



Forum 6

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**Death & the Civil War**by [Joe Escobar](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 9:25 AM

To post, you will click the "reply" link MY post. If you want to reply to a specific comment made by another student, click the "reply" link located on that student's specific post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

As in all forums, put something descriptive in the subject line of your post, based on one of the numerous questions I've asked you to discuss. Other students wanting to talk about the same issue can click the "reply" button to your post, thus helping organize this discussion. **DO NOT** attempt to answer all questions by posting a mini-essay that is difficult to respond to or discuss.

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Death & the Civil War**by [Janey Willis](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 9:22 PM

Am I the only one having trouble finding the clip? All that the provided link had was an introduction like clip.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Honoring the Dead**by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 10:50 PM

The documentary, "Death and the Civil War", was a great way to bring the term to a close. Even though I was aware of the all the casualties and deaths that were occurring constantly, it was interesting to learn about what Ric Burns calls a "good death". In my family we take Memorial Day seriously and go to all our family member's graves and pay respects by cleaning the head stones as well as leaving flowers or little flags. By watching this clip I realized how maybe my family came to doing this tradition and it feels good to honor those who have passed away. I do see how our culture has lost how we dealt with death. It really does show on Memorial Day, when everyone is having picnics or going camping and yet the whole reason for the day is to recognize the dead. Another thing I do notice about our society is lack of attention to our love ones who have passed. When you go into a cemetery and hardly any graves have been maintain, it is a sad sight. The last final way I can see how society has changed in the way we honor the dead is when groups like Westboro Baptist Church comes into military funerals and protests them. Even though they are protesting the war, it shows extreme disrespect to soldier who died and their family. Another significant moment in the clip was when it showed the battles, dates, casualties, and the deaths. It gave a solid impact to see those statistics in one setting. It just reminded me again how many people gave their lives to fight for what they believed in. By watching this film, it reminded me how the Civil War effected everyone and changed so much in our society in the way we go about recognizing the dead.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1) 3

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Honoring the Dead**by [Micah McJunkin](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:46 PM

Bethany-

My family also takes Memorial Day very seriously. Much of my family has served in the military, and we are indebted to them for that service. When I hear or read about how the dead were dealt with during the Civil War, of course it is hard to imagine. However, it is also difficult for me to criticize the people of that time. Maybe they really were doing the best they could with what they had. I'm sure the task must have been incredibly overwhelming.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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3 Million!

by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 10:17 PM

Another thing that was really interesting was when Ric Burns points out that if we were to have a war at this scale today, the death toll would be like 3 million Americans. That is intense to picture. To even imagine how affected your life would be by a war at this intensity is beyond me. This was just something that I was thinking about today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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more on death

by [Roxanne Lindquist](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 11:15 PM

For me I think that this documentary added on to knowledge regarding death on a more personal level to individuals, family and loved ones. Of course we all know this was the war that was the bloodiest in American history. I feel that they way Rick Burns puts the battles, years and death toll on the screen with the pictures in the video made a bigger statement than just saying them. Death was a part of life than; it was thought about constantly to live well as well as to die well. They thought that the way a person died also would show the nature of that person's afterlife. Of course they wanted the "good death" like most people still do today, at home with loved ones around. I felt that the man that wrote his family saying I have to tell you I died like a man was vary touching. I felt that this documentary was a little easier to sit through than the others.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: more on death

by [Jal Rial](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 7:55 PM

Roxanna,

This documentary was easy to sit through because it was a lot more touching. Knowing how many people died in these battles really made the war that much more important history wise and for us as individuals. I think that is why when the fallen soldier writing to his family says he died like a man touches us. Burns was trying to make an important statement by posting the number of deaths and years and I think he did just that. None of these soldiers had the opportunity for a "good death" but they died for a good reason.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: more on death

by [Jordan Hevern](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 11:48 AM

Roxanne,

I agree with how you state that everyone wants a good death, even though most of the men who died suffered a lot, and went unknown, but I think that at that point in time in the war, death was the answer. Nobody knew when this was was going to end, everybody knew that the medicine and the care they had was not adequate for their injuries. This documentary really gave me the idea that death was the answer, Although no one wants to die, it was almost a relief. These men did not have to suffer anymore. They did not have to wake up everyday, waiting for the commands to attack. They were finally set free.

