

TO APPOMATTOX -- AND BEYOND

Coordinators: John Becker and Jay Fleishman

As many historians have noted, the American Civil War might have had a different ending. As 1865 began, although a Northern victory seemed likely, it was not certain. We examine several crucial decisions (by Lincoln, Lee, Grant and others) that led to the result we know. We also consider several answers to the questions of “why the North won,” and “why the South lost.” Finally, we look at the long legacy, both positive (passage of the 14th Amendment) and negative (the rise of the KKK, the end of Reconstruction), of what happened after Appomattox.

John Becker has coordinated study groups in history (including the Civil War), cinema, and literature. **Jay Fleishman**, a native Southerner, has coordinated study groups in freedom of speech and religion in contemporary America.

Readings and other Required Materials: Jay Winik, *April 1865*; HarperCollins, 2001, ISBN-13:9780060899684, \$15.99.
Coursepack, approximately \$15.

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There are five major sources for the readings. There is one book that has to be purchased, Jay Winik’s *April 1865: The Month that Saved America*. This is the source for sessions 1 through 4 which are about how the war ended. The following four sources are for sessions 5 through 13 and the readings will be in the coursepack:

Richard E. Berringer, et.al. *Why The South Lost The Civil War*.

Gabor S. Boritt, editor. *Why The Confederacy Lost*.

David Donald, editor. *Why The North Won The Civil War*.

A.J. Langguth. *After Lincoln: How The North Won The Civil War And Lost The Peace*.

For sessions 5 through 13, the source for each reading will be from the coursepack and is indicated below by the last name of the above author followed by the page numbers or chapter from the source book.

Session #1: How the Civil War ended. The major events from the Spring of 1864 through March 1865. Winik, pp.1-125.

Session #2: Lee's westward escape from Petersburg and eventual surrender at Appomattox; Winik, pp. 126-200.

Session #3: Lincoln's assassination and aftermath. How did this affect the prospects for peace; Winik, pp. 201-297.

Session #4: The Confederacy surrenders and the process of reconciliation begins;
Winik, pp. 298-380.

Sessions 5 through 10 are addressed to causes of the war and why the North won.

Session #5: Article on (a) "Historians and the Civil War;" Berringer, Chapter 1.

Session #6: Article by Norman A. Graebner, "Northern diplomacy and European neutrality" and "Jefferson Davis and the political factors in Confederate defeat." Both articles from Arnold.

Session #7: Article from Berringer, Chapter 4, on "Southern nationalism" and from Donald by T. Harry Williams, "Military leadership of the North and South."

Session #8: From Berringer, "God, guilt, and the Confederacy" and from Donald by Richard N. Current, "God and the strongest battalions."

Session #9: From Borritt by Archer Jones, "Military means, political ends: strategy" and by James M. McPherson, "American victory, American defeat."

Session #10: Article from Berringer, "States' rights and the Confederate war effort."

Sessions 11 through 13 will be on the legacy of the Civil War.

Session #11: From Langguth, chapters on (a)"The Fourteenth Amendment;" (b)"Nathan Bedford Forrest;" (c)"the Ku Klux Klan" (chapters 8,12, and 15).

Session #12: From Langguth, chapters on (a)"Ulysses S. Grant;" (b)"Grant's Second Term." (chapters 8 and 18).

Session #13: From Langguth, chapter on "Rutherford B. Hayes." (chapter 19).