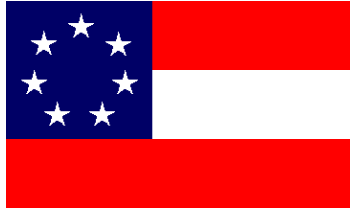
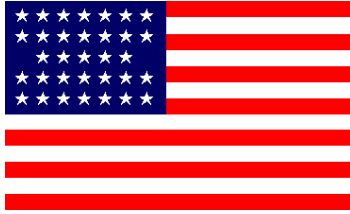


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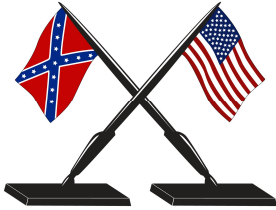


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www.WalterCoffey.com

FROM THE AUTHOR



includes links to all my articles. Check it out at www.WalterCoffey.com. More updates will come, including a Civil War timeline. Stay tuned!

In addition, Gianna and I adopted a puppy who's been taking up most of our time. His name is Bosco and he's a chocolate lab retriever mix. We were mistakenly told that he was eight weeks old when we got him from the Humane Society. After a vet examination, we learned he was really closer to five weeks old!

As always, Halloween is a fun time of year for us. We love the "Ghost Hunters" marathon on the SciFi (or SyFy) channel, and no Halloween can be complete without watching the original *Night of the Living Dead*. It'll be strange putting away all the Halloween decorations, but Thanksgiving and Christmas are

Greetings from the writing cave in Houston, Texas!

This past month has been very hectic. My website has been revamped; its look has been modified and it now

right around the corner.

Included in this newsletter are the October articles I've written for the North Houston Tea Party patriots. While they aren't intended to favor one political party over another, they no doubt show the libertarian tendencies I've acquired through the years. These tendencies naturally clash with an administration that prides itself on interfering with virtually every aspect of business and society. That being said, I will not resort to personal attacks on anybody in our government, but I will try using reason and logic to argue that many policies of our current administration are not in this country's best interests.

As for my new book, *The Confederate Trust*, I'm about two-thirds through the final draft. I'm still shooting to have it completed by the end of the year and published early next year. I'm working very hard to make this the best one yet, and I hope it shows in the final product.

Thanks to all of you who subscribe to my newsletter, and until next time...

NOVEMBER 1861:

FOREIGN RELATIONS THREATEN TO EXPAND THE WAR

There had been no major military moves by either side thus far. Many people, both North and South, were getting louder with their calls for more action. November featured many skirmishes, including the first fight for Ulysses Grant, but no major battles. The month also featured command changes, a Confederate election, successful Federal naval operations, and an action that threatened to take the U.S. into war with Great Britain.

Kentucky and Missouri

In Kentucky, the Confederates strengthened their defensive line from Cumberland Gap to Columbus. Confederate forces adopted an ordinance of secession, and thus Kentucky joined Missouri in having both a pro-Federal and a pro-Confederate government in the same state.

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In Missouri, Federal troops skirmished with Confederate guerrillas wreaking havoc in the southeast. Meanwhile a Federal force under Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant captured Belmont, which was across the Mississippi River from Confederate-held Columbus, Kentucky. However Confederates from Columbus drove Grant and his men back to their boats on the river. Nothing was gained or lost in Grant's first skirmish.

Washington

November opened with the formal replacement of retiring General Winfield Scott as general-in-chief of the U.S. military with the young, brash General George McClellan. Scott's pressured retirement ended one of the most illustrious military careers in U.S. history, beginning with the War of 1812.

McClellan's relations with President Abraham Lincoln soon became strained. In one notable incident, Lincoln waited very long to see McClellan at the general's home before being told that McClellan had already come home and gone to bed without seeing the president.

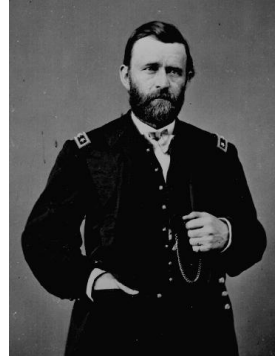
Another command change came when General John C. Fremont was finally removed as commander of Federal forces in Missouri. Fremont had issued controversial orders that Lincoln had been forced to cancel, and Fremont's leadership was too ineffective to justify keeping him in command.

Other command changes included placing General Henry W. Halleck in command of the new Department of the Missouri. Halleck was expected to clean up Fremont's messes and direct operations along the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. Also General Don Carlos Buell replaced General William T. Sherman as commander of the new Department of the Ohio. The job had proven too much of a strain on Sherman and many questioned his sanity.

Richmond

The Confederacy held national elections to select a permanent president and members of Congress; the current officials had been holding office on a provisional basis. Jefferson Davis was elected without opposition to a single six-year term as president, as proscribed by the Confederate Constitution. Currently the Confederacy only had one political party—the Democratic—but factions within that party were forming.

