

Revolt of the Planters^[1]

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Known as the War Between the States or the War Between the North and the South, even the War of Brother Against Brother, the conflict which tore the Republic asunder less than a hundred years after its founding is known popularly as . . . the Civil War.

In one way or another, the above descriptions are true. But there is another which captures the political, economic and social aspects of the conflict in a fashion decidedly more accurate; and that is, the Revolt of the Planters. Such a description lends more to the Jeffersonian versus the Hamiltonian agendas for the future of America. The former enlists the agrarian agenda, while the latter showcases the desire to industrialize backed by a sound system of finance. And while the latter boasts of industrial production, commerce and banking, the former caters to the landed interests; a contradiction waged by the Southern Aristocracy versus burgeoning Northern Capitalism.

The Confederacy, then, was revolution from the Right. An attempt by the Southern Aristocracy to preserve the Slaveocracy of the American Gulag; while at the same time, purging the poisonous, anti-Constitutional precepts of the Capitalist North and destroy the Union. Yet . . .

. . . preservation of an Aristocracy based on the primacy of a Landed Gentry was rapidly reaching a conclusion; an unfolding reality to which the Antebellum South seemed oblivious. The Industrial Revolution, evolution of Capitalism with the rise of the Bourgeoisie displacing landed nobility and the corresponding rise the Middle Class, would prove itself superior in the industrialized, corporatized war to follow. The demise of the Southern Aristocracy in 1865 will be a prophetic warning of what was in store for the monarchs of Europe by 1918.

Week 1: People Who Own the Country Ought to Govern It.[2]

The importance of Land as a determinant for power . . . seven of the first ten presidents were Southerners, as were 23 of the first 36 Speakers of the House. The aspect of Private Property, whether a Plantation Owner or Small Farmer, bestowed upon such types voting privileges denied others. *We the People*, then, was based on the ability to own Land. Yet the threat

posed to the Landed Interests by Northern merchants and industrialization was evident with the founding of the Nation. Thus the stage was set for the contradictions posed by the Jeffersonian versus the Hamiltonian doctrines for political primacy.

Week 2: Southern Aristocracy

Landed Gentry and the Slaveocracy of the American Gulag; class structure of the Antebellum South. Manifest Destiny and the unfolding decline of Southern political power; corresponding growth of Northern Industrial and Financial primacy.

Week 3: American Gulag

The basic economic construct of Cotton Capitalism was that concentration camp network known as the Plantation System. A purgatory of bondage for the unpaid Black toiler, living and breathing property devoid of human and civil rights; a Slaveocracy with a lifespan which enjoyed many years more under the Stars and Stripes than under the Stars and Bars. This session will delve into the founding of this sordid institution of forced labor and its significance to the political, economic and social structure of the South.

Week 4: Property, Politics . . . Power. . .

The competitive nature of Southerners and Northerners for new territories to become Slave or Free States: Missouri Compromise, 1820-1821; the absorption of the Mexican Territories; the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act; Bloody Kansas as a tune up for Manassas. . . Manifest Destiny, that great quest across this great landmass was, prior to 1860, for land and Congressional control, between Cotton Capitalism versus Industrial/Finance Capitalism.

Week 5: Revolution!

“The most heroic word in all languages is Revolution!” . . . Eugene Debs.[3] To better understand the Confederacy as a Revolution, understanding Revolution is required. Consulted will be the American and French Revolutions, those of 19th century Europe, followed by Russia, China, Vietnam. . . Important aspects such as why the American Revolution succeeded as opposed to the French Revolution, which would degenerate into the Napoleonic dictatorship. Impressed upon the student will be that revolutions are for *the destruction of a current political system so as to impart a new one*. “When you undertake to run a revolution, the difficulty is not how to make it go; it is how to hold it in check.” Honore-Gabriel Riqueti, comte de Mirabeau[4]

Week 6: Rise and Demise of the Radicals

Following the Jackson Presidency, Southern Nationalism gained in momentum as the factionalism warned by the first president in his farewell address became evermore the reality. And with it came the Bards of Radicalism: Such as Robert Barnwell Rhett, Edmund Ruffin, William Lowndes Yancy . . . are among those firebrands stoking the flames of discontent towards succession. Yet, just as quickly, at the Confederate Convention, power passed from the Radicals to Conservative Southerners.

Week 7: Confederacy as a Revolution

The Confederacy was a revolution from the Right; an attempt to insure the primacy of a restricted clique of Landed Gentry and the notion of Cottonism. The resulting fallacy of Ruralism, States Rights and the Southern notion of being defenders of the Constitution in the face of Industrialization, Central Government, Urbanization and the realities of modern industrialized war. Like the Fascists in Italy and the Nazi Revolution in Germany, the Southern Aristocracy represents that Rightist repugnance for the ideals of the Age of Reason/Enlightenment.

Week 8: Cassandra of Change

The demise of the Confederacy as that Cassandra of Change; the Boyars of Cotton are unable to staunch the tsunami of revision sweeping across the decades of the 19th century. And the *Gotterdammerung* of the Southern Aristocracy presaged the cataclysm to come, the mass extinction of the once inviolable houses of royalty in 1918, as the tides of modernity washed away the decay of antiquity.

[1] This course will be devoted to the political, economic and social aspects of the Confederacy in lieu of a concerted military approach concerned with the art of war and battlefield strategy.

[2] John Jay

[3] See page 111, Chapter Four, "Explosives and Booby Traps," *The Anarchist Cookbook*, by William Powell.

[4] See page 73, Chapter 4, "The Deputy," *Robespierre*, by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.