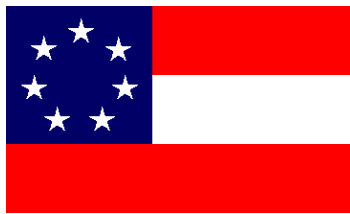
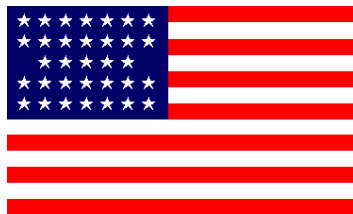


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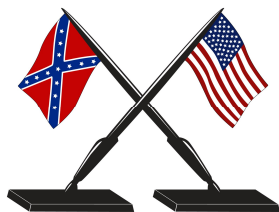


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FROM THE AUTHOR



available by spring. My plans for 2010 include writing more articles, possibly returning to college to earn my Master's degree in history, and above all else, completing *The Confederate Trust!*

We recently celebrated another great Christmas; I hope it was good for you and yours as well. Children love the presents, but adults love the food! I certainly had my share of food, and January will be spent trying to work it off.

Happy New Year! We can close the book on 2009, and while I missed my original goal of completing *The Confederate Trust* by the end of the year, I hope to have it done and

In this month's new later, I examine the events of January 1862 in the Civil War, and I also explore President Wilson's "Fourteen Points," which reflected his ideal of a new world order but unfortunately helped bring more chaos and, arguably, a second world war. In addition, I've written two articles on the state of our economy and what this administration is doing (or not doing) about it.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support. Hopefully 2010 will bring good health and prosperity in ways that 2009 did not.

Until next time...

JANUARY 1862:

Federal Pressure Begins to Mount

The war effort for both North and South was uncertain as 1862 began. In the North, there was much doubt as to whether or not the Union could be restored, as well as debate over whether or not it should be restored. In the South, people rejoiced at their independence but worried that they did not have the resources necessary to maintain it. After spending a Christmas season away from home, the luster of war was wearing off for most soldiers in both the Federal and Confederate military.

Washington

President Abraham Lincoln opened the New Year with a traditional White House reception. All cabinet members, diplomatic corps, justices, and army and navy officers attended, as well as the public. One Illinois politician had his pocket picked of \$50 in gold.

This month, Lincoln virtually assumed command of the U.S. military as his general-in-chief, George McClellan, was seriously ill with typhoid. In addition, voices were growing louder in opposition to McClellan's secretive nature and his apparent inability to move his troops into battle. It appeared that since McClellan took command of the Army of the Potomac the previous July, he had accomplished little in terms of military success. Lincoln rejected a request from radical Republican senators to remove McClellan from command. In the meantime, McClellan began expressing increased resentment of politicians' constant requests to know his plans.

For his part, Lincoln was becoming increasingly impatient at McClellan's failure to lead his army into Virginia. Finally on January 27, Lincoln took the unprecedented

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step of ordering all U.S. armies to begin offensive operations no later than February 22. This included an order for McClellan's Army of the Potomac to seize Manassas Junction, the site of the humiliating U.S. defeat the previous July.

Lincoln accepted the resignation of Secretary of War Simon Cameron on January 11. There had been repeated charges of corruption in the War Department, including contract fraud, overactive political activity and administrative incompetence. Many politicians had urged Cameron's removal sooner, as he was a political boss with an unsavory reputation.

Replacing Cameron was former Democrat Edwin Stanton. He was a personal friend of General McClellan's, and he was also known to dislike President Lincoln. A tireless worker, Stanton reorganized the War Department and ended the corruption, but the means he employed proved abrasive and ethically questionable. Stanton soon became one of the most controversial figures of the war.

In Congress, petitions continued arriving that called for an end to slavery. Some members of Congress suggested emancipation, colonization and federal subsidies for slaveholders to voluntarily free their slaves. In the Senate, two pro-Confederate senators from Missouri were unanimously expelled. Congress also authorized the president to seize telegraph lines and railroads whenever public safety required.

