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Chapter 23

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 23, 2013, 2:03 PM

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QUESTION -- Political Parties

by Stephanie Sheets - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 11:36 PM

While the Union maintained a two-party system of government throughout the Civil War, the Confederacy had moved to a united front, which it felt would provide a stronger government during the chaos surrounding secession and war. The Union's two-party system was in fact a stronger foundation which prevented many of the governmental breakdowns experienced in the south. In what ways was the two-party system of the Union more effective than its Confederate "no-party" counterpart?



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**ANSWER**

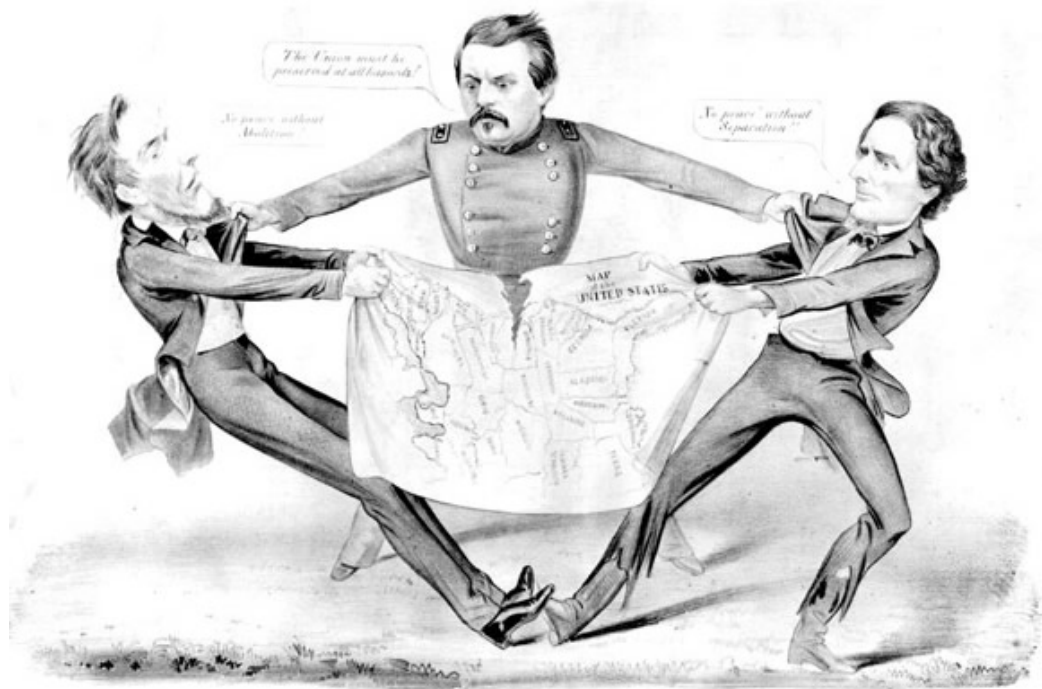
by Ashley Clark - Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 11:13 AM

The two-party system in the Union allowed for easy and effective identification of the side that the voter felt most sympathy for. The Confederacy lacked a set of parties, so voting was a bit less loyal and predictable.

To elaborate, let us look at the differences in parties in the Union. The Republican party tended to be more pro-war, and thus supported conscription, mobilizing resources and manpower, enforcing emancipation, and adjusting taxes in order to better afford the war efforts. Democrats supported states rights and preservation of the Union through compromise, rather than war. Their platform of 1864 illustrates this, saying that "This convention does explicitly declare..that after four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war...justice, humanity, liberty, and the public welfare demand that immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities, with the view of an ultimate convention of the states, or other peaceable means, to the end that, at the earliest practicable moment, peace may be restored on the basis of the Federal Union of the States."

Since the party's goals were each so well-defined and stood in near direct contrast of each other, voters simply had to identify the party they supported most, and elect the specific candidates for that party.

The Confederacy's unified movement lost this advantage, as each candidate ran on a personal platform rather than identifying with a specific party. The lack of parties proved a hindrance to the war because voters were most concerned with states' rights, taxes, and conscription. As the war movement had no official party to identify with, voters had to pick and choose and basically root out which policies they had to live with and without by voting for certain candidates.



THE TRUE ISSUE OR "THATS WHATS THE MATTER".

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Question-Reconstruction Appeal- Chapter 23

by Robyn Stevens - Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 8:52 PM

In 1863, Lincoln devised a plan and announced a plan of reconstruction for southern states who recanted their association with the confederacy. How did Lincoln plan to make this appeal to southerners work and what did he plan to accomplish with it. Give some examples.



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ANSWER -- Reconstruction Appeal- Chapter 23

by Stephanie Sheets - Thursday, March 7, 2013, 6:42 PM

Lincolns plan began "Whereas it is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in said rebellion to presume their allegiance to the United states, and

to reinaugurate loyal State governments” according to our text. He appealed to southerners by offering “pardon and amnesty to such persons who took an oath of allegiance to the United States and to all of its laws and proclamations concerning slavery.” His plan was that whenever at least 10% of the registered voters in a state took the oath, they could form a state government that was again part of and recognized by the federal government. Lincoln still considered all southern states to be United States since they had no constitutional right to secede, in his opinion.

