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Week 9 Forum
Death in the Civil War

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Death in the Civil War

by Joe Escobar – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 12:44 PM

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT – SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Death in the Civil War

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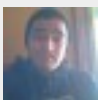
Memento Mori

by Ashley Ramos – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 1:52 AM

What Death in the Civil War brought to light for me was the extent of neglect that was rampant in the Federal government's way of dealing with it's dead and wounded soldiers during most of the war. Before I wrongfully assumed that there was some kind of Federal aid to the soldiers' families.On that note, I believe the modern government has made great strides in creating the infrastructure that the Federal government during the Civil war lacked, though I would add that it could also be improved (better mental health resources and pensions).

As for the religious impact, death seems to be thought of less. Without faith in a Heaven to go to, people see life as more precious. Modern culture has largely lost what the documentary called " the good death," more people seem to die in hospitals or retirement homes than in their own houses.

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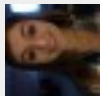


Re: Memento Mori

by Alexander Nonte-Clark – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 10:24 PM

I never thought too much about how little the government did for its soldiers back then. It was interesting to learn how notifying a family of the death began with the soldiers writing letters to the families they didn't know. I remember learning that medicine was very underdeveloped at the time, but to think that they didn't even have any form of field hospital till a good way into the war, and no ambulances or anything. I feel that the idea of death as being a grand passing on became warped and just became the sad demise of a loved one. Like Montgomery, many soldiers were buried far from their homes and loved ones somewhere near the lines.

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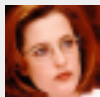
Re: Memento Mori

by [Kayla Rogers](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 12:59 PM

The government now more than ever has greatly improved the help we give our troops. They can now get an education, jobs, and medical help after they done with their deployment. Even now soldiers from the Vietnam war are homeless and came home to nothing. I can only imagine the lack of support the troops had when they came home during the Civil War because the entire country continued to be in turmoil even after the bloodshed had stopped.

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Re: Memento Mori

by [Andrea Douglass](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 6:19 PM

While I agree that the modern government has made important strides towards better handling of deceased soldiers and their families, I don't believe that the procedures (or lack thereof) during the Civil War were necessarily a product of neglect, but rather unpreparedness for the magnitude of what was beginning. I think the focus on the political outcome desired from each side created a sort of tunnel vision, clouding what was possible during the process until American's were rudely awakened as casualty numbers grew with each battle, surpassing any devastation they could have imagined.

Great point on a believed absence of afterlife making life seem more precious though, most definitely!

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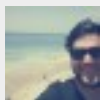
Re: Memento Mori

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 7:43 PM

I agree with what you wrote about the lack of care given to the soldiers during the Civil war was not out of neglect, but the unpreparedness of the Nation as a whole when it came to dealing with this "90 day war". If that was the mentality going into this war, you can bet in reality the government thought this would be more of a 45–60 day war, and worse case it could go the full 90 days. When you prepare mentally for something you always go worse case scenario, and I am sure they didn't even prepare for 1/10 of the casualties that were incurred. Who could have imagined this war would cause the amount of losses both sides. Good post.

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Re: Memento Mori

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 8:01 PM

The religious impact portion of your post is interesting, hoping to get some clarification from you. "Without faith in a Heaven to go to, people see life as more precious", is your opinion that those who believe in a Heaven view life as less precious or as less meaningful? I just can't see all the populations of the world viewing life as less meaningful because they believe in a place after death.

Secondly the part about Modern Culture loosing the "good death" portion, I believe the reason for more people dying in hospitals and retirement homes can be contributed to the life style they chose to live prior to dying. Sickness and disease in our Country has never been higher, along with childhood obesity and diabetes starting younger. I view it as being caused by problems that people choose to live with for a better portion of their life. I just found the part about loosing the good death had nothing to do with Modern Culture but rather choices of life style.

This is no way an attack at you or what you feel and believe, this is just an opportunity to look at these forums through a critical eye and see what people are saying and question as you see fit. I hope you take my response that way. Great Post!!

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significance of this war?
by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 4:03 PM

In this, your final forum in this class, what were the most significant parts of this documentary that added to or bolstered your existing knowledge of the significances of this war?

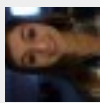
These sources helped me understand just how important the war is in American history. I always knew it was important because it allowed for the freedom of the slaves, but its influence stretched far greater than that. The documentary helped me understand the sheer magnitude of death caused by the war. I know that a lot of people died, but 2 ½ % of the population died during the Civil war. If the same percentage of the population died in a war today that would mean that 3 million people would be dead.

