he could come up with was one that had been used by the Whig party in 1833, cunningly crafted by Daniel Webster and Joseph Story. They had grown extremely tired of losing a long series of political battles against Andrew Jackson, so they decided to simply rewrite history. They came up with a lie so outrageous that only the most ignorant and gullible of citizens would ever fall for it. Yankees. They fabricated they myth that the federal Union had existed prior to the states, and the states were created by the Union instead of the other way around. Anyone with a trace of knowledge of American history would have dismissed such a whopper with derisive laughter. Yankees, on the other hand, fell for it.

Lincoln, remembering in 1861 how Webster and Story had demonstrated that you can fool some of the people all of the time, pulled that old trick out of his hat, and fooled the Northern people once again. As incredible as that sounds today, we must keep in mind that Yankees were such an easy audience. They were already wetting their pants over losing all their tariff revenue, and they were ready to accept any old excuse that sounded remotely plausible.

Did I mention that money trumped principle in Yankeeville?

Lincoln's Legacy

A great deal of ink and energy has been devoted by historians to rewriting the history of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Getting to the truth, therefore, also takes considerable effort. Please allow me to make it a bit easier for you.

> Anyone who embarks on a study of Abraham Lincoln . . . must first come to terms with the Lincoln myth. The effort to penetrate the crust of legend that surrounds Lincoln . . . is both a formidable and intimidating task. Lincoln, it seems, requires special considerations that are denied to other figures . . .
> Robert W Johannsen,
> *Lincoln, the South, and Slavery*

Understanding Abraham Lincoln requires an understanding of Henry Clay.[13] Understanding Henry Clay requires an understanding of Alexander Hamilton. Which takes us back to the Philadelphia Constitutional convention in 1787, where a distinguished group of leaders from each state (except Rhode Island) met to make improvements to the Articles of Confederation, which had served as the national constitution since before the Revolutionary War.

Well, that's what the delegates told their constituents they were up to, but it wasn't the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Secretly, they were actually prepared to abandon the Articles of Confederation completely and start with a clean slate. James Madison had been secretly working on a plan for an entirely new form of constitution, which he had discussed through letters with George Washington and Thomas Jefferson (who was in Europe at the time). It was introduced to the delegates in Philadelphia on May 29, 1787, by William Randolph, a Virginian, as were George Washington, James

[13] RLD, p1-9

Madison, and Thomas Jefferson, all of them supportive of Madison's proposal, which became known as the Virginia Plan, for apparent reasons.

Most of the Virginia Plan was adopted and became the heart of the new Constitution, but two other plans were introduced at the convention. One was known as the New Jersey Plan, introduced on June 15 by William Paterson, which was essentially a slightly beefed up version of the Articles of Confederation. It was debated, but rejected by the majority of delegates. The third was introduced by Alexander Hamilton on June 18, who monopolized the convention floor the entire day. The delegates listened politely, then completely ignored Hamilton's plan, and resumed debates on elements of the Virginia Plan.

Hamilton was seething at his cool reception, so he left the convention in a huff, and he didn't return until late in the proceedings. What was so bad about the Hamilton Plan? It was essentially a slightly Americanized version of the British form of government. It didn't exactly call for a monarch, but it included a chief executive who served for life, which was much too close to a monarchy for American tastes. Hamilton hated the finished product of the convention, because he felt it didn't grant nearly enough power to the central government.

But he supported the new Constitution, and he even wrote many of the Federalist Papers, which helped get the Constitution ratified and put into action. He became one of its strongest supporters because he knew that was his only chance of getting the type of government he really wanted. He figured once it was up and running he could gradually change it to conform more to his strong desire for a very powerful central government, with no such thing as state sovereignty or states' rights.

When George Washington appointed him as Treasury Secretary, for which Hamilton was extremely well qualified, he wasted no time pursuing his hidden agenda of dramatically strengthening the federal government. He made a lot of progress through

his series of economic proposals, which included a national bank. That didn't seem like such a radical idea on the surface, since the federal government had been assigned the task of managing the nation's currency, and a national bank seemed to fit under the *necessary and proper clause* as an appropriate tool for managing the nation's monetary matters.