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Chapter 23 Question: Delays in the reconstruction of Louisiana



by Mark Gorski - Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 12:47 PM

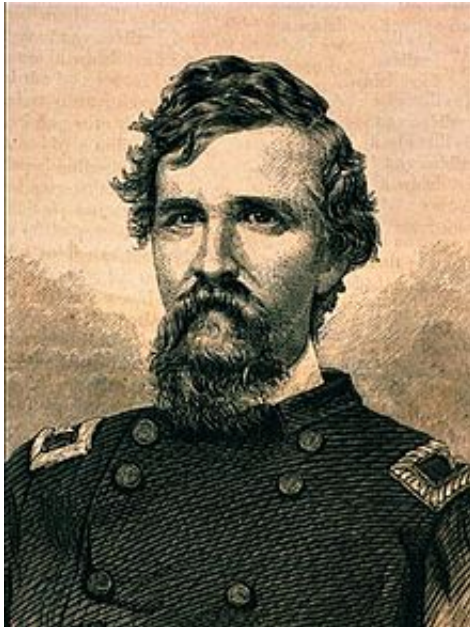
In 1862 President Lincoln appointed military governors for the portions of Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas that were under Union control. He then authorized them to prepare for the restoration of civil government but this took a back seat to military actions still taking place in these states. However, after Union forces captured Port Hudson, expelled General Bragg from Tennessee and occupied Little Rock in 1863 Lincoln urged his military governors to begin the process. Louisiana offered the best prospects for an early test of Lincoln's reconstruction policies but the process was slow in happening.

What slowed the process in Louisiana?

What were the actions taken by the Military Governor of Louisiana?

What issues were raised by these actions?





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ANSWER  

by Micah Young - Thursday, March 7, 2013, 1:18 AM

Nathaniel Banks was the commander of the occupation forces in Louisiana from the beginning of 1863 through the end of the war. He was a Republican and a political general with a distinguished career having served in the Massachusetts house of representatives, U. S. house of representatives, and as Massachusetts' governor. He completed Lincoln's commissioned to raise an

army of 30,000 recruits from New York and Massachusetts and sailed for New Orleans in December of 1862 to replace Benjamin Butler as commander of the Department of the Gulf.

McPherson writes that the reconstruction process in Louisiana was slowed by two factors: "Banks military campaign to plant the flag in Texas as a warning to France and by the division of unionists into two factions" (pg. 703). After the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, the government ordered Banks to move against Texas and in November of that year he capture Brownsville "making a token lodgement near the Mexican border for Napoleon to ponder" (pg. 683). This obviously distracted Banks from overseeing reconstruction in Louisiana, however, the division between the state's unionists was the more consequential hinderance to reconstruction and McPherson explains how the two factions played into reconstruction.

Lincoln wanted to make political progress in the state and reestablish its government by drafting a new constitution and electing state officials. This process was only slowly developing during the summer of '63 so in November Lincoln wrote to general Banks and exhorted him to provide a "tangible nucleus" of state government as fast as he could. In response to Lincoln's urging, Banks made an order that offended the radical unionists; he planned the election of state officials in February 1864 to be followed by a convention to write a new state constitution in April.

The two unionist factions in the state were the conservative and radical. The conservative faction belonged to the planters who reluctantly accepted emancipation and wanted to elect a new state government under the current constitution; this was the smaller factor of the two. The radical and more dynamic factor consisted of many businessmen and professionals, people who had strong ties with the North and had opposed secession. This group organized a Union Association and they wanted to first hold a "state convention tot adopt a new constitution abolishing slavery and ridding the old constitution of other conservative features" (pg. 704). With this accomplished, elections could be held and a state government established on the new constitution. Banks' orders, however, were to put elections and the creation of a new constitution in opposite order.

For the consequences of Banks' order, I will quote a short paragraph from the textbook that summarizes well: "Bank's program split the Free State Committee into radical and moderate factions. Each faction plus the conservative planters nominated candidates for governor and other state offices in the February 22 election. Banks and most federal officials in New orleans supported the moderates, who won with a vote greater than the combined total of the radicals and conservatives" (pg.705). Banks supported the moderates because he thought that their stances on reconstruction were similar to national sentiments whereas the radicals were demanding more for blacks than the state, or nation for that matter, was ready to give. The main issue between factions became "Negro suffrage."

Not only was reconstruction a test for Louisiana, it was for the federal government as well. Terms of reconstruction were still being worked out and factions in congress doubted the effectiveness of the president's agenda, considering it too lenient toward rebelling states. McPherson writes about four issues of reconstruction that divided the Republican party and, in part, spawned from controversy in Louisiana: "the fate of slavery; the political role of blacks in reconstruction; the definition of loyalty; and the status of free black labor in the new order" (pg. 706). He then explains: "As each issue generated heat in Louisiana, the temperature also rose in Congress where Republican lawmakers sought to frame their own approach to reconstruction" (pg. 706).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathaniel_P._Banks

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Northern and Southern Politics

by Alexander Kristy - Thursday, February 28, 2013, 3:35 PM

The political system in the south was set up differently than in the north. How did they differ? At one point viewed as a strength in the south, we now know that it was actually a weakness, what was that? Provide examples for what made it a weakness. What were the pros and cons for these differences of political systems between the north and south?



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ANSWER - Northern and Southern Politics

by Ryan Lundberg - Friday, March 8, 2013, 4:24 PM

Formal political parties did not exist in the Confederacy, whereas the North had a two party system. In the south, this was the result of two main causes. The two party system eroded during the 1850's, and there was a perceived need for a united front during the emergencies of secession and war. In contrast, the two party system in the North disciplined, and channeled political activity. The Republican party became the means for mobilizing war resources, while these actions were opposed by the Democrats, causing the Republicans to close

ranks. Because these measures were supported by parties, voters could clearly identify, and register their disapproval though voting on a party ticket. Both parties used their well oiled machinery to rally voters to their side. In the Confederacy however, the Davis administration had no such means to mobilize support. No parties meant no institutionalized discipline over congressman or governors. This led to a greater, multi-faceted, political divide in the Confederacy, thus weakening it. (689,690) The advantages of the political system in the North was that it allowed for more political efficiency and unity at the cost of greater individuality, state's rights, etc. The opposite was true in the South.