In his first annual message to the Confederate Congress, President Davis expressed optimism that independence would be secured. Davis also engaged in political bickering among his top commanders by asking Generals Joseph Johnston and Robert E. Lee to support him against charges made by General P.G.T. Beauregard that Davis did not allow the Confederate army to advance on Washington following the Battle of Bull



-- General Ulysses S. Grant, who entered his first fight this month at Belmont, Missouri

Run (Manassas) in July.

General Robert E. Lee was assigned to command the Confederate Department of South Carolina, Georgia and East Florida. Although Lee's reputation had been tarnished by his disasters in western Virginia, he still held some influence among Southerners.

Naval Operations

The Federal Navy scored a victory by capturing Port Royal Sound, South Carolina. This gave the Federals a foothold in Confederate territory and began an occupation of the area between Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina. Soon Beaufort, South Carolina fell without a fight.

Meanwhile the Confederate government was financing the construction of a revolutionary new type of warship. The armored plating was received that would convert the captured USS *Merrimack* into the ironclad CSS *Virginia*.

The High Seas

On the Atlantic Ocean, the British mail packet *Trent* was intercepted by the USS *San Jacinto*. Aboard the *Trent* were James Mason, Confederate commissioner to Britain, and John Slidell, Confederate commissioner to France. They had escaped the Federal blockade and were heading to Europe to negotiate for foreign recognition of the Confederacy.

The *Trent* was halted, and Mason and Slidell were seized and sent back to Virginia aboard the *San Jacinto*. Most Northern officials celebrated this seizure, but they soon realized that it could have dire repercussions. When the news crossed the Atlantic, British officials were furious that one of their ships was stopped and boarded by a foreign entity. The British foreign minister demanded the return of Mason and Slidell and a formal apology. President Lincoln and his cabinet began serious discussions of what became known as "the *Trent* affair."

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U.S. HISTORY: THE END OF THE GREAT WAR



-- *The trenches on the Western Front in what is now known as World War I*

On November 11, 1918, the Great War, now known as World War I, ended when an armistice was signed by Germany (representing the Central Powers) and the Allied Powers of the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy.

The Prelude

By early November, the Central Powers were crumbling. The Ottoman Empire dissolved and became Turkey, and Turkish officials surrendered to the Allied Powers on October 30. Austria-Hungary had burst into revolution and the emperor fled Vienna. The Austro-Hungarians signed an armistice with the Allies on November 4.

On the Western Front, American entry into the war had turned the tide and the Germans fled in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The German government realized that the situation was virtually hopeless and requested an immediate cessation of hostilities.

The Armistice

Germany accepted Allied peace terms on November 9. These terms included evacuating all conquered territory and surrendering arms. Riots soon erupted in Germany, forcing Kaiser Wilhelm II to abdicate his throne.

At 5:00 AM on November 11, German leaders signed an armistice ending the Great War in a railroad car in the forest of Compiègne, north of Paris. Hostilities on the Western Front were to end on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

The Aftermath

The Great War cost over 15 million lives and \$200 billion to prosecute. Left in its wake was a deadly influenza epidemic, famine from blockades, and huge war debts that left Europe in ruins. Four empires collapsed: the Ottoman Empire (became Turkey), Austria-Hungary (inner turmoil dissolved the dual monarchy), Russia (the Bolshevik Revolution) and Germany (the Kaiser fled to the Netherlands). Colonies soon began revolting against their weakened European rulers.

U.S. losses in the war included 48,909 killed and approximately 230,000 wounded. Losses due to disease brought the U.S. death toll to over 112,000. Wild and noisy celebrations greeted the announcement of the armistice. In New York City alone, 150 tons of paper and ticker tape were swept off the streets. Signs on shop doors read, "Closed for the Kaiser's funeral" and "Too happy to work; come back tomorrow."

Unfortunately the subsequent Treaty of Versailles ending the war left nobody satisfied, infuriated Germany with its overwhelming "war guilt" clause, and in large part led to the eruption of World War II in 1939.

BOOK REVIEW:

***THE CASE AGAINST THE FED* by Murray Rothbard**

The Case Against the Fed is one of the most persuasive arguments against the U.S. central banking system ever written. In this book, economist and historian Murray Rothbard attacks not only the Federal Reserve System (the "Fed"), but the special interests that created the Fed.

In the beginning, Rothbard explains the theory of banking and money, taking difficult concepts and describing them so they can be understood by readers without a background in

economics. Rothbard provides an excellent discussion of money, banking, the Fed, U.S. financial history and U.S. monetary policy.

Rothbard subscribes to the Austrian theory of economics. Under this theory, the Fed's biggest problem is fractional-reserve banking, which is tantamount to legalized counterfeiting because the Fed is allowed to print paper money it cannot back by gold. Printing this

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new paper money causes inflation, distorts production cycles, and creates the boom-and-bust periods which have plagued America for over a century.

