

History 225

Re: Notes w/ Chapter 23, BCF

Begins by looking at the internal brawling of politics Confederate style. Notes that the Confederacy had never developed a party system. It was instead "Big Man Me Tooism" politics that really weakened, rather than strengthened, government in Dixie.

Indication that many southerners before the Civil War had cut their political teeth on opposition politics. This was a legacy that followed them into secession.

He looks at the emergence of "peace movement" in South especially after Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Most noted opponents of Davis and backbitting politics were Senator Wigfall and Joe Johnston.

At the state level there was Joe Brown in Georgia and Z. Vance in North Carolina. He spends some time of the North Carolina case. It was here that secret peace society developed. Holden headed up the reconstructionist elements in the state.

All this points out is that morale in the South by end of 1863 was disintegrating. Davis' efforts at centralizing power to carry forward the war was confronted on every front. But still Davis was able to get most of what he wanted despite the opposition. He got through the suspension of habeas corpus; the draft; and most everything else except Richmond's control over the railroad system in the Confederacy.

(point not made by MCP is that strong-willed governors like Brown and Vance did make provisions for those in their respective states).

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Second half of the chapter deals with Lincoln's wartime reconstruction initiative known as the Ten Per Cent Plan. Launched in 1863 as he became aware of the divisiveness in the Confederacy he saw this as an opportunity to further weaken the enemy by trying to wean rebellious states away with his generous program of amnesty and re-union.

Much time is spent on the Louisiana experiment.

Lincoln's policies challenged by radicals and moderates in his own party. Wade/Davis bill and intraparty warfare on the eve of the Republican 1864 nominating convention. Efforts by anti-Lincoln party men to deny him the nomination, etc.