

The Civil War: Causes, Conduct, and Consequences

Wepner Symposium on the Lincoln Legacy and Contemporary Scholarship

CALL FOR PROPOSALS (Revised September 7, 2011)

Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Springfield

The Department of Political Science invites proposals to present papers, to serve as discussants, or to be panel leaders in the second Wepner Symposium on the Lincoln Legacy and Contemporary Scholarship, on October 21-23, 2011. Since 2011 is the first year of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, this year's theme is "Civil War: Causes, Conduct, and Consequences."

The first objective is to bring contemporary political science theories and methods to the examination of the Lincoln legacy, and to encourage new study both using and refining those theories and methods. "Lincoln's political legacy," said Merrill D. Peterson, "was twofold: first, the supremacy of the national government. And second, its responsibility to advance the freedom and equality of all its citizens." (*Lincoln in American Memory*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1994, 156.) We wish to place the study of this legacy within contemporary political science, but our interest is not narrow.

The second objective is to encourage intellectual communication about the Civil War across as many disciplines as practical. For that reasons, the invitation is extended to not only to political scientists in any of the major fields of the discipline; *but is also extended to scholars in any fields in the humanities and social sciences (African American studies, American Studies, anthropology, economics, literature, psychology, and sociology), and in law.*

The third objective is dissemination to, and exchange with, colleagues who teach in K-12 history, government, and social studies. For reason of all the objectives, the invitation is also extended to K-12 teachers, independent scholars and political journalists.

Topics for Papers

Proposals are invited on the subjects listed below.

- (1) Causes of the Civil War, especially relating to
 - a. the role of slavery and the varieties of conflicts about slavery,
 - b. secession as a permanent threat to Federal Government decision-making, and
 - c. why the election of 1860 became the occasion for the Great Secession Winter;
- (2) The demography, politics, economics and logistics of the Civil war: the white North, the free black North, the white South, and the black slave South;

- (3) How President Lincoln and the Lincoln Administration dealt with
 - a. the problem of avoidance of the war,
 - b. the actual conduct of the war, and
 - c. what to do about the re-construction of the Union after the war was over;
- (4) What current political science theories and methods can teach, when applied to the historical data, on the question of whether whites and blacks could live as citizens in the same political system; and on the broader question of multi-ethnic populations under democratic government;
- (5) How people in other countries saw the Civil War as having meaning for their domestic political problems (as it was in the United Kingdom) or as a foreign policy problem for Britain and Europe;
- (6) The American Civil War as seen in global context since that time (or what “lessons” of the American Civil War have been “learned” by people elsewhere in the world);
- (7) Ideological controversy in contemporary scholarship (limited to books, articles or public lectures) about the Civil War and its meaning for the contemporary world; and,
- (8) The consequences of the Civil War for the constitutional system, Federalism, and the Federal relationship.

Papers from the topics listed above will be grouped into three panel sessions, one of which probably will be on topic 3 above. But the grouping of topics will depend on proposals received. Please limit proposals to six hundred words. A proposal should *state the subject*, explain *why it is relevant and significant for the current symposium* and *explain the method being used* in preparing the paper. *Proposals must also be accompanied by an up-to-date CV.* Preferences will be given to papers that are empirically-oriented, but such papers must also be readable for scholars in all fields of political science.

Acceptances will be made on a rolling basis up to October 1, 2011.

Second class air fare, hotel costs, and food during the conference period may be provided to paper presenters, discussants, or panel leaders if the presenter or discussant certifies on institutional letterhead that the institution will provide no funds for the purpose of participating in the symposium.

Send responses to: wepner@uis.edu for the attention of Matthew Holden, Jr. or Gene W. Giannotta. **Electronic responses preferred.** Hard copy may be sent to WEPNER SYMPOSIUM, Political Science Department, University of Illinois at Springfield, MS PAC 350, One University Plaza, Springfield, IL 62703, USA.