The war changed the way that the American people handled death. Before this time period most people had an idea about what a “good death” was. The individual would die in their homes, surrounded by loved ones. This would ensure that they would go to heaven and have a good afterlife. This practice was destroyed during the war. Most soldiers died alone, in pain, anonymous and with their families unaware of their fate.

The documentary and articles also educated me on other changes the Civil War had on society. Before the war there were no federal hospitals, no proper way to identify the dead, no cemeteries or way of notifying next of kin. All in all these sources expanded my knowledge of the effect the Civil War has had and continues to have on the nation.

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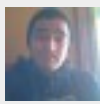


Re: significance of this war?
by [Kayla Rogers](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 1:04 PM

Not only did the war free the slaves, but it also set a much greater precedence. Now the question if states can leave the United States is answered. the struggle for independence has now showed that as a nation we are stronger than if we fight on our own. The states know now that they can have their own laws but as a nation as a whole some laws must be upheld and that fighting against these laws or changes is not the answer.

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Re: significance of this war?
by [Alexander Nonte-Clark](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 6:47 PM

I also only really had the idea that the civil war was a war that ended slavery, and in the time of this class, it did so much more. This war had the first draft ever, I believe the first income tax, or a tax of some sort, and all the advancements in warfare as a whole. Battle tactics evolved and people began to see what a large scale war was like and took the steps to learn how to care for the troops fighting, and keep the war effort strong. Its crazy to think that so many improvements took place during the time of this war, that in general, I don't think much of the general public thinks about or may even know of for that matter.

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Better conditions
by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 4:23 PM

How is the federal government doing “now”, as opposed to “then” when it comes to soldiers who have been injured or killed?

The Civil War has had a huge effect on the way our government deals with wounded or killed soldiers. Before the Civil War there weren’t federal hospitals, effective ways of identifying dead, effective transportation of the dead, or cemeteries. During the war hundreds of thousands of soldier’s bodies went unidentified. The families were

left to wonder the fate of their loved ones, but now soldiers wear dog tags as a means of identification if they are killed in battle, this serves as way to give families closure. I think that the biggest change caused by the Civil War was the advancement of of federal services for veterans and their families. After the war the veteran’s programs expanded to include pension for not only soldiers, but for the families of the fallen as well. According to the Then & Now article this paved the way for Congress to establish a new system to be established. Today veterans can be offered numerous benefits that were unavailable to soldiers back then such as; disability, insurance, and vocational rehabilitation for the disabled. Today there are also much better facilities for veterans. There are currently 152 hospitals, 800 outpatient clinics, 126 nursing home care units, 35 domiciliaries, as well as mental health and crisis prevention programs. Without the tragedy and number of deaths we wouldn’t have the system for veterans we have today.

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Something Significant

by [Robert Johnson](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 5:18 PM

After watching the Ric Burns film, one of the most significant outcomes of the Civil War were the systems put in place for those dying in battle and their families.

There was no official method for even identifying each dead soldier, let alone any official system for notifying next of kin when soldiers died in battle.

As this film pointed out there were thousands of dead bodies who were never identified, and there was no infrastructure in place to handle the massive deaths resulting from this war.

The changes brought forth as a result of the Civil War such as the dog tag for example, this to me is extremely significant.

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Strategy Behind Technology

by [Robert Johnson](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 5:59 PM

The fact that soldiers fighting in the Civil War were extremely inexperienced, and perhaps thousands being really clueless in war, became evident in the Ken Burns film, and our course text. The film by Ric Burns shed some significant light on why this was.

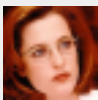
As pointed out by Historian David Blight, old 18th and 19th century values, with modern warfare resulted in a mass slaughter. They didn’t understand yet the capabilities of the modern weapons they had. Military strategy was behind the technology.

Author Drew Faust said it would have been inconceivable to people that they would have needed the scale of intervention that they should have had.

The impact of technology changing the inconceivable into a horrible, and tragic reality is a very significant truth that Ric Burns brought to surface in his film.

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Re: Strategy Behind Technology

by [Andrea Douglass](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 6:31 PM

Really great point! And along with new technology, new and untested strategies were also introduced. Sherman's March to the Sea is another example, in which he executed an attack of total warfare contrary to skeptical peers, something no Confederates were prepared to deal with. The Civil War was truly a conflict of experimentation, trial and error.