Virginia

President Jefferson Davis opened the New Year with a reception of his own at the Confederate White House in Richmond. Davis personally greeted thousands as bands played patriotic songs in the reception room. Despite this, Davis was growing increasingly worried about the diminishing numbers in his military.

Many soldiers had gone home for the winter to tend to family matters before returning to fight in the spring. To correct this, Davis contacted various state governors and requested more manpower. Meanwhile the Federal blockade was beginning to impact the Confederate economy, and basic supplies and materials were in short supply.

Davis also moved bothersome General P.G.T. Beauregard from his command in northern Virginia to the Western Theater, where he was placed second-in-command to General Albert Sidney Johnston. Beauregard had been critical of both Davis and the Confederate government. His departure left General Joseph Johnston in command of all



-- U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, who was growing increasingly frustrated by the inactivity of his generals this month.

Confederate forces in Virginia.

In military operations, Confederate forces under General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson captured Romney. From here, the troops settled into winter quarters and went about breaking up the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and destroying dams on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

Former U.S. President John Tyler died at age 72. Tyler, a pro-Confederate, was buried with elaborate Confederate services in Hollywood Cemetery on the James River. Tyler became the first and only president to not be honored by the U.S. upon his death.

Western Theater

President Lincoln was growing frustrated with the lack of coordination among the various Federal military departments. General Henry Halleck's Department of the Tennessee was headquartered in St. Louis, while General Don Carlos Buell's Department of the Ohio was headquartered in Louisville. The men generally disliked each other and were reluctant to cooperate. When Lincoln urged Buell to move into east Tennessee, Buell questioned the wisdom of the order and largely ignored it.

Halleck had yet to send any of his troops south into west Tennessee. Federal gunboats probed down the Mississippi and up the Tennessee Rivers, but nothing significant had come of it. Halleck began enforcing martial law in St. Louis by seizing property from pro-secessionists who failed to pay for aid to pro-Federal fugitives in Missouri.

On January 19, the Battle of Mill Springs, or Logan's Cross Roads, took place on the north bank of the Cumberland River in Kentucky. U.S. forces under General George Thomas (belonging to Buell's department) converged on General Felix Zollicoffer's unsuspecting Confederate force. Zollicoffer temporarily drove the

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Federals back, but he was killed. Thomas attacked the Confederate left and the line collapsed. The Confederates crossed the river in demoralizing defeat.

The Federal victory at Mill Springs represented the first break in the Confederate defensive line across Kentucky, which had run from Cumberland Gap in the east to Columbus on the Mississippi River in the west. Although the battle was relative small, it motivated citizens to aid the Federal cause in Kentucky and east Tennessee. It was also a prelude to future engagements in the Western Theater.

Other Operations

The Federal Department of North Carolina was created, commanded by General Ambrose Burnside. On January 11, a joint army-navy operation sailed for the North Carolina coast. The expedition landed at Hatteras Inlet two days later and supplies were moved into Pamlico Sound. This posed a new threat to the already vulnerable Confederate coast.

On the Gulf Coast, Federal forces were gathering on Ship Island, Mississippi. President Davis wrote to the Mississippi governor expressing concern about the occupation, knowing that it “no doubt is intended against Mobile or New Orleans.”

In Europe, both Emperor Louis Napoleon of France and Queen Victoria of England proclaimed neutrality in the American civil war.

On January 30, a large crowd gathered at Greenpoint, Long Island, New York to witness the launching of the U.S.S. *Monitor*, the revolutionary iron ship constructed by inventor John Ericsson. Few knew at the time that the *Monitor* would help inspire a revolution in naval warfare throughout the world.

U.S. HISTORY:

Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points for World Peace



-- Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States

After the U.S. entered World War I in April 1917, President Woodrow Wilson secretly convened a group of 150 academic experts to devise a lasting peace that would prevent future wars. Over the next nine months, the group produced 2,000 reports and 1,200 maps.

