

HIST 22: US History Survey
Final Exam-Essay

Write an essay supported by historical evidence (approx. 2-3 pp.)

Use the prompt below to develop an essay. This as your opportunity to show how well you can synthesize information into a coherent & convincing argument & consider how the concepts of “Imagined Community” & “Tipping Point” help you make the argument. While specific evidence & examples are important, make sure you have a thesis. The prompt is purposely general to allow for multiple arguments. But you need to develop a specific thesis to guide your essay & support it with historical evidence & examples based on all you have read, viewed & discussed. Be sure to provide specific historical evidence to support your answer (e.g. names, dates, places, events). You are evaluated based on how well you support your opinion, not on the opinions themselves.

Prompt) “Origins & Implications of the Civil War”

In 1829 David Walker predicted God would punish the U.S. for the institution of slavery and that slavery would lead to the Civil War, causing Americans to one day “rise up one against another, to be split and divided, and to oppress each other, and sometimes to open hostilities with sword in hand.” ***Was Walker correct? Was the Civil War caused by slavery? If so, how so? If not, what did cause it? What role did American geographic expansion play? What specific events in the 1850s helped lead to war and which were most significant? Could the Civil War have been avoided in your view?*** Be sure to provide specific historical evidence to support your answer (e.g. names, places, dates, events) including:

- i) The 1850 Compromise & Fugitive Slave Act, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” (1852), “Bleeding Kansas,” Dred Scot (1857), Harper’s Ferry (1859), etc.
- ii) Individuals like David Walker & others argued for decades that slavery would lead to Civil War. Discuss the reasons this prediction was/was not fulfilled.
- iii) To conclude, the period of “Reconstruction” followed the Civil War. What were the “goals” of Reconstruction and was it a “success” or a “failure” in your opinion & why? What is its legacy?