These "good deaths" you speak of where rare, and only if the soldier did not bleed out before hand or where killed right on the spot. Now a days, unless its a head shot or heart shot, soldiers do have the option of having a good death, because we have developed so much that we have on the spot medical help/training instantly. Its just such different times that its even hard to compare than and now, because frankly there is none.

Jordan Hevern

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: more on death

by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:30 PM

Roxanne,

I have noticed that most of the posts people are posting all agree that the film was very emotional and added to what we have been learning. Do you think that if the same content was applied in text instead of a visual form that everyone would feel the same way? For me visual helps more and I don't know if I would still like it as much if it was in written form.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: more on death

by [Roxanne Lindquist](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 10:26 PM

I think for some that it would still be as emotional in text. But I feel that like most have said that having it in visual form does help give it a more emotional touch. I like being able to have the text and visual forms.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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The Search For Closure

by [Micah McJunkin](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 11:23 PM

This documentary cleared up some open questions I have had about the Civil War. Throughout learning about the many battles that involved such large numbers of casualties, I have often wondered how so many dead soldiers were dealt with and what happened to their bodies. One specific line from the documentary that stood out to me was the fact that half of the soldiers who died in the war were never identified. What a terrible and shocking reality for the families of the soldiers. Certainly people during that time were more used to death than we are now, but perhaps they were stronger than we are as well. When a family member left to go fight in the Civil War, it truly was an open ended goodbye. The lucky families were the ones who learned of their loved ones passing. Today, we know very quickly when a loved one has been killed while serving in the military, and we are fortunate to be given the opportunity for closure. Back then, the uncertainty that lasted a lifetime must have been excruciating.

With the information about battle that is available to families today, it has taken away the unknowns involved with death during war. We have television reporters in the field that are supposed to tell us what is going on during a war, and that gives us a better understanding about what our loved ones are going through. Perhaps this has made our modern culture less reliant and less willing to seek faith in the higher power for closure and guidance. During the Civil War, there was so much death combined with so many unknowns, I'm sure people then looked more often for religious guidance as compared with the people of today.

I think the federal government is doing a mediocre job when it comes to soldiers who have been wounded or killed in battle. Of course the medical care and attention has come a long way since the Civil War when it was basically non-existent, but it should be that way. With the money, education and resources available to this country, our soldiers who have paid a price should be given the very best. Not only on the battlefield, but also when they get home. I think it's the part after they get home that needs to be seriously re-evaluated. People forget far too quickly and way too easily why they have their freedom, and the soldiers that provided that freedom should be rewarded with the very best of care.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Re: The Search For Closure

by [Roxanne Lindquist](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 9:41 PM

I think you but it well when you say that you think the federal government is doing a mediocre job when it comes to soldiers who have been wounded or killed in battle. For some to go out and risk there lives for all of us to keep our freedom and than come home and struggle, and have their family struggle is something they should not have to go through. I have personally taken care of several veterans in there elderly age and yes some have the va to take care of

there medical but not all of them and most of them did not get an education because they had to find ways to take care of their family's. I think the government can do better.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Search For Closure

by [Justin Wright](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 1:22 AM

"One specific line from the documentary that stood out to me was the fact that half of the soldiers who died in the war were never identified. What a terrible and shocking reality for the families of the soldiers."

I agree. This is one of the most important statistics, second to the number of deaths. Both stats are shocking. What could be more important than closure for the families of fallen soldiers? I'm hoping the statistic misleads the reality a bit and that most who went with the buddy-system to write home for them was better used than the "half" number presented.

