

Notes for Section VIII of Economics 111A

The Civil War

I The Logic of the Military Power Equation

I.A The importance of immigration: P

I.B The importance of technological improvements (p_{mf})

Rifle; breach loading, new bullets; the predecessor to the Gatling gun.

Transportation: the railroads; iron-clad battleships; submarines.

I.C The importance of "little m" (the military conversion rate)

Banks for raising capital

Coordinating military and political activity: federalism versus states rights. The Confederacy as a weak confederation compared to the North.

I.D The First Industrial War?

II Issues Dividing North and South

II.A Heterogeneity of preferences: how important for elites?

Slave owners only a small minority in the Southern states? Why was racism so important of the popularity of establishing a Southern Confederacy? Contrast with the Caribbean slave islands.

The appeal of nativist populism: the United States does not stand for universal values. It is run by and for naturally born native citizens pursuing their own interests.

II.B The policy issues

States rights

Transcontinental railroad

Homestead Act

Tariff

Central Banking (Jackson campaigns on abolishing the Second Bank of the United States)

Slavery as the most important issue

III *The Political Pendulum Swings of the 1850s*

III.A *Options on the Table*

Domestic. Buy out slave owners with bonds (Maryland attempts this); restrict the expansion of slavery in the new territories; do not restrict the expansion of slavery in the new territories;

International. Expand the United States into the Caribbean and southward; do not expand the United States. Seize Canada; do not seize Canada.

III.B *The Dred Scott Decision of the Supreme Court*

Dred Scott not a citizen; must be returned to the widow of his owner; compromises of 1820 and 1850 are unconstitutional – slavery can expand everywhere.

III.C *John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry*

An act of terrorism?

III.D *Splits in the Political Parties and the Election of Lincoln*

Southern presidents dominate in the period 1800-1860, appointing Southern state leaning judges including to the Supreme Court.

Election of Lincoln: the Confederacy forms.

IV *Strategies Pursued During the Civil War: The Practical Economics of Warfare*

IV.A *The North's Advantage in Big Battles and the Anaconda Plan*

Reduce Confederacy income with the blockade; seize the Mississippi River and carve up the South.

IV.B *Southern Strategy*

Break blockade

Encourage England to recognize Confederacy as separate nation-state, leading England to help South break blockade

Capture Washington DC – establish new government for the Union

Stop reelection of Lincoln

IV.C *The Emancipation Proclamation*

Lincoln undercuts the South's England strategy

Why was the proclamation only applied to the states in rebellion?

IV.D *1863: Gettysburg and Vicksburg*

IV.E *Guerilla Warfare and Sherman's March to the Sea*

Trench warfare begins

V *The Aftermath: Triumph and Tragedy*

V.A *Lincoln is assassinated*

Was Lincoln indispensable? The great person theory of history?

V.B *The political pendulum swings of the Reconstruction Era*

Black codes passed in the South; the seeds of the KKK; President Johnson is almost impeached; Radical Reconstruction; the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution passed.

V.C *The Compromise of 1877 and the Origins of Jim Crow*

Jim Crow as a quasi-caste system.

V.D *Nixon's Southern Strategy and the Origins of the Red/Blue State Divide in the Contemporary United States*

Path dependence with a vengeance.