But Thomas Jefferson, Washington's Secretary of State, realized what Hamilton was up to, and it involved a lot more than just taking in the nation's revenue and writing checks to cover its expenses. A national bank would mean vast new powers flowing from the states to the federal government and wealthy investors. That was going way beyond the *necessary and proper clause* as far as Jefferson was concerned. He considered it neither necessary nor proper, even though it may be convenient.

So Hamilton and Jefferson were constantly at odds, right from the very beginning of the new government under the new Constitution. At first, Hamilton was winning the battles, in large part because he and George Washington had a kind of bond that did not exist between Washington and Jefferson. Hamilton had fought with Washington in the Revolutionary War, and Jefferson had not. So Washington, who was often torn between the two, usually sided with Hamilton. Eventually, Washington stopped putting much faith in even Jefferson's foreign affairs advice, prompting him to resign as Secretary of State.

He and James Madison, his very close friend and neighbor, got busy forming a new political party to challenge Hamilton's agenda. The old Federalist Party supported a strong federal government at states' expense. The new party became known as Jeffersonian Republicans, and its platform was known as Jeffersonian democracy. It represented a small federal government, state sovereignty, and strict construction of the Constitution. After Washington retired, his fellow Federalist John Adams took over the presidency, and the Federalist agenda still controlled the country, although Federalists in Congress were afraid to pass any legislation for fear it would be used against them by the Republicans in the next election.

Jefferson was elected President after Adams, and much of the work of the Federalists was repealed or scaled back, but Hamiltonian Federalists did not go away. The Federalist Party faded away, but Federalists simply joined the opposition and formed a strong Federalist faction within the new Republican Party. Eventually, they formed a new party of their own -- the Whig Party, which challenged Martin Van Buren for the presidency in the 1836 election. The Whigs, in fact, ran three candidates that year, but even their combined votes were not enough to keep Van Buren out of the Oval Office.

The Republican Party of Jefferson was not the same as today's Republican Party, and these Whigs were far from the political philosophy of the old Whigs of England.

William Henry Harrison, a Jeffersonian Republican, was elected in 1840, with John Tyler as his VP. No one had paid much attention to Tyler's political views, because he was never expected to become president, but when Harrison died of pneumonia on April 3, 1841, everyone was scrambling to get a handle on just who their new president really was. For one thing, he was a Whig, which obviously thrilled people in the Whig Party. But that didn't last long, as Tyler turned out to be a major disappointment, vetoing the establishment of the third national bank, and fighting with Whigs over tariff rates. Once again, the Whig agenda was sidelined.

But Whigs kept fighting for their mercantilist agenda until they finally evaporated as a party by 1856, thanks in part to the new Republican Party. Republicans adopted much of the Whig agenda in their unsuccessful 1856 bid for the White House. So, the struggle between the two philosophies of government was never quite finally resolved over the years. That is until Abraham Lincoln came on the national scene in 1860. Which is where Henry Clay comes in. Lincoln idolized Clay, and when Clay finally left the political scene, Lincoln was right there to pick up where he left off.

Clay was the ultimate Whig. The Whig platform consisted of protectionist tariffs; internal improvements, which was a euphemism for government subsidies for railroads and other favored corporations; and nationalization of the nation's money supply. Clay called this combination of policies the *American System*. But it actually already had another name, because it had been invented generations earlier, and had been practiced for generations in Britain and Europe. There it was known as the mercantile system. It was the system used by King George, which led to the American Revolution. It was one of the primary reasons so many people came to America -- to get away from the despised mercantile system.

Whigs were now trying to impose the old system on Americans under a new name. It is exactly what Lincoln believed in, supported, and fought for right from the beginning of his political life in 1832, when he announced that he was running for a seat in the Illinois state legislature. That is what Lincoln struggled to achieve for 28 years before he was elected president.