I think it's possible that a young man could fall in a battle, a friend could have noticed, or noticed his absence soon thereafter, and wrote his family about it, and yet he could go as unidentified back on the battlefield. So I guess I'm saying I hope the number misrepresents the reality. But sadly I don't think it can misrepresent by a large margin, which it would have to do to mitigate the shock to the conscience experienced when reading that stat.

A few years back I read the story of a young man whose letters home revealed a profound love for all the new flora he was discovering on his marches. He was excited to describe them in detail to his family back home. It was interesting that the only final word there was of him was another young man that claimed that the last time he saw him he was running towards the enemy. The author later joked that maybe he was distracted and was actually sprinting towards a new flower he had never seen.

Hopefully there were many cases like this, and he would be considered part of that unconfirmed 50%. This would likely be all the family would live with for the remainder of their lives. I'd say that ain't too bad. But woe to those families who did, in fact, receive no word. Terrible.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The Search For Closure

by [Jal Rial](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 1:41 PM

Michah,

I think you should get in more detail about how today government is doing what you say a "mediocre" job when it comes to soldiers that have been wounded or kill at battle. Our government takes great care of our soldiers especially when they are killed in battle. Not only are the families connected right away but we always make sure to get the body and bring it back to the states almost as soon as death occurs. Compared to back then where they burned bodies and loved ones weren't notified I think our government is doing superb job in handling fallen soldiers. There will never be a death of our soldiers today that will no be recorded or unidentified. I do think the uncertainty of those families back then was tough but definitely led to our government making sure it wouldn't occur in the future.

I like how you said our soldiers " who have paid a price" should come home and be treated the very best. We as a country as a whole forget what these individuals do for us and the type of risk they take. Personally i feel that we do more a lot for our veterans and active soldiers ,they get the best health care, and have the opportunity to send there kids to college for free with GI bills.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The Search For Closure

by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 12:05 AM

Jal, I noticed how you said that our soldiers and veterans get alot like the best health care and other opportunities. Being a disabled veteran's daughter, I have to disagree with you. It really depends where you live in which the benefits would be the best. For example, I can't go to college for free and my dad served as a Marine for 27 years. In Oregon if you have the insurance, it is hard to find places that accept it. When I was younger, we would have to drive all the way to Portland to get my teeth cleaned. So overall I disagree that our veterans and active military members

get the best benefits that they deserve.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Search For Closure

by [Micah McJunkin](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:23 PM

Jal,

Just to clear things up about my post, when I said that the government does a mediocre job, in no way was I talking about the deceased soldiers. If you read my post again, I agree that the soldiers who paid the ultimate price (aka the deceased soldiers) do get treated with great respect and dignity. What I meant was that the soldiers who have been wounded in battle and then come back home do not get the level of care they deserve. Far too often they get lost among the crowd and forgotten about, when they deserve to get the best of everything we have to offer.

- Micah

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Search For Closure

by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:46 PM

Micah,

I too agree that too often soldiers who come home do get lost in the crowd like you said. I feel that in order to get the best benefits, you would have to have had made being in the military as a career instead of being in the service for a couple years. No matter how long someone has been in the service, they should get the best benefits whether they are currently serving or now a civilian. They risked their lives for us and this country but yet they are way too often forgotten.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Standard of Living, Dying

by [Justin Wright](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 11:44 PM

Loved the film! A friend actually recommended it to me last week after he found it on Netflix. The one on Netflix is a longer, two hour version.

The way I looked at this very unique film, was through an understanding that war--or defense--has beget many great inventions. The list of technologies and devices that come from wars, or in preparation for them, is very interesting and long.

So it was with surprise that I learned how an ambulance corps came to be in the United States Army (and dog tags, etc!).

A father in mourning, dealing with his grief, helped propel concern for proper care of the wounded and dying. I'm sure there were many others like him.

However, I took from this film the great reminder that if you feel something is wrong, say something! Or like Clara Barton, say something, and then do something.

It gives me goosebumps to hear the lengths we'll go to recover the body of a dead soldier today. No matter what, they will be coming home. Much blood--and tears--have been spilled to raise the standard of living in our country, and the standard of dying.

