

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
December 18, 1992

History 393

FINAL EXAMINATION

Mr. Sewell  
Mr. Barker

I. (60 minutes) Write on one of the following questions:

- A. In an essay that considers the periods before, during, and after the Civil War (1848-1877), make an argument that one of the following is the key concept in understanding the period:

race  
sectionalism  
governmental power  
majority rule and minority rights

- B. "There can be little doubt that between 1848 and 1877 the South was its own worst enemy. Time and again, white Southerners provoked assaults upon their institutions and way of life by overreacting to innocuous threats, by insisting on privileges they did not need, and by seeking to subvert the will of national majorities. Once under real attack, moreover, white Southerners failed to defend themselves effectively because of their stubborn attachment to old ways and a paralyzing commitment to states' rights."

Critically assess the validity of this statement, being as specific as possible.

- C. While the Civil War era is central to Southern history, to what degree did it transform the South? Do you think that this era is more accurately portrayed as a time of continuity or a time of change? Was the Civil War a chasm dividing one South from another, or was it just a temporary disruption followed by the restoration of old ways?

II. (48 minutes) Write on one of the following questions:

- A. Congressional Reconstruction has sometimes been referred to as "Radical" Reconstruction. Is this label accurate? How radical were the measures proposed and enacted during this period, especially in comparison to the plans of Lincoln and Johnson? Be sure in your answer to discuss how radical Congressional Reconstruction was in both its intent and results.

- B. Albion Tourgee declared himself to have been on a "fool's errand" as a carpetbagger in the Reconstruction South. What, exactly, did he mean? Is this an accurate characterization of the North's plan of Reconstruction and attempts to change the South? What were the possibilities for change? Did these efforts have any lasting impact on the South?

III. (12 minutes) Identify and briefly discuss the historical significance of two of the following:

"forty acres and a mule"

Scalawags

Credit Mobilier

Fourteenth Amendment

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History 393

SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION

Mr. Sewell  
Mr. Barker

I. (80%) Write on one of the following questions:

- A. Is it more accurate to argue that the North won the Civil War or that the South lost the war? In other words, were the strengths/advantages of the Union war effort, or the weaknesses/disadvantages of the Confederate war effort, more critical in explaining the war's outcome? Please take one side or the other, and forge an argument, being sure to include specific evidence.
- B. "Any war fought to protect or preserve a society inevitably transforms that society."  
Using either the North or the South as your subject, critically assess the validity of this statement. What innovations and changes did the war bring, and how fundamental were they?

II. (20%) Identify and briefly discuss the historical significance of two of the following:

"Rich man's war, poor man's fight"

Copperheads

"Cotton is King!"

Shelton Laurel massacre