But the American System never gained much traction for the first 70 years of America's existence, because the Constitution stood in its path. Southern statesmen, beginning with Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, always led the opposition to the Whig economic agenda. One president after the other vetoed legislation which included provisions for internal improvements (subsidies) financed by protectionist tariffs, and a national bank for printing money (intentional inflation).

By the time Lincoln was elected president in 1860, he had been seething for decades over the repeated failures of the Hamilton / Clay mercantilist Whig agenda. He had come to despise the US

> The corrupt mercantilist system that prevailed in England during the 18th and early 19th centuries was despised and rejected by most Americans. The Confederate Constitution specifically prohibited protectionist tariffs and subsidies for internal improvements.

Constitution, because it had been at the center of opposition to the Federalists and Whigs. Now that he was in power, he was solidly determined to impose that system on America, the Constitution and states' rights be damned. If he couldn't get the job done through the democratic process (and he obviously could not), he would find another way.

That is exactly what he did. And that is exactly why he launched the Civil War. War was not necessary to free the slaves, but it was necessary to destroy the Constitution and end states' rights. He knew he had to act quickly, because secession by the Confederate states meant that the federal government was suddenly losing most of its tariff revenue, which was by far its biggest source of revenue. With loss of revenue, he was losing his chance to finally put the mercantilist system of his dreams into action. He had fought and waited much too long to let his chance slip away. So he provoked the Confederacy into firing on Ft Sumter, then sent federal forces into the South to force the Confederate states back into the Union, and to resume their payment of tariff revenue to the North.

He had no interest in interfering with Southern slavery at that time, and in fact he strongly supported Southern slavery throughout his first term, in spite of his Emancipation Proclamation trickery. His motivation was putting Henry Clay's *American System* into action in the nation that had rejected it for generations. He expected the war to be a very short one, ending with the Confederacy once again part of the Union, generating all that beautiful tariff revenue for Lincoln to spend on his big-government dreams. He had such wonderful mercantilist plans, and he wasn't going to let anything stop him. Not the Constitution, not the law, not the Supreme Court, not public opinion, and definitely not the South.

As soon as he sent his troops into the South, he also sent troops into the border states, Maryland, Missouri, and Kansas. He was afraid they might vote to join the Confederacy, and they certainly would have once Lincoln sent troops to invade the South. So Lincoln

used federal force to prevent any such vote from taking place in those states. He also used force to suppress any and all political opposition in the North. He suspended habeas corpus, established martial law where necessary, and completely wiped out the North's First Amendment right of free speech. Thousands were arrested and thrown in jail indefinitely, without counsel, without ever being charged with a crime, and without any contact with members of their family. Some of the political prisoners were well-known, highly respected members of their community. A mere suspicion of the slightest opposition to Lincoln's policies was enough to get someone jailed, deported, or killed. Newspapers were destroyed and their editors were jailed if they did not fully support Lincoln.

Lincoln had become a dictator. He was no longer a president. He had taken the oath of office to support and defend the Constitution. Instead he shredded the Constitution, disregarded civil law, ignored the Supreme Court, and made up his own rules as he went along. He did all that under the guise of emergency powers needed to win the war and *preserve the Union*.

Even gullible Yankees, however, began to realize that it made no sense to preserve the Union by destroying it. The Confederacy had won battle after battle during the first two years of the conflict, the death toll was already astronomical, and there was no end of the war in sight. At least not one that was good for the North or Lincoln. That's when Lincoln was forced to play the Emancipation Proclamation card. It was intended to bolster sagging public Yankee support for the war; prevent England or France from coming to the South's aid in the war; and turn the tide of the war in the Union's favor by triggering widespread slave revolts and escapes in the South, with the newly freed slaves flocking to the Union army.

The last part never materialized. At first, Northern public support wasn't bolstered, either. Yankees were quite angry about the Proclamation, because that was never why they had agreed to fight. That was not an issue they considered worth fighting over. In

fact, they very much wanted the South to keep their slaves, because it kept blacks out of their states and the territories. That was worth fighting for, because Yankees were staunch white-supremacists. They didn't like blacks, they didn't want them in their communities, schools, or churches, and they most of all did not want blacks competing for Northern jobs. They considered jobs in the Northern states and the territories the exclusive domain of whites, and they had the state laws (and sometimes state constitutions) to back that up. Yankees gradually warmed to the Proclamation only once they began to realize that it may well be their only hope of winning the war.