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Significance of the war
by [Tyler Peckham](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 8:15 PM

I think the most significant part of this documentary were the battles and how they described the plan of attack each commander had. I liked how the had quotes and diaries from soldiers on the battlefield. I had already knew some major battles but not in nearly as much detail. My favorite excerpt was in an earlier episode, during the Battle of Shiloh, when they described cherry blossom leaves falling down onto the battlefield over the fallen soldiers. That vision helped me understand the significance of the war. I think a death of a soldier now has more of a impact then it did during the Civil war. Soldiers don't normally die as often in battle then before and if they get wounded medical science has improved outstandingly since the Civil war.

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Re: Significance of the war
by [Robert Johnson](#) – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 3:22 PM

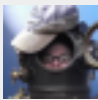
Tyler,

Which documentary are you referring to?

In the film “*Death and the Civil War*” by Ric Burns, the casualties and death counts at Shiloh were given. The point that mass forces were going to collide was made, etc.

After Shiloh, in this film it was said bodies were lying dead everywhere, with pigs running all about. However in this documentary, I find no mention of each commanders plan of attack, or cherry blossom leaves falling on the dead soldiers at Shiloh.

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Re: Significance of the war
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 3:45 PM

Good point about the casualties our nation faces today. According to multiple sources, the American casualties in the Afghanistan war number around 2,300 dead and about 20,000 wounded. But there is also currently no draft to recruit soldiers and we have advanced weapons such as drones. It seems most soldiers fighting this war are far more experienced in comparison to the many green recruits that were fighting the American Civil War. I'm interested to learn more about the soldiers that survived multiple battles and how they lived after the Civil War as we haven't covered much of what they did for mental health, if anything.

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Death and Improvements
by [Alexander Nonte-Clark](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 9:01 PM

This documentary really opened my eyes to the way that death changed the American population. Death went from something that was thought of to be done at home surrounded by loved ones, to the tragic and gruesome end of ones life that it was made on the battlefield. Death, in my opinion, has lost its sacredness in our culture, at least to an extent, and has become an everyday thing we look at more statistically. We have already heard about how improvements were made in care and support of troops during this war, but it was good to see the aspects as listed in the final "then" and "now reading part. I never even thought about the fact that dog tags weren't a thing at the time, although, that makes sense in the context of Cold Harbor, where soldiers pinned papers on their uniforms for identification. I think that we have made great leaps in how our society cares for our troops in comparison to conditions up until the Civil War.

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Changes in the Civil War
by [Kayla Rogers](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 9:16 PM

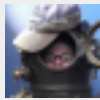
Religious beliefs now change how war is shaped because back in the Civil War religion was used as hope. Now it

seems that religion is used to create an excuse to do bad things such as suicide bombings. War has greatly changed in both good and bad ways. Technology has greatly reduced the number of deaths in war, but war also become much more persuaded by money and less than for an actual cause. The Ken Burns documentary helped expose a lot of information I hadn't learned in school previously.

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Re: Changes in the Civil War
by Ashley Ramos – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 4:05 PM

This entire class has exposed so much more than was covered in any of my previous history classes. This class turned Lincoln into an actual person and not that mythical figure I was told of in grade school that freed everyone.

Also, I think that the Civil War was persuaded by money, but it wasn't the sole cause. Let's not forget the effects of the cotton gin in the South. Maybe my view is wrong, but I think war in general is always influenced in part by money.

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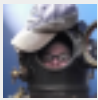
Re: Changes in the Civil War
by Tyler Moffett – Friday, March 4, 2016, 2:12 PM

This class has done a great job looking in depth at the civil war. I agree i didn't know much about Abraham Lincoln prior to this class and now i realize how significant he is to this country. Imagine if the south would of won, where would we be as a country today? Crazy to think about. I don't totally disagree with your statement about money because in reality everything comes down to money in some way. However i do not think it was the main cause and there was much more important issues on why the war started then money. I believe political views and slavery were bigger issues that started the war. If South Carolina would not have left the Union followed by many other states this war would not of happened, at least right away on those terms. The North being much more industrialized blockaded the south and did use money and resources to their advantage.