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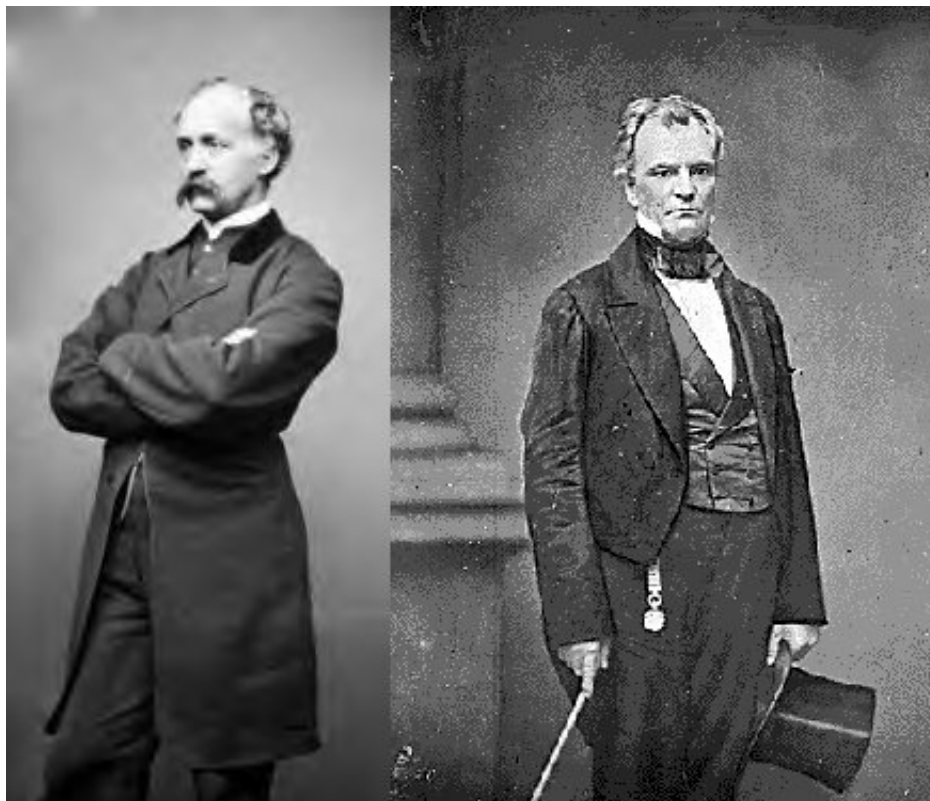
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Question- Wade-Davis Bill

by Jacob Pusey - Thursday, February 28, 2013, 10:47 PM

Legislative members of Lincoln's own party argued that he had overstepped his Executive power by using a "pocket veto" to ensure that the Wade-Davis bill would not be approved. Why was the President opposed to this bill? (Henry Winter Davis on left, Benjamin Wade on right)



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Answer: Wade-Davis Bill

by Courtney Merrell - Friday, March 8, 2013, 5:44 PM

Lincoln opposed the Wade-Davis bill because he believed that no confederate state could meet the conditions of the act, the real purpose of heh act was to postpone reconstruction until the war was won. Lincoln by contrast wanted to initiate reconstruction immediately in order to convert those who were on the fence about confederacy into Unionists as a means of winning the war. Lincoln also refused to be inflexibly committed to any single plan of restoration as required by the bill since this would destroy the free state constitutions and governments already adopted and installed in Arkansas and Louisiana.

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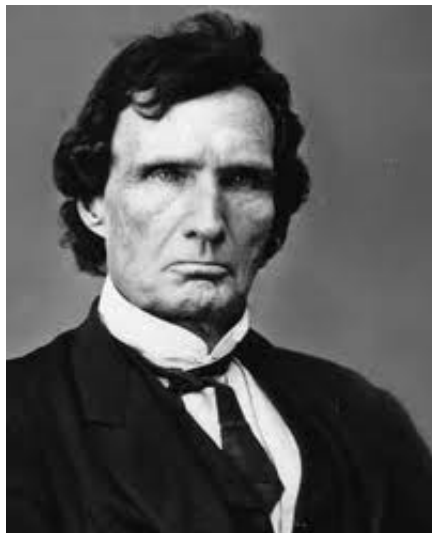


Union's reconstruction theories



by Courtney Merrell - Saturday, March 2, 2013, 3:50 PM

Lincoln and a radical republican named Thaddues Stevens had different visions of the South's future. Steven's beleived that since these southern states had gone *out* of the Union, a few had therefor ceased to exist as legal states. When invaded and controlled by the Union army they would become "conquered provinces" subject to the Union's will. In slight opposition to Steven's proposition, what was Lincoln's stand point on the southern state's future?



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ANSWER - CH. 23 - Union's reconstruction theories

by Adam Coutts - Friday, March 8, 2013, 11:11 PM

For the issue of reconstruction of the South President Abraham Lincoln's views were evolving in that regards he wanted to maintain power over reconstruction in the hands of the executive branch and to develop his reconstruction liberally and experientially. Radicals, as we know, wanted tougher standards imposed on state governments seeking rehabilitation within the Union. Lincoln was determined to control the reconstruction process. In the summer of 1864, after Lincoln vetoed the Wade-Davis bill on reconstruction, he then issued a memorandum outlining its shortages.

