

HST 209: History of the Civil War W18 (Escobar 31595)

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Week 2 Forum

The Civil War Today

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The Civil War Today

by Joe Escobar - Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 11:07 PM

This thread is for discussions on the The Civil War Today topic.

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: The Civil War Today

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Doing what you Believe to be the right thing.

by Brennan Blankenship - Thursday, January 18, 2018, 1:03 PM

Slavery is pure evil. While reading the first article it seemed many wanted praise for the abolitionists. Lincoln like every other president acted unconstitutionally and the abolitionists hated their fellow southern man. I had a hard time reading in the book about the events that unfolded in Baltimore Maryland. How a president could abolish Habeas Corpus and justify the imprisonment of civilians for months based on profiling is beyond me. (Battle Cry of Freedom. Facing both ways: The upper south's dilemma Pgs. 285-290.) The book goes on to say "Some of them probably including Mayor Brown, were guilty of little more than southern sympathies or lukewarm unionism." (Pg.290 Line 1-3) This is yet another advocate for the establishment of

checks and balances that seem to be nonexistent by our government today. I think Lee made a hard choice. Although he did not speak out against slavery, Lee was not an advocate of slavery. I applaud both Lincoln and Lee for doing what they believed to be the right thing. However their methods concern me.

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A more logical response

by Brennan Blankenship - Saturday, January 20, 2018, 2:58 PM

I took concern with both sides of the argument. This is the first time I have heard about such issues. It doesn't surprise me, as Trump's administration has done a good job of getting itself in trouble for misspeaking. Both Lincoln and Lee were honorable men. At the time of the Civil War we were a nation divided in all ways not just on the sole issue of slavery. Slavery was the straw that broke the camel's back. In the chapter: Amateurs Got to War we see this. Slavery was not on the minds of those on the battlefield. While it was on the mind of such rich men who waged the war it was not on the mind of the common soldier. (pg.311-313) Therefore based on this argument I take issue with the video. While the war was about slavery it was also about much more for people. Lincoln's initial stance was against slavery in the territories not against slavery in the states. His stance changed as the tension heightened and as the war went on he became hell bent on eradicating slavery. The issue I have with regards to historical arguments and accuracy is that both the North and the South acted unjustly and in certain ways did the wrong thing. "Americans did it to themselves. Nobody else can be blamed."NYTimes Article Date: February 14, 1988, Sunday, Late City Final Edition Section 7; Page 1, Column 3; Book Review Desk

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Not surprised for misspeaking

by Paul Geu - Saturday, January 20, 2018, 10:24 PM

I agree with you that the administration has a knack for misspeaking and the trouble that follows. But one thing I thought was why the chief of staff would even try to apply this part of history to today? While issues of today like the passing of a bill or now avoiding a government shutdown seem large, the climate of the 1860s was one of a higher moral issue that ultimately led to war. Personally while I feel states do have rights they enslavement of their fellow man was one area that there should be no compromise and that slavery needed to be destroyed. I think that the chief of staff should have just said that the lack of compromise was a difficult thing to deal with and not compare today's climate of partisan politics to that of 1860s America. I do not see this country going down the road of secession because of a different opinion on how we can improve our country. At least I hope we do not go down that path.

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Re: The Civil War Today



by Heather Saxon - Friday, January 19, 2018, 11:32 AM

Until reading the article I had no idea about this particular argument between the media and the Trump Chief of Staff. I think it falls into both categories; there are so many arguments and conflicts every week and month that it's nothing new, but bringing in old history, especially history that had such a monumental effect on America and still does, is a little concerning. Especially given Kelly's statement, "*the lack of an ability to compromise led to the Civil War.*"-which can create conflict among a lot of people, both because some agree and because others would believe it as an admission that the abolition of slavery was not necessary.

The video was at least reassuring, given its from a more conservative institution. I especially appreciated its bluntness, and gave me a little more confidence that I won't get too frustrated reading certain views on events that occurred as we go forward.

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Another controversy in a soundbite world.

by Paul Geu - Friday, January 19, 2018, 1:01 PM

I personally believe that this instance is another political argument that happens to include an incorrect example from history on what John Kelly feels is the problem that the administration is facing, no effort for compromise. After reading the article, which is an editorial and not a news article, I am concerned that both sides of the aisle are arguing that only their interpretation of the facts are correct. Whether it is a chief of staff that is limiting his argument on the true cause of the war into a small soundbite on what is a very complex issue, to the liberal media that is willing to attack everything that the administration does. The editorial is correct that taking only the small 14 second clip completely out of context is not only misleading but incredibly wrong. I am glad that the author included the quote from historian Fields "if there was a single event that caused the war, it was the establishment of the United States in independence from Great Britain with slavery still a part of its heritage." (Rosenburg, para 4).

I enjoyed the video since it was well thought out and disproved many of the other reasons people focus on the cause of the war. I have been one of the individuals that argued about the states rights issue. I also agreed with the video that what right the confederacy was arguing for was the right to keep slaves. The video itself showed that Lincoln did not make the war a moral issue until 1863 with the Emancipation Proclamation. Overall, by balancing the material that we have been assigned with the book and the documentary I am confident that we will get a balanced education of this important topic in our nations history.