It did help the North win the war. When the fighting ended, Lincoln had no choice but to keep up his charade about freeing the slaves. In his Second Inaugural Address he said the war had really been about emancipation all along. It was an obvious lie, as proven by many facts, including his own words in his First Inaugural Address, and his support for the Corwin Amendment. But by then, Lincoln had told so many lies one must conclude that he lost all capacity to distinguish between the truth and lies. That's the way it is with pathological liars like Lincoln.

Unparalleled corruption during the Grant administration was one inevitable consequence of Lincoln's handiwork. The Hamilton / Clay / Lincoln statist (Federalist / Whig) agenda was stymied somewhat by Grover Cleveland, but it was advanced considerably during Woodrow Wilson's progressive administration, and under Franklin Roosevelt's socialist agenda. It was stymied again briefly under Ronald Reagan, but it is now going strong under Barack Obama.

One historian refers to the Grant administration as the *Era of Good Stealings*. That description also is appropriate for the Reconstruction era.

Because of the Civil War, American government was transformed from the decentralized, limited-federal-powers constitutional democratic republic established by

the Framers and Founders into the highly centralized state of today. The antebellum primary purpose of the federal government was national defense and protection of individual liberty. The postbellum primary goal of the federal government has been increasing its own power, weakening the states, and eroding individual rights, allowing Uncle Sam to gain more and more control over our lives. American foreign policy turned decidedly imperialist. Lincoln created the military-industrial complex long before the phrase was coined by Dwight Eisenhower.

Notice that there was nothing in the Whig / Republican agenda about abolition. Lincoln had rarely mentioned slavery before 1854. No candidate in the 1860 election campaigned on an abolitionist agenda. Lincoln's idea of emancipation was tied to a program of relocating all blacks in the US to Africa, or Haiti, or Central America, or anyplace but here. It would be done voluntarily, he hoped, but force would be used if necessary. But Lincoln's years of efforts toward colonization had been in vain. Republicans were determined to prevent slavery from spreading into the territories, but they had no plans to interfere with Southern slavery. Quite the contrary. The last thing Yankees wanted was free blacks flocking to the North or into the territories and competing for white jobs.

Engagement of Rules

The book *The Uncivil War: Union Army and Navy Excesses in the Official Records*, by Thomas Bland Keys, documents a few of the countless examples of Union military war crimes and violations of both international and Union standards of acceptable war conduct. These are official records of Union military officers, so they are considered entirely reliable. The men recording these events had no idea they would be read by anyone other than Union military personnel and high-ranking Republican elected officials, so they had no reason to lie. In fact they had every reason to conceal these truths if they had any suspicion that people like me or you would someday be gazing at their correspondence in disgust and disbelief.

On almost every page there are General Orders and Circulars written by anguished Union officers lamenting the level of depravity displayed by Union soldiers and officers, who either participated in events, or looked the other way, or found themselves unable to control the criminal conduct of the men under their command. (See Part 7 for examples.) It's difficult for me to imagine officers not being able to control their men, because during my brief military career, even low-ranking officers had all the authority they needed to make sure every troop toed the line, with very punitive disincentives at their disposal, and a predisposition toward fully utilizing them.

Yet time after time, Union commanders reminded their troops and junior officers of the importance of following the Union's own military standard of conduct. The Northern military juggernaut could demolish and annihilate the entire Southern region of the nation, but they were simply helpless to keep their own men in line. That is apparently what we are to conclude from this book. But I draw an entirely different conclusion.