“...By the terms of the bill the rebel states were in a sense still in the Union, though they lacked constitutional governments which the United States could recognize. The bill was thus a compromise that those who considered the states still in the Union could support, as well as those who held that the rebellion had changed the condition of the states.” (Historian Herman Belz)

Towards the end of the war, Lincoln held a moderate view seeking to reunite the nation speedily through a policy of generous reconciliation in the face of lingering and bitter divisiveness. He offered amnesty, or pardon, to all Southerners who pledged an oath of loyalty to the United States. When 10% of a state's voters had signed this oath, Congress would reinstate the state into the Union.

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Confederate Congressional Elections of '63

by Micah Young - Saturday, March 2, 2013, 4:05 PM

“Unhappily for Jefferson Davis, elections for the Confederate Congress took place in the fall of 1863 when southern morale was at low ebb.” The election results weakened Davis' support and the proportion of former Whigs and conditional unionists in congress increased from one-third to half. In addition to the military losses that year of Gettysburg, Vicksburg, various factors at home influenced the election; critics of Davis also were influencing public opinion against the administration. What factors in the South influenced the '63 elections and who were some of the president's chief critics?



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Answer- Critics in his own Cabinet

by Jessica Cadenasso - Friday, March 8, 2013, 10:20 AM

One major factor was that everyone blames Davis for the loss of the Battle of Vicksburg. Another factor was the inflation and shortages of goods. His biggest critics were Vice-President Alexander Stephens, ex-General Robert Toombs, and Governor Joseph Brown. Toombs said Davis was "false and Hypocritical....wretch" who had "neither the ability not the honesty to manage the revolution." Wigfall and Johnston was another huge critic, they blamed Davis for the command structure in the west that led to disaster. Johnston was considered a "shield" behind which critics of the administration "gathered themselves.....and shot arrows at President Davis."



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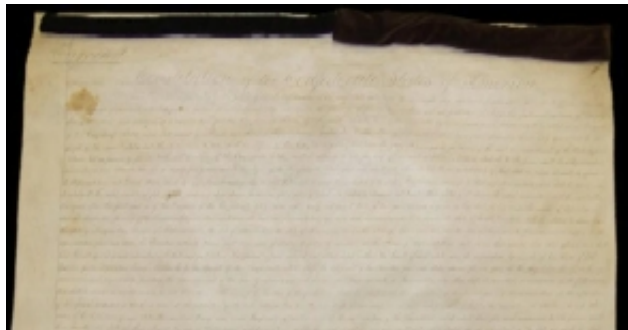
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Question-- Preserving the Union

by Ashley Clark - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 3:51 AM

President Jefferson Davis' administration suffered greatly in 1863. This was partially due to a decrease in Confederate patriotism, as the Confederacy was slowly coming to be considered a lost cause; and most likely primarily due to problems caused by a disfunctional government system. What are some of the differences between the Union and Confederate government constructions, and how did they cause such a negative impact on Davis' administration?



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ANSWER

by Alexander Kristy - Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 2:26 PM

The South did not have traditional political parties. "This state of affairs arose from two main causes: the erosion of the two-party system in the 1850s and the perceived need for a united front during the emergencies of secession and war." (pg. 689, McPherson). Though southerners considered this a strength at the time, historians now seem to agree that a lack of a two party system was

actually a weakness. The Republicans mobilized war resources, raised taxes, created a new financial system, initiated emancipation, and enacted conscription. "Democrats opposed most of these measures; the existence of this well-defined opposition caused Republicans to close ranks when the chips were down." (pg. 690, McPherson). Because of this setup, voters could identify with a specific party and cast their votes according to their own interests. Unfortunately for Jefferson Davis his administration lacked the means to mobilize support. "No parties meant no institutionalized discipline over congressmen or governors. Davis could not invoke party loyalty and patronage in behalf of his policies, as Lincoln could. Opposition to the Davis administration became personal or factional and therefore difficult to deal with." (pg. 690, McPherson).

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QUESTION: Reconstruction

by Julie Skinner - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 11:13 AM

By the fall of 1863, Lincoln was ready to announce a policy for reconstruction. In his December 8th proclamation he offered pardon and amnesty to those who would take an oath of allegiance to the United States. What were Lincoln's criteria for a state's re-admittance into the Union? What was the main argument against Lincolns proposed plans for reconstruction?



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ANSWER - Reconstruction

by Ian MacDonald - Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 3:59 PM

President Lincoln was prepared to re-admit the southern states on the conditions of Union and Emancipation. He never deviated from his theory that secession was illegal, but he believed that many of the southern states had become corrupt and overtaken by the Rebels. Many Republicans believed however that those states had given up their rights as a state after they seceded. There were even certain radical Republicans that went so far as to insist that those states had ceased to exist as legal states. Almost all

Republicans agreed however that these states were “out of there proper practical relation with the Union” and that the main objective was to get them back into a proper relation.

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Question: Politics in the North and South

by Brendan MacDonald - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 2:31 PM

Chapter 23 *When This Cruel War is Over* discusses the different political structures in the North and South. The Confederacy believed that the absence of formal political parties was a source of strength. However historians now recognize that this circumstance was a source of weakness. Provide specific examples from Ch. 23 why the absence of political parties in the South was a source of weakness.