On January 8, 1918, in a speech before a joint session of Congress, Wilson unveiled the group's results to the unsuspecting congressmen, which became his “War Aims and Policy Terms.” These included what came to be known as the “Fourteen Points” for world peace.

Details of the Fourteen Points

The fourteen points were an idealistic, progressive attempt to avoid future wars. They also reflected Wilson's vision for a

postwar world, which did not necessarily coincide with the visions of other world leaders. The points had been itemized and written so they could be easily interpreted by the average European.

The first five points addressed international relations, while the last eight points addressed territorial claims after the war. The fourteenth point called for creating an international organization to deliberate and promote disarmament, democracy and human rights. And, if needed, it would act as international policeman in future conflicts. This was the centerpiece of Wilson's fourteen points, and it proved to be the most controversial of them all.

International Response

The fourteen points aimed to undermine the Central Powers' will to continue fighting by inspiring the Allied war effort. They were also an effort to extend Wilson's idealistic, progressive domestic agenda into foreign policy. The points were broadcast throughout the world and were showered from rockets and shells behind enemy lines.

The leaders of Allied nations Britain and France were generally unimpressed by Wilson's points. Furthermore they were dismayed by his presumptiveness in telling them how to dictate peace when the U.S. had not yet even been involved in the war for one year. After reading the

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fourteen points, French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau proclaimed, “Even God Almighty has only ten!”

Before the points could be fully absorbed, Wilson added more principles and particulars throughout 1918 as the war was coming to its bloody conclusion. All these ideas delivered at different times gave the Central Powers the impression that they were changing and therefore negotiable. In October 1918, they agreed to an armistice based on Wilson’s original document—the fourteen points.

Peace Negotiations

Wilson himself traveled to Paris to participate in the peace process in December 1918, becoming the first sitting president to participate in peace negotiations in a foreign country. During the process, Allied leaders used Wilson’s points to place sole blame of the war on Germany, even though Britain and France (and even Russia and Serbia) bore responsibility as well. This “war-guilt clause” attached to the final treaty oppressed the Germans and created the animosity from which a new nationalism, led by Adolf Hitler, emerged.

Among Wilson’s points was the idealistic notion of self-determination, or the right of people to decide their own political fates. From this came many new nations, including carving Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland from Germany. Because these new nations were dominated by German-speaking people, Hitler later invaded and annexed them back into Germany by citing Wilson’s own principle of self-determination as justification.

The greatest source of contention was Wilson’s insistence on creating a League of Nations, his fourteenth point. Allied leaders used this insistence against Wilson by threatening not to join the League if various other points were not withdrawn. As a result, many points were not implemented even though Germany had agreed to stop fighting based solely on the fourteen points. This caused more resentment that later fomented into the Nazi movement.

American Opposition

The Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919. Although it did not contain many of Wilson’s fourteen points, it did contain provisions creating his coveted League of Nations. As such, Wilson returned to the U.S. to persuade Americans to support the treaty. However when he returned, he found much more opposition than he had anticipated.

For the U.S. to ratify the treaty, a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate was required. At the time, the Senate was controlled by Republicans who generally opposed the Democratic president. Many senators, led by Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, expressed reservations about the treaty. In particular they worried that involving the U.S. in a League of Nations would surrender national sovereignty, which was unconstitutional. Instead of working with the senators on a compromise, Wilson stubbornly embarked on a nationwide speaking tour to directly appeal to the people in favor of the treaty.

Wilson traveled throughout the U.S. and delivered 40 speeches denouncing his opponents and pleading for support. However the violence and unrest after the war had caused a general resentment among the people, and consequently most of them opposed the treaty. Wilson worked himself into exhaustion and suffered a debilitating stroke after returning to Washington.