Although some Union officers were sincere in their efforts to control behavior, they were tacitly overruled by their superiors -- top-ranking generals, Abraham Lincoln, and his

cabinet. Oh, and by Northern newspapers and the Yankees who read them. They were all well aware of widespread Union atrocities, and that's exactly what they wanted. They didn't want to just win the war. They wanted revenge. They wanted to crush the South, and humiliate them. They wanted cultural genocide. Their goal was to cleanse the South of its culture, so Yankees could replace it with their own. It was a campaign of ethnic cleansing. After the Civil War, Yankees turned their wrath on Indians, and destroyed their cultures, also. They were driven by supreme Yankee arrogance and unrestrained aggression.

In order to understand how far Union troops strayed from established military standards of conduct, we need to take a look at exactly what those standards were. We learn that from *The Real Lincoln: A New Look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda, and an Unnecessary War*, by Thomas J DiLorenzo.[14]

An international convention met in Geneva, Switzerland in 1863 to establish a written record of generally accepted rules of warfare, which had been in effect for over a century. But the Civil War had already been raging for two years by then. Furthermore, after 1863, the Union army abandoned all pretenses of following any accepted military rules of conduct, and they made up their own rules, just as Lincoln had been doing on the political front from the very beginning of his administration. So, the Geneva Convention had little or no impact on the Civil War.

Prior to the convention, nations worldwide were in general agreement that certain things were just wrong, and they were so obviously wrong that civilized people knew intuitively that they were wrong. For example, it was a war crime to: attack defenseless civilians, cities and towns; to plunder and wantonly destroy civilian property; or to take from civilians more than what was necessary to feed and sustain an occupying army. Violators were subject to imprisonment or death. It was also universally accepted that the only just war was a defensive war.

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[14] RLD, p171-199

Clearly, on that last point alone, Abraham Lincoln, his cabinet, top Union elected officials, and top-ranking Union officers were war criminals. Lincoln had absolutely no constitutional, legal, or moral authority to invade the South. The entire war was criminal. The South did not want war, even though Lincoln manipulated them into firing on Ft Sumter. That was a legitimate defensive act on the part of the Confederacy, and it was most certainly not intended as an offensive move. If it had been, it would have been the dumbest military tactic in world history. No one was killed or even injured in the Ft Sumter incident, and the South did not follow it up with further attacks. They just wanted to be left alone, and they knew they could not allow federal cannons at Ft Sumter to remain there, pointed directly at the Confederacy's capital city. That would have been entirely unacceptable to any country.

Another source of information about accepted rules of war was *The Law of Nations*, by Emmerich de Vattel, 1798. It was a collection of wisdom and customs that had been handed down from generation to generation from the classical era. American politicians and military officers relied on it, because its self-evident moral standards were considered worthy of respect by all civilized societies.

For example, women, children, feeble old men, the sick, and anyone offering no resistance are exempted from hostility. Citizens are not part of the battle, and they are to play no part in it, so they should have no fear of harm from military officers or soldiers -- the only legitimate participants in hostilities. Occupying soldiers who engage in pillaging, plundering, assault, or destruction of private civilian property are regarded as savage barbarians.

Gen Henry Halleck wrote *International Law*, and he used it as his textbook when he taught the subject at West Point. Halleck agreed with Vattel on almost every point. Non-combatants should be spared as much as possible. Civilians and their property were to be protected, with these exceptions: property may be confiscated as a penalty for

committing some offense; the rule may be suspended if necessary to maintain civil order; and food may be taken if it is necessary to support an occupying or invading army. Otherwise, any property taken should be compensated.

Halleck departed from Vattel on these two principles: taking civilian hostages and burning private homes. Vattel had prohibited those acts, but Halleck's book did not. They were both practiced by Union forces throughout the South. Halleck was appointed general in chief of the Union armies in Jul 1862.

Lincoln himself weighed in on the subject in his General Order no 100, which became known as the *Lieber Code*, because Columbia University law professor Francis Lieber is the one who wrote it for Lincoln. It echoed the general principle that civilians were to be exempted from the war as much as possible, and it was widely considered a moral and humane code of conduct.

