

Essay Exam 3

1840-1877

1. Slavery has been called America's "peculiar institution." By focusing on the economics and culture of slavery, evaluate whether this label correctly identifies the institution of American slavery and the realities revealed through historical scholarship.
2. Was it possible to "reconstruct" a part of the U.S. after the Civil War? Interpret the intentions, successes and failures of Reconstruction in the context of the culture at the time. In your response consider land policy, key legislation during Presidential and Radical Reconstruction, southern politics, racial and political violence, and northern "fatigue" with Reconstruction.
3. Assess the role(s) played by radicals in creating conflict, chaos, and change between 1840 and 1877. For each radical individual, group, or movement, provide a cost/benefit analysis and determine if other viable alternatives were possible at the time.
4. Examine the consequences of the idea of Manifest Destiny on Indians, slaves and free blacks in the newly acquired areas. Did the newly acquired lands promote Jefferson's idea of an Empire of Liberty, or was it an empire of liberty for only a few? Provide convincing evidence to support your conclusions.

Guidelines:

- Use the Grading Criteria
- Graphic Presentations are required
- Include one-third readings, one-third discussion, one-third original thoughts (not opinion)
- Cite all sources including discussions and readings
- Do not procrastinate. You may turn exams in early.

Preparation for Exams:

Exam 1: (to 1763) Foner Chapters 1-4; Interpretations Chapters 1-4

Exam 2: (1763-1840) Foner Chapters 5-10; Interpretations Chapters 5-7

Exam 3: (1840-1877) Foner Chapters 11-15; Interpretations Chapters 8-11