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Re: ANSWER: Politics in the North and South

by Meleah Drews - Sunday, March 10, 2013, 1:01 AM

The two party system maintained in the North throughout the war "disciplined and channeled political activity" (p690). It allowed voters to identify with a political platform and if they disapproved of the direction one party was moving things, they had the power to change it with their vote. Political parties rallied voters to their side, were able to mobilize funds for the war effort, and apply pressure for change.

The South without formal political parties, lacked the ability to unite politically. While the idea of forgoing partisan politics is a noble one, in practice it was not successful. For instance there were governors whose activities hindered the

centralized war effort, with state's rights taking precedence before the good of the central government. Because there were no political parties, there was "no institutionalized discipline over congressmen or governors" (p690). There was a lack of loyalty and party patronage. Rather than a candidate running on a shared party platform, they ran on an individual basis.

I can see how the lack of the political party system could lead to more of the blame or responsibility of the war to fall on the shoulders of the President rather than the governors and congressmen.

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Question-Confederate Congress Elections

by Chance Cornish - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 3:15 PM

Question #3

At the beginning of Ch. 23, *When This Cruel War is Over*, it talks about the Davis Administration took some big body blows during the Confederate Congress elections place in the Fall 1863. What were some of the complaints and results from the complaints of the Election?



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QUESTION - The Absence of Political Parties in the South

by Ian MacDonald - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 3:24 PM

According to Chapter 23 in *Battle Cry of Freedom*, The Confederacy did **not** have any formal political parties as opposed to the Union having a Republican party and a Democratic party. What were the two main causes for this? Did it provide the South with a source of strength as they thought it would? Why or why not?



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ANSWER - The Absence of Political Parties in the South

by Brendan MacDonald - Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 1:15 PM

One of the main reasons for the nonexistence of political parties in the South was the erosion of the two-party system in the 1850's. The other cause was the perceived need for a united front during the emergencies of secession or war. Southerners considered this circumstance a source of strength at the time; however historians now recognize the absence of parties was a source of weakness. The two-party system in the North provided mobilization for war resources, raising taxes, creating a financial system, and more. The Republicans favored all of these measures and Democrats opposed most of them. As a result of these measures being supported or opposed by parties, voters could register their approval or disapproval at the polls. The South did not have any of the benefits that came along with the presence of political parties and therefore did not have the same means of mobilizing support.

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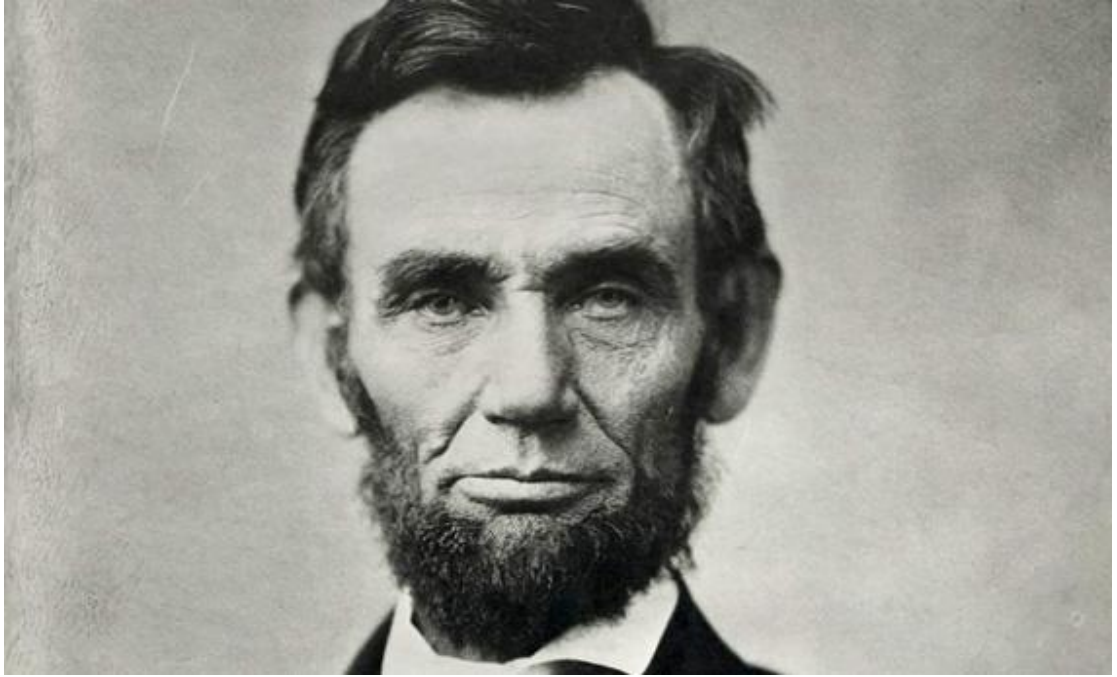
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Theories

by Jennifer King - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 4:15 PM

Lincoln had a theory, from which he never deviated, regarding the South and the Union. What was it? How did others view this theory?



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Answer – Theories

by Mark Gorski - Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 12:15 PM

Lincoln's theory was that secession was illegal and Southern States therefore remained in the union. He believed that rebels had temporarily taken over their governments and that the first task of reconstruction was to return "Loyal" officials to power.

On one hand all Republicans subscribed to this theory of indestructible states in an indissoluble Union; to believe otherwise would be to admit that their war aims would be unsound. On the other hand, no one could deny that the Southern States had gone out of the Union by forming a new government with all the attributes of a nation.