I feel encouraged to speak up, or act, when I see injustice. We have not yet arrived!

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Standard of Living, Dying

by [Micah McJunkin](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:34 PM

Its amazing how casual and frequent death was during the Civil War compared to how we treat death during war today. I understand the Civil War took place on American soil, and the advancement of medical terminology and practice was so very small back then, but it is just hard for me to imagine the frame of mind that existed during that time. Its amazing how death can become such a common occurrence. I take great pride in how we do absolutely anything and everything to bring the dead home to their families in todays day and age.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Respect our Soliders

by [Jal Rial](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 11:54 PM

"Death and the Civil War", was a unique way to conclude class and everything we learned about the Civil War. In some sense I already had an idea about all the deaths occurred but Mr.Burns interpretation of a "good death" was new and interesting. Growing up I never took memorial day seriously or even really played it any attention so after watching and reading the articles I feel bad and sort of ungrateful. I think we should use this day as a way to show respect and admire those who have fought and passed for our country. As a whole our society and country has lost respect for soldiers and there families because we don't make it a priority to celebrate Memorial day the right way and show some type of honor. Instead we close schools, and jobs and use the day as a vacation and really don't embrace what it really means which is a total disrespect and I am personally a victim.

As a country we kind of take care of fallen soldiers and there families like we should but we can do more. I think the government should use some of our tax funds to keep cemeteries upscale and to make sure fallen soldiers families are not struggling. Once again they fought for our country and all of us individually so I believe that is the least we can do. We wouldn't be living comfortably the way we are today if it wasn't for the dead folks. I personally think the government is doing a great job when it comes to soldiers who have been wounded or killed in battle. Obviously the medical field has evolved to a much stronger state then back during the Civil war so that is definitely a plus. With everything we as a country have technology, educations, and top notch resources we owe it to our dead soldiers that they are treated with the up most respect and care after what they have done. I really do appreciate what our government does with informing our families about our loved ones at battle weather its being hurt of passing. This might not seem huge but compared to what was happening back then with unidentified deaths that is a families life savor. We should take care of them while they are fighting and when they return to there families. As a society and a group we are so caught up in every day life we forget about who is protecting us and the price they could pay which is death. Therefore we need to take care of these men and women.

This clip was very touching especially when it showed us the battles, dates, and deaths of the Civil War. It really made me change my perspective of soldiers and really come to respect them weather its current ones or ones that have passed during our country upbringing. The numbers and dates where astonishing, and it showed how many folks cared and gave there life's for this country and what they stood for. It was sort of sad to know that there was a group of unidentified , I could only imagine how the families of these soldiers felt.This film reminded me how much impact the Civil War had on America and a society and how it lead to recognition of the dead.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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The Fallen Soldiers

by [Jordan Hevern](#) - Thursday, March 5, 2015, 5:39 PM

Between 1861-2015 we have developed in more ways than one. Technology, automobiles, communication, education, medicine... it all has developed and we are still making bigger and better things. Th federal government now has many ways in helping the fallen soldiers. It has the medication to treat on the spot injuries. They put millions of dollars into a fund where they get soldiers back to the United States to be buried with their family. They also have more financial help for the soldiers that do make it back, and even for their families that lose their loved ones in battle. Back then, they did not have an ambulance to transport and bodies back to their homes. They did not have any way of documenting who was who. Before the civil war they did not any way of preserving their bodies to be buried at home. Before the civil war. they were not ready for the thousands of people that died everyday. No one knew that this war was going to last as long as it did.

This documentary really rounded out the fact of just how many men died due to the fact of the time they were in. Little medicine and surgical instruments to help the ones who have been wounded. They just bleed out, and then were just uncounted for. They did not have an identity anymore. Death might of been their escape from the pain, but it hindered our knowledge of knowing all the men who fought in this war. Men were not able to say their goodbyes to anyone. If they did get the opportunity, their fellow soldiers, would write to their families, but again that was if they were ever identified.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The Fallen Soldiers

by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:26 PM

Jordan,

I liked how you mentioned that sometimes soldiers' identities were never known. When I watched the film, I didn't catch the idea that soldiers may have not ever been identified. I'm glad that you pointed that out, thanks!

