

Has there been any doubt recently in these United States about the economic strength and the political and cultural clout of the Sunbelt, the intense migrations to it, and the growth of Texas, Georgia, Florida, and California, especially when contrasted with the cultural and political shrinkage in the Frostbelt and the Rustbelt. This perpetually reinforcing tendency toward the growth of Southern power at the expense of the North receives yet another boost from the redistributing of U.S. House of Representatives as a result of the 1990 Census. These are the triumphs of ideas and culture driven belief systems, with a side bet on the weather, and not of the initial Confederate military apparatus. The losers won and the winners lost.

Are we in the Birnam Woods with the armies of MacBeth where language plays tricks upon its users and seems to mean the opposite of what it says? No, we are in North America, focused on comprehending the force of history. Just as Gorbachev has won the Cold War by pretending to have lost it, knocking out the B-2 stealth bombers without ever firing a shot for instance, and the United States, which insists that it won, actually lost because it has been bankrupted by the process.

Alexander Hamilton Stephens of Georgia (a cunning name for a politician of an about to be bankrupted entity), the soon to be Vice President of the Confederacy, was moved to wonder outloud at the secession meeting in Montgomery: Why are we doing this? With few exceptions for sixty of the seventy-two years The United States has been in existence, the South has controlled the government in its every important action from the beginning. Stephens was referring of course to the Virginia Dynasty and the Jacksonian Revolution which culminated in the Texas Annexation on President John Tyler's very last day in office, specifically engineered in its ultimate form by John Calhoun of South Carolina. Except for the Adams family of Massachusetts, the administration of the American government up to the War Between the States was half Old South and half New. Jefferson Davis as Secretary of War was widely perceived to be the most powerful person in Franklin Pierce's administration. The South lost control of the policy apparatus in the quadripartite election of Lincoln in 1860. The New South, based on the Mississippi, hit the secessionist panic button and the Confederacy was born.

Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy, was a hero of the Battle of Buena Vista during the Mexican War. He was a member of the group, more or less chaired by his former father-in-law, the field commander of the U.S. Army during the battles in Northern Mexico and eventual President of the United States, General Zachary Taylor, who shared the opinion that it had been a mistake to conquer Mexico and then give half of it back. Among the other agendas of the Mexican War, was the desire to make Texas safe for slavery. The South was so concerned with protecting the balance of power of the slave states, that Texas was admitted to the Union with the unusual proviso that it could divide into as many as five states, as a match for the potential free states that might be formed from the Oregon Territory. Texas still has the right to call this oddball shot, should the Texans ever get really desperate for more power, but why bother at this point since they are the exact political, cultural, and geographical center of the United States of (North) America.

Taylor and Davis, et al, envisioned slave states in the territory ceded by Mexico all the way to the Pacific Ocean, including California. The disadvantage the slaveholding South had been put at by the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was rectified by the Mexican War, long before the Compromise was declared unconstitutional in the Dred Scott Decision in 1857. General Taylor's sorties south of the Nueces River and the Rio Grande formed a paradigm for American aggression. The Confederate drive was slowed somewhat by the admission of California to the Union in 1850 as a free state,

but only temporarily. President Taylor, "Old Rough and Ready," possibly would have vetoed the Compromise of 1850 that his Vice President and successor Millard Fillmore signed into law under the influence of Henry Clay if he had not died of iatrogenic overmedication.

While the Secretary of War in Franklin Pierce's Cabinet (the euphemism of Department of "Defense" was not coined until the end of WWII when disguise became a paramount concern and Orwell's "Newspeak" was coming into vogue), Jefferson Davis was assigned the task of determining where the transcontinental railroad should be built. To buttress his ten volume claim that the Southern route from Memphis to Los Angeles would be cheaper to build, connect more people and move more freight more efficiently, he was the goad who pried loose the \$10,000,000 for the Gadsden Purchase, land in Southern Arizona where the Southern Pacific Railroad bed still lies. He did not prevail in his insistence on a Southern route, being opposed by Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois who favored the Union Pacific route from Chicago to San Francisco, but to Davis' credit after the war, the Southern lines did in fact move more freight, more people, and made more money with less governmental support than the central or northern routes. The southern routes did exactly what Jefferson Davis envisioned they would do: they connected California to the South. General Charles deGaulle used to say that the key to political success was to puzzle out the inevitable and then support it. Jefferson Davis was also a chronic author of the attempt to annex Cuba during the pre-Civil War period. It was his considered opinion that the "Empire" (his word) of the United States of America should extend at least as far as the Isthmus of Panama.

