

At if you go comparing pretences  
of Chairman Mao...

death of 620k people (violence)

Yes:  
overthrowing of existing  
social and pol. order  
by internal violence,  
overthrowing South's  
pol. order → power.

no: only a revolution viewed in hindsight.  
cause/beginnings not revolutionary in nature,  
did not destroy previous regime

## 2. Was it the second American Revolution?

- irreversible, big change.  
- violent

<The 2nd American Revolution>  
James M. McPherson.

Michael Perman, ed Major Problems in the Civil War and

Reconstruction: Documents and Essays (New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 1998),

pp 433-442

### Civil War a revolution

- rise of the Republican party = a revolution?

- James A. Garfield.

- radical republicanism

- equated southerners to the Tories (those who supported British)

- wanted to break southern power by emancipating slaves.

- refusal of 14th amendment by Southern states led to his call for  
the imposition of revolutionary change on the South by the  
Northern conquerors.

- reconstruction should revolutionise southern institutions,  
traditions, and habits.

- abolitionment of slavery ∴ = a revolution, social transformation.

esp. in South.

- Europeans such as Marx & Clemenceau also saw civil war as a revolution.

- Charles A. Beard (historian)

Argued that...

- sectional conflict arose from contending economic interests

- plantation agriculture (slavery) v. industrialised capitalism

- class conflict which turned into sectional because of climate, soil, geography.  
(cf. southern more suited for plantations)

- triumph of North led to unquestioned establishment of new government in power,  
which made vast changes in the class system, distribution of wealth, course of  
industrialisation

\* revolution in distribution of wealth and power amongst classes.

- triumph of bourgeoisie (radical) with black & white proletarian over southern  
aristocracy.

- however, a large % of white "proletarians" supported Confederacy.

- war a struggle between two competing capitalist classes

- slave labour / reactionary vs. progressive / competitive / innovative.

- slave system would have greatly benefitted industrial capitalism insofar  
as it is an economic system, but heavily contradicted industrial capitalist  
democracy (human equality, liberty, etc.)

- civil war a social revolution, a breakthrough against an older social  
structure

- civil war an economic revolution → industrialised North victorious.

- revolution in political power

- significantly lowered proportion of southerners in different branches of government

after war

- eg. 20/35 supreme court justices before, 5/26 southerners after.

- internal revolution.

- emancipation of 4 mil slaves

- elevation to similar civil standing as whites (at least in theory)

slavery only ended in  
form.

- educational revolution in that more blacks were able to attend school,  
decreasing literacy rates.

- economic revolution in that massive amounts of property were  
confiscated (even more than in American Revolution)

- blacks able to own land → greatly increased blacks' ownership of land.

- political revolution due to large increase in no. of voters due to  
black suffrage.

### Civil War not a revolution

- civil war not a revolution as it did not cause significant  
change in social structure of South / status of blacks.

- war not an economic revolution

- war only accelerated developments, not changed direction  
of development which had already caused industrial  
revolution pre-civil war.

- war resulted in slow economic growth, so argue that  
it slowed down industrialisation

- but these developments occurred in the North, civil war

led to adoption / domination of Northern economic  
el., leading to revolution in the South

- because of economic devastation in the South, which was  
included in calculations

- withdrawal of Southern senators allowed / representatives  
allowed Republican-sponsored legislation to pass, previously  
certain kinds of economic development that were previously  
blocked by Southern Democratic Party.

- higher tariffs to foster industrial development

- national banking act to create centralized banking system

- land grants to build railroad

- homestead act granting land to settlers

- land-grant college act to establish state agricultural &  
vocational colleges.

- no internal social revolution despite emancipation of  
slaves due to lack of practical change in status of blacks.

allowed to vote, but Southern governments  
introduced legislation that prevented  
blacks from voting.

→ political power transferred  
to the North, and remains  
so for almost a century.



The North-South divide		
Longstanding differences between both at the start	Differences in geography and climate leading to different economic operations/ systems	massive crop plantations in the South fuelled by slave labour – subsistence farming in the North fuelled by family labour
	Differences in culture and demography	concentration of blacks/slaves in the South due to crop plantations, and young men from Britain who wanted to “make it rich” in the New World — plural & mixed societies
		small communities/families in the North who escaped from religious persecution — the Puritans
Exacerbation of the divide during Westward Expansion	Louisiana Purchase, 1803	context of French Revolution & Napoleonic Wars, sale to aid in Napoleon’s war efforts resulted in Missouri Compromise of 1820, a controversy which affected newly settled lands. Banned slavery North of 36, 30', with Missouri to be an exception. Disregarded by Southern states eventually (Calhoun, 1846)
	Mexican Secession, 1848	result of Mexican War, giving US new territories, revitalising question of slavery. Wilmot Proviso (N) which suggested no slavery in territories acquired from Mexico, South argued slaveholders had constitutional right to take slaves (property) into new territories
	Compromise of 1850 over California	left slavery to be decided by settlers before statehood (ambiguous) + fugitive laws imposing harsh penalties against harbouring fugitive slaves
	Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854	slavery question left to settlers (popular sovereignty), diminished Missouri Compromise, competition between anti-slave and slave-owning sections to occupy new territories, formation of Republican Party (emergence of 2-party system)
	Dred Scott Decision, 1857	Ruling by Southern dominated Supreme Court that slave brought into free territory not free, because not a citizen (but property)
Civil War	Reasons for Secession/War	Fear of development of strong central government, fear of eventual abolishment of slavery with election of Lincoln who was against expansion of slavery Westwards
	North's advantage and the South's disadvantage	North with established strong central government, diversified and industrial economy (faster mobilisation possible)
		South with weak central government (which eventually became even stronger than in North)
	Slavery v Preservation of Union	
Autonomy, rights, and individual participation		
Political autonomy	limited power with Assemblies in each colony, with a semblance of self-governance, but officials were appointed by the British. Assemblies largely aimed at reducing impact of British laws (e.g. tariffs)	
	desire for greater distance from the British, especially after 7-Years War	resented taxation imposed on them, felt that they had no right to be taxed by the British as the settlers were not represented in Parliament — had no say/influence over the policies affecting themselves
		settlers no longer needed British protection against other European powers in the colonies — 7-Years War greatly diminished the presence of other European powers
	progression and development of colonies' political unity	Formation of First Continental Congress of Philadelphia, 1774 (economic boycott of British goods, coordinated collective action amongst the colonies to protest British policies/ taxation which infringed on their perceived rights) - united plan of resistance resulting in collapse of colonial governments by 1775
Economic autonomy	felt unfair to have taxes imposed upon them (Navigation Act, Sugar & Currency Act, Townshend Act, Stamp Act), which were meant to extract revenue from the colonies	Second Continental Congress in 1775 convened to draft constitution of individual states with belief in limited government
		1776 Declaration of Independence enshrining inalienable rights + Articles of Confederation in 1777 establishing a weak central government for the 13 “sovereign states” (still unofficial until Paris treaty, 1783)
		1787 Constitution Convention which prescribes system of laws and functions of government under certain principles

	Stamp Act heavily affected those who could read (especially elites), whilst Townshend Act with taxation on tea affected all	context: British in debt after the 7-Years War, therefore needed revenue
	lack of economic autonomy and imposition of taxes from afar a cause of the Revolutionary War?	<i>the War as a revolt against the paying of taxes</i>
Individual Rights/Participation	Enlightenment and the Age of Reason providing new ideas, such as God given, inalienable rights to “life, liberty, and property”	
	Bill of Rights added as first ten amendments to Constitution in 1791	added in to quell the state's power, civil liberties but inalienable rights and ideas of liberty not applicable to blacks