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Casualties and War

by [Janey Willis](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 10:47 AM

This documentary gave a different look at the actual cost of the civil war, a very important but devastating part of history. I obviously knew that the civil war was very bloody and heavy in casualties, but this was a more emotional look at this that made you see these soldiers as individuals and not just as a whole. Not only was it educational and a great resource for that class, but also very emotional. Like I said it gave viewers a look on the grief these deaths caused families and individuals and how there is still some tension over these, even 150 years later. Like the article says we have kind of always looked at war while kind of not focusing on deaths and being able to separate ourselves from these deaths. This film, I believe can help people view the Civil War and war in general in a different light.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Casualties and War

by [Jal Rial](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 12:08 PM

Janey,

I really like how you stated that the film could help people view not only the Civil War but wars in general in a different light. Today when we are in war we don't really take the time to think about how many soldiers we are sending to fight or about all of the families suffering because their mother or father is at war. The Government focuses solely on how they can benefit and win the war but tend to forget how many people die because of their decisions. The article couldn't say it any better. We look at war but don't focus on the deaths, which is wrong. I believe an exact number as to how many people have died in wars over the years will send a big shock to all of us. I really like how the documentary focused on what this war cost America death wise, that really opened up our brains and made me if not all of us think about all of the fallen soldiers. It made me view them as individuals and people, and not just a number. People risked their life and died for our country, and the film showed just how huge the Civil war was.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Casualties and War

by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:23 PM

Janey,

I agree with you on that this film can help people view the Civil War as other wars in a different light. I think that Burns did a good job on the emotional appeal. Did you notice how a peachy color was added to the cheeks of the people in the photos? To me that gave an extra emotional appeal.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Modern Approach to Death

by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:39 PM

I noticed no one went into depth about today's views on death. Do you guys think that we have lost our ways of thinking about death due to the decline of religious views of society? I can see how death can be affected by this decline, but I don't know if it is as drastic as it could be. Maybe if society was a little more open about religion and practiced it more, we would care more about people dying and how they die. Sometimes I think people want to avoid the topic about dying or were they believe their spirit goes once they die. This could possibly be due to the decline in religious devotion or the fact that society has evolved and we don't face death in the face as often as our ancestors have in the past. What does everyone else think on this topic?

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Modern Approach to Death

by [Micah McJunkin](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 9:57 PM

Bethany-

I struggle with how to approach this question. I do see how a lack of religion could play a part in how death is received so lightly. However, I also know people who have been driven towards faith after being faced with a death in the family. I think maybe people of today have become somewhat used to death the same way the general public during the Civil War was used to death. I believe that is because of technology. Turn on the news, get online, or pick up your phone and all you see are stories about who was killed that day and why it supposedly happened, no matter where it was in the world we hear about it immediately. I think that has sort of numbed the public's reactions about death.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Modern Approach to Death

by [Bethany Hunter-Lehman](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 10:10 PM

Micah,

Thanks for your feedback. I can see how technology would affect how we as a society deals with death. I think it also depends upon the person's experiences when it comes to how individuals deal with death. Some people haven't had to experience someone close pass and some people have. These experiences more than likely will determine how an individual sees the process of death.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Hate That This Will Be My Last Post

by [Justin Wright](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 11:53 PM

It's so easy to connect with others when you talk about issues related to the civil war. God, Family, Country. All of us can relate--or connect--in some way with each other through those three issues.

Wish this forum wasn't over. I've enjoyed hearing everyone's comments, agreements, and disagreements. I've learned a lot from all of you. My problem is that no matter how hard I try, I'm always looking through my own eyes, and through the lens of all my personal experiences. These weekly forums have helped me connect with contrasting and similar view points. Thank you to you all.

