

The American Civil War Revisited

- Date:** Monday, September 19, 2011, 3–6 pm
Location: Halle (Saale), Zentrum für USA-Studien, Dachritzstraße 12, R. 215
Course number: 11L162007 LISA
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Registration: Places are restricted to 25 participants.
Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

In 2011, America commemorates the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, one of the most defining events in U.S. history. According to a recent Pew Research Center study, 56% of those polled say the war between the North and the South is still relevant to American politics and public life today. As to the cause of war, 48% believe that the war was mainly about states' rights while 38% say it was mainly about slavery, and 9% claim that it was about both.

This seminar will take a closer look at the impact the Civil War has had on the U.S. and beyond, how it divided and at the same time forged the nation and why it still fuels the imagination of scholars and non-scholars alike. Lectures by three renowned American scholars will shed light on the causes of the American Civil War, the Civil War experience, and its impact on American identity, economy, and culture.



Sessions:

1. Paul Finkelman (Albany Law School), “Going to War to Save the Union or to End Slavery? Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War”
2. Brian Schoen (Ohio State University), “Southern Wealth, Global Profits: Cotton, Economic Culture, and the Coming of the Civil War”
3. Aaron Sheehan-Dean (West Virginia University), “Dying for a Nation: Nation-Building and Nationalism in the Mid-Nineteenth Century”

Next to a discussion of the role of Abraham Lincoln, the issue of slavery, and economic affairs, there is also special emphasis on how the war shaped America as a nation and on the repercussions of the war within the America of today. This course is organized by the Center for United States Studies in cooperation with the Landesinstitut für Schulqualität und Lehrerbildung Sachsen-Anhalt (LISA), the U.S. Embassy, and the U.S. Consulate General Leipzig.

Resources:

Website of the Civil War Trust with timelines, maps, and links to 150th anniversary websites:

<http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/>

Lesson Plans created by educators for educators, these plans include all the needed materials and resources free for you to use in your classroom: <http://www.civilwar.org/education/teachers/lesson-plans/>

Pew Research Center, Washington D.C., study on the Civil War: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1958/civil-war-still-relevant-and-divisive-praise-confederate-leaders-flag>

ZUSAS E-Journal: *Lincoln's Legacy. Nation Building, Democracy, and the Question of Race and Civil Rights*, ed. by Jörg Nagler: <http://asjournal.zusas.uni-halle.de/archive/53/>



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der Martin-Luther-Universität
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