Study Guide #2

The second exam with cover all lectures, in-class videos and reading assignments since the last exam (see Blackboard Announcements for revised readings).

It may helpful when reviewing the material related to the Second Civil War to think of it within the broader context in which we are examining it; that is, the social construction of the American economy. The war took place primarily during what I call the second phase of the social construction of the American economy. Although the exam is not cumulative, I believe it would be helpful to look at the outline and your notes regarding that phase. It was characterized by dispossession, industrialization, urbanization and the rise of wage labor, or what workers thought of as wage slavery. These are all factors directly related to the Second Civil War.

I. Second Civil War

a. First Gilded Age: conditions for workers in newly industrialized capitalism and conditions for the rich.

b. War: Worker goals and tactics, Capital goals and tactics.

c. The Great Upheaval (Uprising) and the Lawrence Textile Strike as examples of battles in the war, conditions, causes, tactics, etc.

d. Successes of labor: wage and hour laws, no child labor, collective bargaining.

e. Capital’s victory: means by which capital finally defeated labor. Did capital achieve its goals?

Terms: general strike, mass strike, sit-down strike, sympathy strike, boycott, picketing, Knights of Labor, IWW, ideology, Social Gospel, anarchism, industrial democracy, socialism, Marxism, Russian Revolution, militia, National Guard, federal troops, Robber Barons, Millionaires Row, wage labor, subsistence wages, Republic Steel Memorial Day Massacre, Seattle and San Francisco general strikes, GM sit-in, Great Depression, Wagner Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Social Security Act, no strike clauses, social contract, new American Dream.

II. The Social Construction of the American Political System

a. Democracy for the Few”: definition, means by which it has been constructed.

b. In the beginning: who should rule? Early struggle-American revolution as an economic revolution, Articles of Confederation, Federalist Papers, Shay’s Rebellion.

c. U.S. Constitution: undemocratic structures and “new persons.”

d. Democracy for the few and reform: Progressive Age, the Great Depression.

e. Eliminating alternative visions: socialism, Red Scares, Russian Revolution, manufacturing consent, consumerism.

f. Vicious cycle of wealth and power: campaign financing, lobbying.

Terms: Shay’s Rebellion, Articles of Confederation, Federalist Papers, Electoral College, “gerrymandering,” Great Writ, Bill of Rights, plutocracy, aristocracy, Great Beast, Red Scare, manufacturing consent.