Legacy of the Fourteen Points

President Wilson’s refusal to compromise destroyed any chance for the Senate to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. And although the League of Nations was established, the U.S. never joined. Ironically Wilson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on the treaty and the League, even though his country never endorsed either one. The U.S. did not make peace with Germany until two years later when Congress passed a resolution declaring the war over.

Wilson’s idealistic internationalism, calling for the U.S. to fight for democracy, progressivism and liberalism, has been a contentious position in U.S. foreign policy, serving as a model for “idealists” to emulate and “realists” to condemn.

The fourteen points, while steeped with good intentions, reflected a naïve outlook on international affairs that was mostly scorned by other world leaders. Wilson’s insistence on invoking the points during the peace process indirectly created more animosity among the warring nations and set the stage for the German ascendancy in the next decade, which would lead to World War II.

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BOOK REVIEW:

A Patriot's History of the United States by Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen

A Patriot's History of the United States is an account of this country's history that is meant to refute many myths and falsehoods that have been perpetuated in many liberal-leaning history books. The authors' intent was to veer away from the "blame America first" theme that pervades many historical analyses today.

While this book may turn off liberals, it does at least attempt to offer an objective perspective on the events that shaped this country's history. For example:

- Although conservatives and libertarians often deride Franklin Roosevelt, Schweikart and Allen praise Roosevelt's pre-war diplomacy with Japan and take special care to refute claims that Roosevelt knew of the Pearl Harbor attack in advance and did nothing to prevent it.
- Democratic President John F. Kennedy is described as "brilliant" for his handling of the Khrushchev letters during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Republican President Richard Nixon is chided for his excessive government spending, which accelerated the recession of the 1970s.

- Republican President George Bush is criticized for lacking "political imagination" and for telling a "bald-faced lie" by pledging not to raise taxes and then signing tax increases into law.

There are many more examples of objective accounts that make this work more than just one-sided criticism of liberalism in America. Praise and criticism for historical figures is given regardless of their ideologies. To varying degrees, bias in historical accounts is inevitable as no human can be complete objective. For many critics, the fault in works of non-fiction is not that it may be biased, but that it may be biased in a direction with which they disagree.

The book's length (over 900 pages) may intimidate some readers, but it is not intended to be read like a novel. For those who have a rudimentary knowledge of American history, it does not even have to be read in sequence. This book provides much-needed balance to history, which has been dominated for generations by left-wing academics in most colleges and universities.

RECENT ARTICLES

By Walter Coffey

A SPENDING SPREE WE CAN'T AFFORD 12/22/09

Blaming George Bush for bad fiscal policies does not excuse President Obama's ridiculously irresponsible spending of taxpayer money.

On December 21, President Obama held a news conference in which he once again complained about the economic crisis he inherited due to the reckless spending of the past eight years. While this is partly true, he conveniently continues to conceal the fact that he is only making matters worse with his own irresponsible spending.

In the 11 months that Barack Obama has been in office, he has spent more money than *all previous presidents combined*. His first foray into exorbitant spending was

signing the stimulus plan into law in February. After pushing for the plan and vowing that once enacted, unemployment would not exceed eight percent, unemployment has exceeded 10 percent and there have been no discernible benefits. In fact, according to a study by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, the money allocated has not only failed to go to those most in need, but it has primarily gone to affluent Democratic districts. So the "stimulus" has really been nothing more than a slush fund for Obama and his supporters.

But the \$787 billion "stimulus" was just the beginning. On top of that, the president signed bills to spend \$410 billion to keep government running this year (which included nearly a thousand unrelated pork-barrel projects) and hundreds of billions of dollars to fund the wasteful, unconstitutional bureaucracies and czars he created upon

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taking office. And just last week, he signed a \$1.1 trillion spending bill, ostensibly to fund the wars but filled with pork for party cronies, even though while campaigning for the presidency he pledged not to sign pork-laden spending bills if elected. In all he has signed spending bills that cost the average American family over \$20,000 each in this year alone.