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Ken Burns and the Political Argument

by Zach Haxby - Sunday, January 21, 2018, 9:29 AM

I had not heard about this argument until I had read this post unfortunately, I usually don't concern myself with the many things Trump and his administration say wrong. I believe that it may look like just another political argument on the surface, but for someone who is educated

enough about the Civil War it becomes much more troublesome. John Kelly's comment, "the lack of an ability to compromise led to the Civil War" maybe true in generality, but it is the topic of the compromise that does not get supported. Slavery is what caused the war and when press secretary Sarah Sanders said it was Ken Burns that essentially "made" Kelly say it, she may not be wrong. As in the Ken Burns forum section it is already understood that Burns doesn't represent slavery as a huge point in the war really at all and that is what can lead to the misconception of the cause of the Civil War.

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Regarding the article

by Andrew Smith - Sunday, January 21, 2018, 9:02 PM

I think it is troubling that this political argument was even started considering that it began over history that is 150 years old. Our country is not in the same state as the nation was at that time and the compromises our government makes today are in no way similar to that regarding the enslavement of human beings. The person that made the controversial statement either chose his words poorly or misunderstood the historical point being made by the video. It's a bit ridiculous to give this much media attention to a statement made out of ignorance of a subject, this article just seemed to showcase the lack of effort of the President's administration to carefully word their statements. The article does, at the very least, have a point in the end where it says the war isn't over in the sense that we haven't come to a lasting agreement over the facts of the conflict.

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Slavery as The Civil War's Cause

by Zach Haxby - Sunday, January 21, 2018, 9:17 PM

No one can deny that slavery was indeed the cause as well as the only real cause of the Civil War between the North and South. It concerns me that when I read this article that if a grown adult in politics can get the cause of the Civil War wrong what does that say for the youth of the United States? After watching that video it further developed my fear that Ken Burns Civil War series may not depict the cause of the Civil War correctly. Knowing what I do now about the Civil War and adding the knowledge gained this week I feel quite confident with my understanding of the cause of the Civil War as we move forward with the learning of this important piece of history.

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Regarding the video

by Andrew Smith - Sunday, January 21, 2018, 9:17 PM

After watching the video I feel much more confident moving forward with this class. The article and parts of the first episode of civil war made it seem as if the causes and facts leading to the civil war were uncertain. After listening to the professor from West point speak about the

complete certainty that slavery underlined all the causes of the civil war, it made discussion and understanding of this subject much easier to understand. I look forward to learning more on this topic without having that debate be uncertain.

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Some historians disagree

by Paul Geu - Sunday, January 21, 2018, 9:34 PM

I agree with you that when the professor in the video spoke with absolute certainty that the civil war was a war about slavery it gave me a more confident feeling about the material we are learning in the class. However, even some of the historians in the first episode disagree with one saying that the failure to compromise was the main reason for the war. By using that small soundbite to the issues of today, the chief of staff for the President is clouding the facts. That is why I am glad the video hit on many of the common thoughts of why the war was fought. From the issue of states rights to differences in economies by both sides, the video clearly debunked these theories and showed that slavery was the main reason for the war.

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Media Vs. Gen. Kelly.

by Josh Balthrop - Sunday, January 21, 2018, 10:46 PM

When it comes to debating the causes and effects of the American Civil War, I don't believe there will ever be one cut and dry explanation of how everything started. In my opinion there is no single factor that led to the start of the war. As the 5 min video from Prager University states, I can agree with the fact that slavery was the overall cause , (and would only grow in being the driving force) but there is no doubt that there were countless other issues at hand.

I believe it to be naive to think that slavery and slavery alone caused the war. But then again, we're living at a time where nativism is common. We as humans like to use history as comparisons and lessons for what is happening in the present day. The media and those that are ill-informed will chomp at the bit to call someone out for their ignorance before having all the facts in front of them. Gen. Kelly made a statement, and critics chomped at their bits to call him out. I have no doubts that if anyone was to sit with Gen. Kelly and discuss the causes and effects of the American Civil War, they would undoubtedly walk away more informed than before they started. I think the whole situation was a media ploy to critique a good man for something he said during a hot topic discussion.

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Re: The Civil War Today

by Jackson Peterson - Sunday, January 21, 2018, 11:19 PM

I personally had not heard of the argument before. Even though its including a historical event like the Civil War, I believe this just to be another media spotlighted event that will blow over. I believe that the cause of the war being up for debate is an old long term debate that people have been debating for many years. For what I've always thought the war had a lot to do with

Americas independence from Great Britain along with the debate of slavery to be legal, which the article includes as the cause. The video did a good way of explaining the events leading up to the war and I can see how there could be debate over the matter. I did not agree with Fields statements about how "the Civil War is still going on" I believe this event had its finally over 150 years ago and it can be compared but never can be said that its still happening today.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/act-four/wp/2017/11/01/the-debate-over-john-kelly-and-ken-burns-the-civil-war-is-making-us-stupider/?utm_term=.dd76bf9406db

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