A few radical Republicans insisted that they had therefore ceased to exist as legal states. That when invaded and controlled by the Union Army they became "Conquered Provinces" subject to the "Conqueror's will.

However, most Republicans preferred the theory that by attempting the treasonable act of secession Southern States had forfeited their rights as states and therefore had reverted to the condition of territories.

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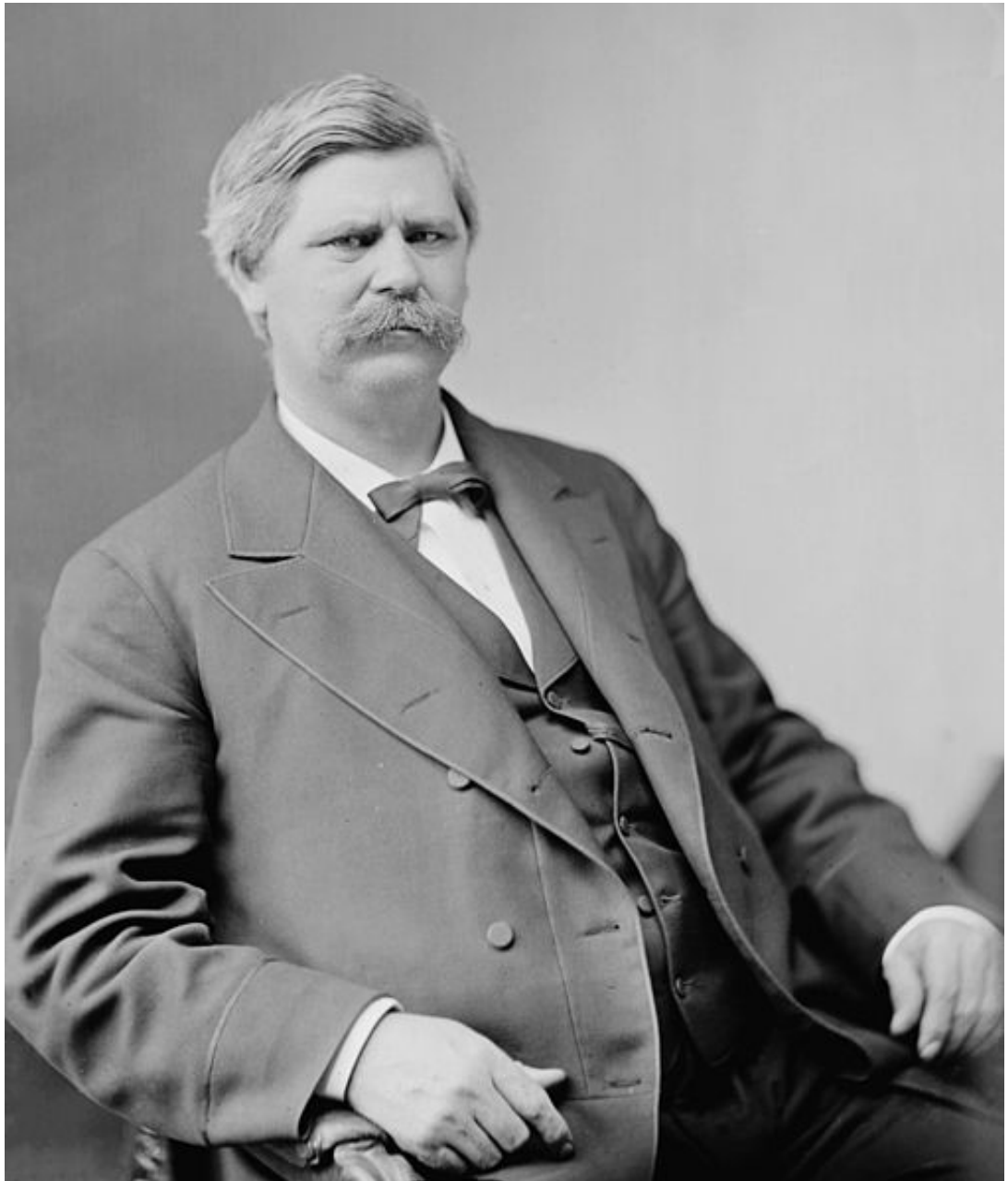
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QUESTION - Machiavellian Zebulon

by Ryan Lundberg - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 5:04 PM

During 1863, the most serious internal threat to the Confederacy was considered to be the growing peace movement. Zebulon B. Vance, Governor of North Carolina and staunch supporter of the Confederacy, was eventually able to quell the peace movement in his state through clever political maneuvering. What were the successful strategies and actions employed by him?



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ANSWER

by Jacob Pusey - Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 11:40 PM

Governor Vance was a brilliant politician. His main rival was William W. Holden who was a North Carolina Democratic secessionist. Their love of their state was about the only thing these two would agree on after Holden took an antiwar stance. Holden felt that "honorable peace" was possible through negotiations. Vance considered this treasonous to the Confederacy and sought to have him discredited. Vance urged Jefferson Davis to call for negotiations allowing for North Carolinian independence thinking that doing so would unite antiwar supporters. Knowing that the North would never agree to such conditions, Vance hoped that there dismissal of negotiations would in fact reinvigorate southern loyalty and squash the antiwar movement. While this maneuver was lost on Davis (who did not understand Vance's political strategy) it did persuade him to push for the suspension of habeas corpus and to punish those who were disloyal to the confederacy. This meant the peace movement, which was great for Vance. When Holden announced his plans to challenge Vance in the upcoming gubernatorial election, Vance strategically and misleadingly modified his position by saying that "we all want peace". The difference was that he argued for peace through victory and if Holden had his way, North Carolina would rejoin the Union and their own soldiers would begin fighting against the Confederacy. Even if this is not at all what Holden had intended by "peace" the damage was done and Holden was vilified throughout his own state as a traitor. Vance won the election in a landslide with 88 percent of the soldiers votes and 77 percent of the civilian vote.

