

Fall 2015 History & Heritage -- #5

(A Seasonal Catechism for the Study of Western and American Civilization)

School of Revivalism --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 4-7)

This evangelistic movement, a secularized version of Protestantism in the Northern U.S. in the early 1800's, spearheaded abolition among other political enthusiasms? The movement inspired zeal for here-and-now progress based on man's natural right to transfigure himself and society by reason and/or revelation (biblical truths). Beginning in New York, evangelist Charles Finney and his disciples taught sinners they could turn themselves into saints and earth into heaven, if only they truly willed to be useful.

Antebellum Economics --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 7-9)

This title represents a host of 19th-century money matters that coalesced to transfer wealth measurably from South to North in the U.S.? Chief among these matters was the federal tariff on foreign goods to protect Northern manufactures, in addition to govt. funds for "internal improvements" and private businesses and giveaways of public lands. By exerting pressure in Washington to retard these programs, the South incurred the wrath of powerful Northern interests determined to diminish her or take her down.

Compromise of 1850 --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 14-20)

This mid-19th-century political settlement put off disunion for a decade but also dimmed prospects for eventual Southern independence? The settlement welcomed CA as a free State, turned NM and UT into territories prior to becoming free or slave States someday, and strengthened laws for the return of runaway slaves. Most Americans were relieved to see a relaxation of political tensions, though its unforeseen effect was to allow time for Northern population and industry to advance mightily on the eve of war.

Territorial Slavery --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 9-14)

This heading speaks to irreconcilable differences over whether property in slaves would be allowed to spill over into pre-State western lands held in common by the U.S.? For the South the controversy was a matter of her regional interests and whether her status in the Union was still that of equal partner to the stronger, more populous North. Many Northerners, on the other hand, feared the rise of a domineering "slaveocracy" below the Mason-Dixon intent on forcing its "peculiar institution" on all the States.

The States' Rights School --- Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 7-9)

This title is often used for the Jeffersonian understanding of the American constitutional system as opposed to the Hamiltonian (and later Lincolnian) one? Jefferson teamed up with the younger Madison in the 1790's to counter the centralizing and consolidating schemes of Hamilton's Federalists by shifting power back to the States and localities (thereby to the people). What the two Virginians had in mind was chaining the U.S. government to its few express constitutional powers and restricting its taxes accordingly.