But that was because nobody bothered to read it closely. It contained, at the end, an escape clause, giving Union officers the option of totally disregarding the Code if they felt it was necessary. As it turns out, military commanders rarely failed to exercise that option, judging almost every situation they faced as "necessary" to ignore Lincoln's General Order no 100. It was a smokescreen, and it was typical Lincoln.

From the very beginning of the war, Vattel's and Halleck's works were completely ignored, and punishment for violating those principles was extremely rare. In fact, the most ruthless, barbaric commanders were often praised and promoted. Some Union generals were genuinely upset with this policy, but their protests accomplished nothing good. Many other generals issued frequent orders to refrain from violating what they considered the binding code of military conduct, and they sent letters of protest up the chain of command, but they did no good. Apparently they were unaware of Lincoln's escape clause, which essentially gave Yankees carte blanche authority to act as

barbaric anarchists with impunity. Or maybe the officers were merely trying to cover their own asses. Just in case.

Lincoln had no use for any military code of conduct, any more than he had any use for the Constitution, civil law, the Supreme Court, public opinion, or anything else, other than his own supremely arrogant and despotic will. His plan from the very beginning was to wage total war against the South, including rampant pillaging, plundering, destruction of property, bombing and burning entire cities, murder, rape, taking civilian hostages, and starving women and children to death.

His goal, of course, was to *preserve the Union*. Which is like a man telling his wife that he will continue to beat her until she expresses her eternal love and devotion to him.

Unlike Lincoln, at least Sherman could be honest about it. He said in a letter to his wife that his ultimate purpose in the war was: extermination, not of soldiers alone, that is the least part of the trouble, but the people. And the lovely Mrs Sherman replied that she sincerely wished the war to be one of extermination and that all [Southerners] would be driven like the Swine into the sea. May we carry fire and sword into their states till not one habitation is left standing.

What a charming couple.

There are many recorded examples of Sherman intentionally ignoring the pillaging and plundering by his men. He didn't have to tell them it was okay. All he needed to do was stand silently by. When he did actually want them to stop, as when it was time to move on, he had no trouble getting their full and immediate cooperation.

Sherman was not a very good battlefield tactician, so he compensated for it by picking on defenseless women, children, old men, and blacks. That tells us all we need to know

about the Northern part of the Union Lincoln was so determined to preserve, and about the South's decision to secede.

The Corwin Amendment

We all "know" that slavery was the driving force behind the Civil War, because we've been told that all our lives. But something happened just prior to the war that we don't hear much about. It's important, because it shows clearly just how important the slavery issue really was to both the North and the South.

There was a proposal that would have established slavery as the law of the land, throughout the entire country, forever. Actually, the *Dred Scott* decision had already accomplished much of that, but this proposal went much further. It would have made it impossible for even a Constitutional Amendment to ever interfere with a state's right of slavery.

Imagine the audacity! Has a more evil proposal ever been brought before the country? And what's frightening is that it had already been passed by the Senate and the House and signed by the president.

Thankfully, it didn't become the law of the land. But it easily could have.

The North tried to get a Constitutional amendment ratified that would have made slavery legal in every state. No new law, and no new Constitutional amendment could ever overturn it. It would have become the 13th Amendment. Instead of freeing the slaves, that 13th Amendment would have preserved slavery throughout America, forever. Both houses of Congress had already passed it, President Buchanan had already signed it, three Northern states had already voted for ratification, and Lincoln said in his First Inaugural Address that he didn't have a problem with it. But the South wanted nothing to do with it.

The proposal was known as the Corwin amendment. It had been the brainchild of Abraham Lincoln himself, who began working on the scheme even before he was inaugurated. It was supported by President Buchanan, who signed it on his last full day in office. It was on its way to becoming the 13th Amendment, and it had already been ratified by three states.

Several points are astonishing about this episode. Those three states were not in the South. They were Ohio, Maryland, and Illinois. Abraham Lincoln said in his First Inaugural Address that he didn't have a problem with it, so it had significant support in the North.

But it apparently didn't sound like such a good idea to the South. If they had quickly ratified the proposed Amendment, it would have been well on its way to final ratification. With support from at least three Union states, the South could easily have rallied support and got it ratified very quickly.