Even with the typically abbreviated American attention span, this cannot help but remind us of the present President of the United States, the Texan George Bush. President Bush invaded Panama to dislodge the military dictator and reputed drug czar, Manuel Noriega. Too bad for Bush that there was no way the goofy photographs of him and Noriega couched together during his stint as the head of the CIA could be retracted from public consumption. Bush was once our lead spook and another prominent Texan, former governor John Connally, accused him of sitting on his butt in that and other jobs. We may wind up wishing that Bush really be a Taoist and sit on his butt on more issues where non-action long enough taken can look like the right move.

A previously elected puppet government was installed in Noriega's stead, and life in Panama returned to "normal." Normal in this case being that time at the beginning of this century when President Theodore Roosevelt, irritated with the government of Colombia, sliced off the isthmus with a neo-Confederate impulse and created on its geography the "nation" of Panama, with which he could sign the appropriate ninety-nine year lease and get on with construction of the Panama Canal. The subduction of Panama into the English speaking empire commenced in 1572 with the first successful raids there of Sir Francis Drake. Panama was once part of the supposedly sovereign nation of Colombia. It is now and has been for nearly a century part of the empire of the United States of America, a Confederate idea.

Theodore Roosevelt and the Spanish American War are convenient markers of the return of empire and Confederate expansion to American policy. Here is where we first got really strung out in Asia, in the Philippines. The word "empire" makes some people uncomfortable when it is connected to the United States, but if

we are going to get our own history straight, we have to recognize that there are two entities using the same name: the United States of America. One entity is a country with an identifiable border and a shared culture and language. The other entity is an empire that has limits but no borders. Virtually every major issue of the past half century has revolved around whether or not a particular course of action or policy would be good for the United States as a country or good for the United States as an empire. The lion's share of the decisions have been made in favor of the empire while the nation has been neglected and allowed to fall to ruin. It is the unfortunate habit of the government to perpetuate the confusion that the country and the empire are a simultaneous occasion. They are not.

Once the Confederate States of America had imagined themselves into existence, Ambassador Pickett was dispatched to Mexico to seek recognition and to make amends. Having publicly coveted Mexico for virtually all of his public life, the task Jefferson Davis assigned to Pickett was delicate to say the least. Pickett began his mission by explaining to the wary Mexicans and Senor Mota that there really was no difference between peonage and slavery.

The central Mexican problem is that it is "So far from God and so close to the United States." Today we have the reverse mission of President Salinas deGortari, asking for free trade (no economic border) and that we build more manufacturing plants in Mexico. Mexican wages are still one-tenth of what they are in the partially unionized United States, validating at least the economic similarity between peonage and slavery. If these plants are built, then the Mexicans can afford to stay put and work for \$1.57 per hour. If they are not built, the Mexicans will immigrate to the United States in even greater numbers.

For better or worse, the so-called border between Mexico and the United States is an aggressive fiction, known as "La Linea" to the Mexicans who risk their lives to cross it. The marriage between Mexico and the United States is in full swing and the seemingly inexhaustible pool of cheap (not to say "slave") labor lights the lights at the end of the American manufacturing tunnels, who cannot compete any longer in Europe or Asia and will continue their migration right on through the Sunbelt and into what might have previously been referred to as Mexico proper.

Our mission in Europe and Asia may be over anyway, whether we can recognize it or not. We never had a mission there as a country, only as an empire under the Truman Doctrine of containing communism which was used as an excuse to establish our suzerainty everywhere else. Charles deGaulle had it right when he said it was not the differences between the Soviet Union and the United States that alarmed him but the similarities.

It is important to notice what happened at the end of World War II when the United States fell into its default position as the inheritor of what was left of the British Empire and defender of the free world economy. The word "free" in this phrase is not a reference to the fact that we were "buying" oil for fifty cents a barrel. Harry Truman and all the influential Presidents of the post-World War II era are Southerners.

While it is amusing to speculate on what the world might have turned into had Henry Wallace become President (he was dumped off the ticket in 1944 in favor of Truman), it is at least true that while Franklin Delano Roosevelt was still alive, we were allied with the communists, both in Russia and China. Containing them became Truman's Doctrine, which is Monroe the Virginian's Doctrine applied globally.

The much vaunted 1950s, the Golden Age of American preeminence, were in fact the final triumph of the Lone Star Republic; Texas was finally in the saddle. From the not necessarily humble gleam in Moses Austin's eye as the

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