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Question - Ch. 23

by Adam Coutts - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 5:06 PM

North Carolina was the last state to secede, and at times their commitment to the Cause seemed shaky at best, however she did contribute more soldiers than any other state save Virginia. North Carolina also tributed more of these than any other state as well, what were they and how many?

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Answer- Question - Ch. 23

by Robyn Stevens - Monday, March 4, 2013, 10:24 PM

North Carolina had just as many deserters as she had men who enlisted. Most studies show that there was 23,000 deserters from North Carolina. Most deserters who came back to North Carolina fell into alliance with the "tories" who supported the union. This was more than 1/5 of all confederate deserters.



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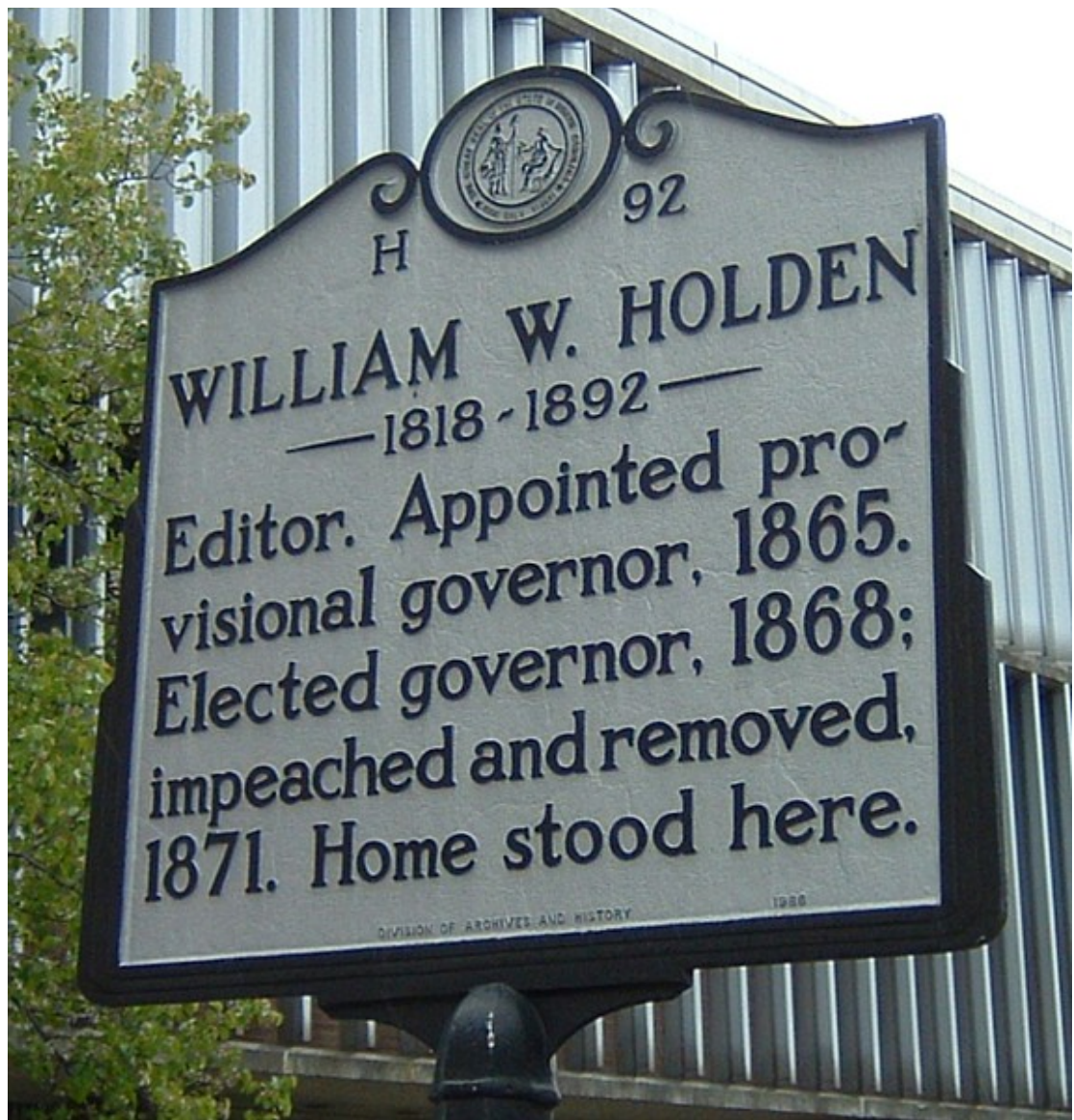
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QUESTION- chp. 23

by Whitney Stevens - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 5:15 PM

The editor of the Raleigh North Carolina Standard, William W. Holden was convinced the south could not win the war, he developed a large group of followers from what occupancies and class? Why was this, what did he emphasize in regards to whose war and whose fight the civil war was for Confederates?