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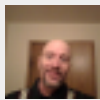
Re: Changes in the Civil War
by Ashley Ramos – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 2:08 PM

Of course there were bigger issues, but we shouldn't count out the effects of Northern policies on the South's economy. I don't want to minimize slavery as a cause, however It's mentioned by Shelby Foote in Ken Burns' series that Emancipation would decimate the South's established economy as they relied on slaves for upkeep of their cash crops. Obviously they didn't want to give up their lifestyles so they seceded.

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Re: Changes in the Civil War
by Robert Johnson – Friday, March 4, 2016, 5:38 PM

Kayla,

You bring up some good points. Murder definitely happens in the name of radical religions in our modern world, but I think it probably always has.

Technology having saved lives in our time, yet cost an inconceivable amount of lives in the Civil War. However, technology in our time can conceivably cost millions of lives with a single missile.

I highly agree that war now days may be more about the cause of money, as opposed to any other when truth be known.



Re: Changes in the Civil War

by [Tyler Moffett](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 10:32 PM

I agree with you Robert about money being the motive on wars today. Back in 1862 civil wars were happening all around the world because of revolts/revolutions. Big political changes were taking place and countries were trying to unite and find a form of government. Now that most countries have legitimacy the wars are about money. The civil war was our country fighting amongst ourselves because we couldn't unite and have the same political views.



Gravity of War

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 10:37 PM

There was a lot of information to take in for this forum, the few articles and multiple videos all made a lot of great valid points. A few that really stuck out to me was the comparison of the death toll in today’s population and that number being 750,000. I think even with the advancement of identification and all the other things that changed from the Civil war, that would still be a burden for today’s clerical support staff for the war. Transporting that many bodies and trying to notify families timely would be a huge undertaking. I could not imagine how it was back then, when the war started and with the first major casualties of the war happening and the support staff being tasked with what to do next. I couldn’t imagine that feeling. Going along with this point about the bodies, a line that really stuck with me was what does the government owe the bodies who make up the governmental body that it represents. This struck me as a thought I had never had before, about what did the government owe those who so willingly sacrificed themselves for the cause and for what they believed in. Made me think of just how massive this war was for this Country and just some of the sacrifices the people before us made. This was one of my favorite episodes of the Term along with all the supporting information, put a lot of the war into perspective for me.



Death and the Civil War

by [Tyler Moffett](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 11:17 PM

After watching the documentary "Death and the civil war" two different stories stuck out to me. The first was the opening scene, a letter by James Montgomery to his father. The music, the sorrow in the readers voice, the shaky writing on the letter, and the blood dripping all over the letter are reasons for why it felt so sad and stuck with me. Me personally imagining writing my family after i felt like my life got cut short bleeding to death is a little too much for me. Another significant scene for me was when Drew Faust talks about how two and a half percent of the US population died during the civil war. It that were to happen today that would estimate about seven million people. Once i heard that stat it made me realize how much of an impact it was for everyone. Everyone was affected by the civil war.



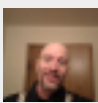
Re: Death and the Civil War

by [Alexander Nonte-Clark](#) – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 9:10 PM

I agree that the civil war affected every single person in the nation. It changed everything so much, that really it was reborn as a different nation that the US that it was at the beginning of the war. Death took on a different setting in the battlefields of the war, and brought about change in beliefs and a change in the government system that backed the war. Its crazy to think of all that has changed through the years since this war and what soldiers lacked back then.

Re: Death and the Civil War

by [Robert Johnson](#) – Friday, March 4, 2016, 5:02 PM



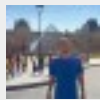
Tyler,

I thought the letter by James Montgomery to his father in the opening scene of "*Death and the civil war*", was very similar to the same type of creative license taken by Ken Burns with the Ballou letter at the end of episode 1 of "*The Civil War*".

I would have to agree that imagining myself writing to my family, my final words while bleeding to death is a little more than I even care to imagine.

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Federal Government now versus then

by [Tyler Moffett](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 11:43 PM

After watching these video's it was clear that no one was ready for the civil war. Both sides thought that the war was going to be over quick, Lincoln even held a 90 day recruiting process trying to get the best troops, when in reality he needed them all and more. With so many unexpected deaths the government couldn't account or properly treat the dead or wounded. Soldiers took it upon themselves to write letters to the families who lost someone in war because if it happened to them, they would of wanted the same treatment. The federal government did not do a good job in helping the wounded, tracking the soldiers deaths, and writing the families who lost lives. It was a big problem in the war and needed to be addressed, before the civil war there were no national cemeteries or memorial day. As Mark Schantz says in the short documentary " the state owes it to its citizens to lie down their own body, and that is something we got from the civil war". Now the government has memorial day, national cemeteries, and does a good job in letting the families know that their loved one has died. The federal government still does not properly take care of war veterans and i am sure other things also, so by no means are they perfect, but they it is way better towards its soldiers than the government of the civil war.