Why on earth would the South not have pounced on such a golden opportunity? Isn't that, supposedly, what they had always dreamed of? Why on earth would the North have even considered making such an evil offer? Wasn't that, supposedly, what they had always opposed?

It was a shameless and futile attempt by the North (specifically Lincoln) to get those Confederate states back into the Union. It shows how desperate Yankees were. Lincoln said in his First Inaugural Address that there was really only one issue dividing the North and South. That was the matter of whether Southern slave owners would be allowed to take their slaves with them into the territories. Yet in the same speech, he said he was okay if the Corwin amendment got ratified.

So, on the one hand Lincoln was refusing to allow the *extension* of slavery. But on the other hand, he was promoting a constitutional amendment that was basically total surrender on the slavery issue. How does that make sense?

It makes sense once you understand that the Civil War was not about slavery. Not for the North. Not for the South. The Corwin amendment episode alone proves that beyond any reasonable doubt. There was a much bigger issue separating the two sides. The South talked openly about it. But the North was too ashamed to. So Lincoln came up with his *preserving the Union* euphemism for an unconstitutional, illegal, immoral, and unnecessary war. When even Yankees weren't buying that spin any more, only then did Lincoln try to make it about slavery. That was just more spin, but once again the Yankees were dumb enough or desperate enough to fall for it.

If Lincoln had wanted to free the slaves, he would have welcomed secession and openly condemned the Corwin amendment. With no Southern states in Congress any more, he and his Republican pawns could have easily passed a Constitutional amendment freeing the slaves. It wouldn't have affected slaves in the Confederate states, but Lincoln said over and over that he had no desire or authority to do that anyway. That was not his reason for starting the Civil War, and he plainly said so. But he could have freed the thousands of slaves in the border states and the territories.

By accepting secession, he could also have put a great deal of Union and international pressure on the South to give up slavery once and for all. The North could have welcomed freed blacks into their states, their schools, their factories, and their governments. They could have sent devoted abolitionists into the Confederacy to extend and expand the Underground Railroad, helping slaves escape to freedom in the North. That would have been the peaceful, Constitutional, legal, humane way of helping end slavery. It was already ending in the South, and most Southerners knew and accepted that. They just didn't want Yankees dictating how and when it happened.

Lincoln didn’t want to free any slaves. The North was not interested in that. Northern states had laws prohibiting blacks from settling there. Why? Partly because Yankees didn’t want blacks competing for jobs and driving down wages. Partly because Yankees were racists. They didn’t like blacks, and they didn’t want them around. Their state laws, among other things, prove that.

The Civil War was not about slavery. We’ve been lied to all our lives. It wasn’t about *preserving the Union* either, except in the sense that if the Union was not held together, even by force if necessary, the North could no longer control the South. The South refused to be controlled by the North. The North refused to allow them to exercise their natural and Constitutional right of secession.

If it wasn’t slavery, then, what was it that drove the Union to invade the South, shred the Constitution, and slaughter 650,000 Americans, including thousands of defenseless women, children, old men, and blacks? Money. Tariff revenue. Yankee greed, Yankee ignorance, Yankee arrogance. And Lincoln’s lust for power.

Why didn't the Southern states ratify the Corwin amendment as quickly as possible? Because they didn't want permanent slavery, even in the Confederacy. They (most of them, especially the leaders) well understood that slavery was evil and it had to be ended as soon as possible. For the time being, it was considered a necessary evil, but it was on its way out, just as slavery had ended in most of the rest of the world by then. They just didn't want Yankees and abolitionists dictating the terms and timetable.

The Corwin amendment demonstrates clearly how much Yankees, specifically Lincoln, misjudged and misunderstood the South. He obviously believed that the Confederate states would jump at the Corwin amendment, rejoin the Union, and America would live happily ever after. There was much more to it than that from the South's perspective.

Why did the South fight? Because they were attacked by Union forces. What else could they do? Wouldn't you fight back if you were attacked?