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ANSWER

by Julie Skinner - Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 2:20 PM

William W. Holden was a peace advocate and North Carolina gubernatorial candidate. A Democratic secessionist in the 1850's, he broke with the party and would resist secession until the very end in 1861. Holden emphasized the theme that this was a rich man's war/ poor man's fight. He would win a large following among yeoman farmers and workingmen. This was most likely due to their middle class status. Few yeoman farmers or workingmen owned any slaves or could ever aspire to. While they may have admired the Planter class and hoped one day to join them, they at this point were the ones being called on to actually fight this way of life. They couldn't afford to pay someone to go in their place.

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William Holden for Governor

by Meleah Drews - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 8:40 PM

Why was William Holden's 1864 run for governor of North Carolina considered the most serious internal threat to the Confederacy so far?

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ANSWER- William Holden for Governor

by Whitney Stevens - Monday, March 4, 2013, 5:39 PM

William W. Holden was known as one of North Carolina's most powerful political leaders. He began as a whig and later on became a democratic secessionist in the 1850's and then later broke from that party as he started resisting secession until 1861. Holden, an editor of the North Carolina Standard, began to attack policies and civil liberties during the war. He continued to emphasize the war being a rich man's war and a poor mans fight, as most of the man fighting were poor but for a rich mans cause. This theme caused a large following "poor men" usually yeoman farmers and workingmen. During the year of 1863, Holden believed the south had no chance at winning the war and "that conscription, impressment, "military despotism," and economic ruin represented a greater threat to North Carolinians than reunion with the United States" (McPherson, 696).

Holden and associates had a 100 hundred plus antiwar meetings and was aided by the Heroes of America. However, soon came threats to his newspaper and he claimed if he couldn't print as a free man he wouldn't print at all. A week later, after stopping the standard, he announced his intention to run against Vance (who was supported by Davis & a previous friend) for governor in the election. Him running as governor became the confederacy's greatest internal threat. However, Vance beat Holden by quite a lot, winning "88 percent of the soldier vote and 77 percent of the civilian vote" (McPherson, 698). Although, Holden was an internal threat to the Confederacy he did not exceed in winning as governor, where he hoped to end North Carolina's ties to the confederacy.



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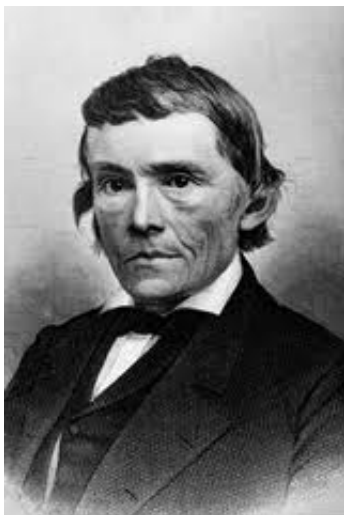
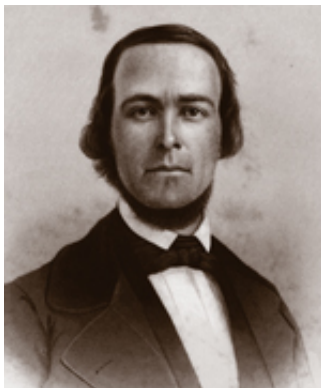


Re: Chapter 23



by Jessica Cadenasso - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 10:05 PM

Brown and Stephens in 1864 wanted peace negotiations to happen with the south. What was the events to occur before this to bring on this negotiation and what were the circumstances of the agreement?

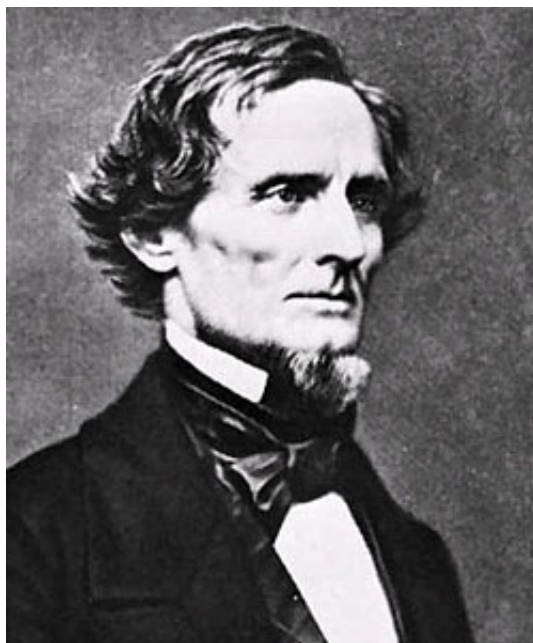


**ANSWER**

by Chance Cornish - Sunday, March 10, 2013, 11:53 PM

At this point in the war, the south was struggling with worsening inflation and shortages that was adding pressure to the politicians in the middle of congressional elections. According to McPherson, in the 4 months after Gettysburg, prices jumped nearly 70%. "Yesterday flour sold at auction for \$100 per barrel; today it sells for \$120," wrote a Richmond resident in November. (691) The Confederacy also struggled with the fact that the Confederacy didn't have former political parties. On page 690 it says, southerners considered this circumstance a source of strength. The president pro tem of the first Congress congratulated its members that "the spirit of party has never shown itself for an instant in your deliberations." But in fact, as historians now recognize, the absence of parties was actually a source of weakness.

Brown and Stephens planned to begin negotiations after the next rebel victory and the precondition to peace was independence. This was actually a plan to divide the northern voters and strengthen the peace democrats for the upcoming 1864 election. Brown and Stephens' plan eventually backfired and most of the southerners saw them as "reconstructionists advocating peace at any price." (694) Their plan also failed in the North as they used the negotiations as a sign of weakness and would attempt to go on and divide the south.



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