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Re: Federal Government now versus then

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Friday, March 4, 2016, 11:50 AM

Along with the Government, I feel that Citizens also do not do the best job of honoring our veterans. When I see Veterans and thank them for their Service, 95% of the time they are taken back and tell me how rare that is for someone to mention it. So along with the government needing to apply speedy, correct and accurate care for the returning soldiers, we as a Nation need to make sure and give honor where honor is due. The amount our Service people offer up and willingly put on the line is not something to be taken lightly.

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Re: Federal Government now versus then

by [Tyler Moffett](#) – Friday, March 4, 2016, 1:54 PM

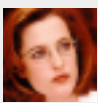
I agree with you Ryan, war veterans do not get the recognition that they deserve. One thing that struck my attention while watching "Death and the civil war" was the treatment of soldiers during war. Yes we do need to recognize there service after the war, however the civil war made us realize how we need to treat soldiers during war. In the short clip it stressed on how soldiers were dying from battle wounds and disease, if there was better care a lot of them would have lived. In the opening sense James Montgomery wrote how he got shot in the shoulder and he knew he was going to die. There were no ambulances, no federal hospitals, no Memorial Day, these are all important recognitions that came from the civil war.

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Re: Federal Government now versus then

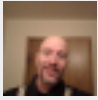
by [Andrea Douglass](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 6:43 PM



Also take into consideration that the death and persisting disease was not all a product lack of care or treatment, but also a considerably lesser medical knowledge at the time, paired with lack of resources! I believe that even in this day and age with all of our incredible leaps in science and medicine as well as a stronger response system, if we were faced with wounded at a capacity even near to that of the civil war, many of whom were treatable would still pass.

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Re: Federal Government now versus then

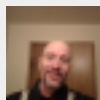
by [Robert Johnson](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 7:05 PM

Tyler,

Very good point. Many needlessly died who could have lived just from the lack of proper medical care, the James Montgomery letter was a great example of that. I think you are correct about the Civil War being an eye opener to the need for serious improvement in those areas you mention. Yes indeed, they are all very significant, and important recognitions from the Civil War.

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A Good Death

by [Robert Johnson](#) – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 2:22 PM

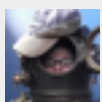
I'm not too sure if the different understanding and experience of death between modern culture, and that of the Civil War would accurately be described as a loss. It's just that now days there's a much larger variation of religious devotion and culture when compared to America back in 1860.

At the beginning of the Civil War as pointed out in the Ric Burns film, culture was mainly driven by Christian values, living life honorably. The good life ends with a good death. I think dying good is still a big part of Christian culture today in America. It might even be a principle followed in the devout Muslim culture as well for example.

My point is there are so many cultures and devoted lifestyles religious or not, I'm just not too sure the devotion of living everyday life with the value of living honorably in order to die good has been completely lost in our modern times here in America. At least I hope not.

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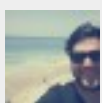
Re: A Good Death

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Thursday, March 3, 2016, 4:19 PM

It's not entirely lost. In my family, we practice a similar sort of ritual when family members pass, but we don't call it "The Good Death". We have all of their loved ones gather and try to comfort them to the end. We aren't all religious, I can't think of anyone in my family that goes to church with the exception of my Grandma, but most of us have similar values to Protestant Christians. Retirement homes are not an option to us.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

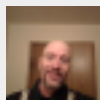
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Re: A Good Death

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Friday, March 4, 2016, 11:40 AM

I agree that this has not been lost. I think our Nation does have a lot more cultural differences now than it did in the Civil War, although there were many different religions practiced back then as well, just not so out in the open. I think the point of living a good life and wanting to die on a high note and in a honorable form and fashion is still something sought after in todays world.



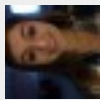
Inconceivable
by Robert Johnson – Friday, March 4, 2016, 4:10 PM

The federal government “now”, as opposed to “then” in terms of how it deals with dead or injured soldiers, has fortunately improved to a point beyond comparison in more than one way.

