

FINAL EXAM

Part I Identify and give the significance of 6 of the following: [30%]

1. Confiscation Act (1862)
2. New York City draft riots (1863)
3. Lincoln's Gettysburg "remarks"
4. Ft. Wagner (July 1863)
5. Ira Berlin
6. Senators Crittenden and Johnson resolution (1861)
7. "Star of the West"
8. Battle of Shiloh (April, 1862)
9. Charles Sumner
10. Lecompton government
11. Battle of Antietam

Part II Write on one of the following essays: (35%)

1. Many historians argue that the Civil War came because of the disruption of the national party system of the 1850s brought about by a series of political blunders. Illustrate this argument by pinpointing what you regard as the most disruptive political decisions of the 1850s. Give reasons for your choices.
2. Beginning in the 1840s the South mounted a determined aggressive defense of her slave institution. What examples can you provide to demonstrate how the South pulled out all the stops to assure that the territories would be open to her "peculiar institution."

Part III Write on one of the following essay questions: (30%)

1. When Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation he was reported to have said that this act would write him down in history. Yet, there are reputable historians today who argue that Lincoln was not the "Great Emancipator" but the "Great Equivocator," holding back on the transformation of the Union war aims until circumstances forced his hand. What do you think?
2. There were at least three major turning points in the Civil War. Each of these critical junctures brought the Union closer to ultimate victory. What were these turning points and how did they strengthen the Union's hand and help seal the fate of the Confederacy?

Final question: Who wrote the book The Approaching Fury? (5%)

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Notes w/ POV (Berlin vs McPherson)

Question: Who Freed the Slaves. Berlin would say that they freed themselves.

We have two myths. One is that of Lincoln the Great Emancipator. The other is that the slaves emancipated themselves----self-emancipation.

Berlin: No question but that slaves acted on their own to settle their own fates; they made their own history by voting against slavery with their feet. See examples in my notes.

Berlin's answer to the question is: That the slaves freed themselves. This begs the question about what role, if any, did Lincoln play in emancipation of 3.5 million people.

Question: What was the essential fact in the ending of slavery? It was the war. If there had been no war there would have been no confiscation act, no EP, no 13th Amendment, and no self-emancipation. Slavery would have continued at least for several more decades or longer.

What brought on the war? Or what was Lincoln's role in bringing on the war?

The refusal of the US govt. to recognize the right of secession. Does Lincoln fit in somewhere here. It was Lincoln's election that precipitated the secession. Why? Because he opposed the extension of slavery into the territories. He refused to recognize the South's right to secession. He refused to surrender Ft. Sumter knowing that it would ignite a war.