

First Hourly Exam

I. Typically, the Civil War, like most wars, began with certain assumptions on both sides that either proved wrong or were forced to go through a radical transformation as the fighting was prolonged. Use the following examples to illustrate this historical cycle confronted by leaders in the North and South: (45 points)

Note: Write on only 3 of the following:

1. King Cotton diplomacy would would make the difference for the South.
2. The Union's original single war aim: Restore the Union.
3. The "Anaconda Plan" & the Union naval blockade would guarantee Northern victory.
4. Union conceit: One Big Battle and Richmond would fall!
5. Confederate confidence that the South was solid in its support of secession and the preservation of chattel slavery.
6. The original military conventional wisdom when the war started: Massed ground assaults and calvalry charges would carry the day on the Civil War battefields just as they had done during the Mexican War.

II. Write on one of the following questions: (45 points)

1. Despite initial Union military reverses in the opening stages of the war, the North avoided almost certain defeat by securing the loyalty of certain border states. Explain and evaluate Lincoln's border state strategy.
2. What were the pressures on President Lincoln to change the Union war goals from a police action into a social revolution--from Union to Union and Liberty--with the enunciation of the Emancipation Proclamation.

III. Everyone must answer this question: (10 points)

You were assigned three essays from Boritt and Divided Houses:

Stephanie McCurry  
David Blight  
Gary Gallagher

Choose one of the three and briefly describe what insight it gave you into the Civil War period.