First, these tremendous improvements began to happen as a result of the Civil War. Field hospitals and ambulances, medical supplies and staff, even identification of the dead, were all absent at the onset of this war. Before it’s end, the need for all these vital provisions on such a large scale had never been so apparent. To compare another way, I turn to the numbers.

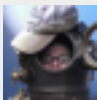
What war has America been in since the Civil War where thousands fell dead in a matter of minutes? As author Drew Faust explained, it would have been inconceivable to people that they would have needed the scale of intervention that they should have had.

Sadly, now in our time such catastrophes of war are conceivable, but over 600,000 died in the civil war. Very fortunately, the government has not had to react to such a loss, even comparatively close to those from the Civil War since then.



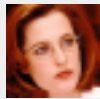
Re: Inconceivable
by Kayla Rogers – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 1:06 PM

Not only has how death was handled has improved but during the civil war, the American Red Cross was founded. The Red cross is the basis on how we train people in CPR and send help to other countries to train their physicians. I believe this is the greatest thing we have learned of all.



Re: Inconceivable
by Ashley Ramos – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 6:15 PM

By "greatest thing of all," are you referring to the way we set standards for medicine?



New insight to loss
by Andrea Douglass – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 8:28 PM

Death and the Civil War helped to build an important understanding of the true devastation of the war by comparing the military readiness of our modern day forces and what was available and understood back in the 1860's through the Burns' undeniable ability to evoke emotion and empathy. While the letter readings, candle-lit scenes and tear-jerking music was engrossing, it was the historians that sparked a new view on the war. Although I'm sure in the back of my mind I knew, I don't think I truly grasped how the lack of resources and ignorance to what a ghastly four years the war would become must have effected the people of America. Providing comparison to what we have at our fingertips now versus then makes all the difference.

For example, the actual gravity of the percentage of the population that fell during those four years. One historian in the documentary put it into perspective by reminding us that if that same percentage were to die today with our hugely increased population, over 7,000,000 American's would disappear. That statement was ultimately what hit me the hardest and shifted my understanding of the immense effect this war had on nearly every American citizen alive at the time.

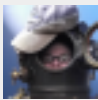
It would seem as though with the loss of devout religious beliefs, the ability to see the good in a death has been hindered. Although a lot of the video course material (Burns in particular, as we all know) has heavily leaned on guiding our emotions through a whirlwind--acting on the negative connotations surrounding most modern

views of death--people's connection with religion and death actually provided loved ones the ability to see good in the situation, as their lost soldier was now returned to God, and they died admirably. Not to say the grief wasn't present, just that it had a purpose. Moreover, most of the men fighting and the families they left to do so strongly believed it was for a just cause, whereas today there is a staggering amount of opposition to current conflicts. The Confederate and Union soldiers were voluntarily fighting for a specific cause that they fervently believed in against brother's in the same country. Today, citizens join the military to "stand up for their country" no matter what the cause, often without having any clue what they'll truly be fighting for.

It is hard to compare how the military is doing now compared to then as far as handling of dead soldiers, their families, and so on. There has never since been a war with this amount of casualties, so while our systems are much more effective it's difficult to imagine how gruesome battlefields of that capacity would be handled today. But, having legitimate hospitals, identification tags for soldiers, treatments for disease, knowledge of proper wound care, and cemeteries absolutely makes a world of difference.

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Re: New insight to loss

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 9:37 PM

That's a great point about citizens not knowing as much of the reason for fighting before enlisting. Motive for American involvement in foreign conflict is not always known entirely these days. Most of the people that I know that have joined the military have done so as a fall back for a career option, not as much to fight for a cause.

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Not as much Religion today

by [Tyler Moffett](#) – Sunday, March 6, 2016, 10:47 PM

With how much diversity we have in our world today lots of people have different religious practices. Back in 1862 during the civil war religion was more popular, people had more religious devotion. Now people are so busy it has something that has faded from a lot of Americans, they do not pray or go to church. Now all we have is our family, our family means so much to us. Back in the civil war they relied on God and their families. Yes of course we still do today and people will still pray to God, but in the "Death and the Civil War" a lot of the soldiers were taking about heaven and God. Loosing religious beliefs has made our culture today more corrupt and selfish or whatever words you want to use along those lines. Our generation nowadays are doing some pretty messed up things like shooting up schools and other crimes. I thinking loosing religious beliefs has a correlation with love being lost with Americans to other Americans.

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