And on top of it all, Obama continues pushing for the disastrous health care reform bill, which will cost \$1 trillion over 10 years despite his outrageous claim that it will cut the federal deficit. Since when does spending more actually reduce what you owe? That sure doesn't work with my checkbook.

It is true that President Obama inherited a bad situation caused by bad decisions from the previous administration. However continuously blaming his predecessor is disingenuous. It was the Democrats who took control of Congress in 2007, just before the economic chaos began in

earnest, and all spending originates in Congress. This means that all the reckless spending by George Bush from 2007 to 2009 was done with the consent of the Democratic-controlled Congress, including one Senator Barack Obama of Illinois.

Furthermore, just because President Obama inherited a bad situation does not entitle him to make it worse and still blame his predecessor. Although he has not admitted it, this is President Obama's economy now. George Bush drove the country near the cliff. Barack Obama is hitting the gas and driving straight for the edge. When the car crashes, it won't be Bush's fault alone.

Until the president can assume responsibility for his own actions and realize that his profligate spending, not his predecessor's, will bankrupt this country, Americans will be in for very rough times for the next three to seven years.

THE WHITE HOUSE JOB SUMMIT IGNORES THE OBVIOUS 12/6/09

While President Obama hopes to intervene to combat unemployment, his recent job summit ignores the obvious premise that what's needed is less government intervention.

This past Thursday, President Obama held a "job summit" at the White House in which he asked for ideas about how to create jobs. The fact that he had to hold a job summit at all proves that his economic policies have failed. After all, if the stimulus plan would have worked the way he claimed it would, unemployment would not be so high now.

In his statement prior to beginning the job summit, Obama stated that many small businesses have learned to "squeeze increased productivity out of fewer workers, and this type of cost-cutting has become embedded in their culture... While this is good for profits, it's not translating into hiring" and thus must be changed.

This statement obviously shows that the president is ignorant about the merits of free market capitalism and how it made this country so prosperous in the first place. Let us examine further:

First, Obama's premise that small businesses are increasing productivity is wrong because this country is in a recession. This means that consumers aren't spending capital on goods

and services as they've done in the past, and this decreased spending is translating into decreased, not increased, productivity.

Second, in a free market economy, a successful business is defined by its ability to produce as much as the market will allow at the lowest possible cost. This translates into greater efficiency, which is vital to success. But to Obama this is a faulty approach.

Third, to Obama, cost-cutting is a bad thing for small business even though cost-cutting is one of the essential tools needed for success in a free market.

So to Obama, small business owners are responsible for the high unemployment because they are greedily hoarding their profits and refusing to hire workers because they have learned to do more with less. But apparently it hasn't occurred to the Obama administration that their policies are threatening an uncertain future for business, and during uncertain times, businesses must cut back.

Maybe small business owners, many of whom are struggling to survive, are worried that they may be taxed into oblivion to pay for the massive health care and cap-and-trade programs being debated in Congress. If either the health care or the cap-and-trade bills are signed into

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law during these tough economic times, unemployment will increase even further. But the Obama administration has failed to recognize this.

So what are some obvious solutions that were not considered during the job summit? Well, how about these:

- Lower the corporate tax burden. This would free up more capital to invest and expand, and only through investment and expansion can legitimate, long-term jobs be created.
- Announce a suspension of the health care and cap-and-trade bills in Congress. These bills could potentially impose hundreds of new taxes that many small business owners fear could tax them out of business. Fear and uncertainty in the business climate always translates to less hiring.

- Stop the excessive government spending and cut wasteful federal programs. This will ease the devaluation of the dollar, stem inflation, help stabilize foreign markets, restore foreign confidence in our market, and encourage more businesses to invest and expand. And once again, expansion means more hiring.

History has shown that in an economic downturn, the fastest path to recovery is to decrease government intervention. But the job summit has proven that this obvious lesson has been lost on the Obama administration. Unfortunately that could mean continued economic instability and unemployment for many more months to come.