Rothbard also asserts that the Progressive movement of the early 20th century was engineered by the money interests in an effort to destroy competition. Big business pushed for excessive government regulation because small business could not afford to abide by such rules and thus could no longer compete.

By the same token, big banks pushed for the government to create the Fed to squash the smaller banks. While the Fed was ostensibly designed to regulate the banks, the truth is that the banks (and the special interests behind them) run the Fed. Rothbard shows how big banks essentially control the country

and own most politicians.

Rothbard argues that the only way to bring true stability and prosperity to America is to return to the gold standard of currency. Under the gold standard, paper money cannot be printed unless there is an equivalent amount of gold or silver in reserve. This would stem inflation and anchor the country's financial system on a rock of stability.

This book shows how the Fed has brought much financial insecurity to the country and has been allowed to operate with no accountability for its actions. This is an important book for Americans to learn about how their money supply is controlled and why the Fed is a hindrance to the country's financial well-being.

RECENT ARTICLES BY WALTER COFFEY

HOW DID OBAMA WIN THE NOBEL PRIZE? 10/10/09

The Nobel Prize was awarded to President Obama not for what he has accomplished, but for what the world hopes he accomplishes... at America's expense.

Like most sensible people, I was dumbfounded to hear that President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize, especially considering that balloting was completed just 12 days after his inauguration. What could he have possibly accomplished in that time to deserve this award? Even taking his entire career into account, what could he have possibly accomplished in his life to deserve this award?

Even taking his presidency up until now into account, what has Obama accomplished to promote peace? He is the leader of a country fighting two wars. Was the prize an attempt to keep him from committing more troops to Afghanistan? Was it an attempt to get him to withdraw from Iraq sooner than scheduled? Both options would be bad for America.

Meanwhile, Iran and North Korea are building nuclear facilities and firing test missiles in defiance of the international community. The supposed peaceful message of "non-nuclear proliferation" that Obama is spreading has clearly done nothing to stop those countries' nuclear ambitions.

Then I got to thinking about the award itself. The Nobel Prize is awarded by the Norwegian Parliament. Past American presidential and vice presidential recipients were Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter and Al Gore, all progressives who tended to put international issues ahead of American ones. Is this award, given to Obama so early in his presidency, an effort to steer his agenda?

Who could gain by such a thing? Surely Europe could. The European Union's socialist economic structure is crumbling, and what better way to prop it back up than to bring America down? If Europe's taxes are high while America's are low, the most ambitious Europeans will continue coming here as they have done for over two centuries, and Europe will continue fading into oblivion.

And if Obama continues showing weakness in foreign policy, he will succeed in diminishing the world's most powerful military. This would be terrible for America, but it would delight many international delegations.

So maybe President Obama received the Nobel Peace Prize in the hope that he will make us more like Europe. That may be good for Europeans in the short term but disastrous for the world in the long term. It would be especially disastrous for us Americans whom he has sworn an oath to protect and defend.

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THE RECESSION IS NOT OVER **10/30/09**

Despite Obama Administration claims, recent job statistics show the economy is still very unstable.

Many mainstream economists are declaring that the economic recession is either over or will soon be over. In addition the Obama administration is touting that the stimulus plan signed into law in February will eventually create or save millions of jobs. However a closer look at the unemployment figures shows that there is little reason for optimism.

The latest unemployment rate was reported as 9.4 percent. Many pundits celebrated this number because they had projected the rate would be over 10 percent. However the rate does not indicate that a) more people are finding jobs or b) more jobs are being created (despite Obama administration claims). In addition the rate does not count those no longer receiving unemployment benefits, nor does it count those no longer looking for work. If these groups were counted, the rate would be much higher.

Meanwhile Obama administration officials are declaring that they either saved or created hundreds of thousands of jobs. There is no way to quantify this claim, and even if the officials are correct, the important question is: what types of jobs are being saved or created?

Assuming that the officials are correct, most jobs created or saved would have to be in the public sector. This means they are mostly government jobs funded by taxpayers. These jobs can offer short-term benefits to the economy by putting some people back to work, but they will ultimately become a drain on the economy because they pull labor (and, in turn, capital) from the private sector, which contracts the free market. Contracting the free market harms consumers by giving them fewer choices, which will cause them to spend less. Less spending means less business revenue, and less business revenue means less jobs.

Public-sector job creation has been outnumbering private-sector job creation since the September 11, 2001 attacks. The Bush administration spent billions creating myriad bureaucracies to fight the war on terror. Now the Obama administration is spending trillions to create even more bureaucracy, ostensibly to fix the economy. Either way, government intervention through spending only makes things worse.

Until unemployment is corrected by creating private-sector jobs that can provide meaningful goods and services to consumers, and until this damaging government intervention is stopped, this recession will be far from over.

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