Concerning this week's topic. I'd like to share that all the various books I've read on the civil war, there is one thing that a dying soldier seems to ask for more than anything else as he's surviving or dying on a quiet battlefield. From my readings, it seems like the number one request is "water". A dying or wounded soldier seems to want just water. Not sure what to make of that exactly. But the request seems so simple, especially in the face of needing so much. Of course, upon receiving the water, or learning there is none, this is usually followed by instructions on what to say to family.

Religious devotion, in my view, played a substantial part in the courage to do a soldier's duty, and bring no shame to your family. Lee, Jackson, and a few others stand out as exceptional cases. But I feel their faith made them incredible soldiers. The psychological structure of a soldier that believes God is not only on your side, but is orchestrating all events around you for the greater good of that cause, can make a soldier execute orders fearlessly, proudly, and without regard to self, and can even make the prayerful soldier a zealous killing machine. Believing that the only way a bullet hits you today is only because the Almighty designed it that way would give anyone superhuman abilities to carry out orders. We see this in many soldiers, especially the most fanatical. Lee was fanatical, but quietly so.

Undoubtedly, very few wanted to die. But believing that because of faith in God, one will be received by the Almighty if one were to fall also had to add to the fearlessness of many men. I also believe that religious devotion during this period brought great solace to those who lost loved ones. They died doing God's work, and died for their countries; oddly though, no matter what side you were fighting on. It so much easier to wait for a loved one who you suspect is dead, all the while believing that it's in God's hands. This is a balm of no compare. If they never got word, it must of been God's will. That helps. A lot.

However, the period of this war was just after the end of the First Industrial Revolution, and during the start of the Second. America, and the world was just about to leave it's formative years, and enter into a glorious scientific age. Which would

eventually mean very serious challenges to the infallibility of the Holy Scriptures, the very same scriptures that not only kept mean faithful to their causes, but also kept them faithful to all their duties, and brought meaning to a world that often offered meaning that didn't make sense.

The Scientific Age, along with so many technological advancements and dramatic increases in standards of living, and productivity, was the perfect trade off for the decline in religious devotion. Life in America, is very, very special. There really is so much to live for now. It is no small thing that the very thing that brought tremendous doubt about all we were living for, would turn around at the very same time and give us something even better to live for: Quality lives, now. Longer lives, better medicine, better roads, homes, appliances, automobiles. These two revolutions were an incredible one-two punch.

I'm not sure, but some may argue that we may have traded in the flu for cancer. Maybe, but nevertheless, our public schools and universities are dedicated to one cause, and that is Veritas, or Truth. The truth goes marching on. Many people I know have had to develop highbrid beliefs, akin to: Okay, after ignoring this best I could, I can no longer deny the reality of evolution. However, I still remain convinced it is all still God's work. The last hundred or so years have been hard for religious folks.

I imagine the decline of religion also plays a part in national unity. Where Christianity used to unite us all, our beliefs it feels, are still in a state of limbo. We don't know what to believe, or what my neighborhood believes. It's as if this has caused a national fracture. I think this has contributed to nasty divisions, in politics, religion, and education. After the September 11 attacks, President Bush's approval ratings were in the 70% range. That is unheard of. But it sure was nice to see us unified. If just ever so briefly.

Further, I read the September 11 Commission Report, and without question, one of their most significant recommendations--in different words--was that the middle east needed capitalism. Hopefully first beget by a Jeffersonian Democracy to take root, and then free-enterprise capitalism.

The idea behind it was this would be the perfect solution to getting their minds off the Koran and into living for today. No more Jihad. Get a job, and buy new things for your home, wife and kids. How about a Porsche? Sound good? Obviously, this is exactly the advice we took and it appears they are not ready for the transformation we experienced over the last 150 years. "Don't you want democracy? Yes, absolutely! Okay, then you have to share power with the other tribes. Oh!!! With them!!! Over my dead body!!!!"

Ways to go there. But the world and reality are emerging rapidly. Although, we've lost some religious devotion. I hope that there will only be a re-tooling of beliefs, and not a wholesale discard of religious devotion.

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