

Revisiting the American Civil War

We all grew up with various stories and myths about the American Civil War. In light of events over the past several years and with renewed interest generated by the 2015 sesquicentennial of the war, our seminar revisits the Civil War and its ramifications for our times.

In this seminar we look at some topics about the Civil War that are familiar and some that have a new or different emphasis, given history's inevitable changes as later generations look at events through different lenses.

As with some other seminars, participation requirements include a 30–40-minute presentation about a topic of your choice either from the list provided or one agreed upon by the moderators. All members are encouraged to participate in seminar discussions to make for lively, thought-provoking sessions. There is a recommended (but not required) book, *The Civil War: A Visual History* edited by Jemima Dunne, and Paula Regan, Dorling Kindersley/Smithsonian, 2015 for background information. The moderators will provide additional suggested books and links to videos for participants.

Possible Presentation Topics Include:

- Britain's role in the Civil War
- France's role in the Civil War
- The role of King Cotton
- Medical care for soldiers
- Technological advancements
- Enslaved People - role and emancipation.
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Geography and the Civil War
- Civil War photography (ex. Matthew Brady)
- Famous artists and the Civil War
- Communication during the Civil War
- Impact of English Journalism on the Civil War
- American journalism during the Civil War
- North/South War Support (or lack thereof)
- Naval embargo of the Confederacy
- Southern vs Northern economy/society
- Women's roles
- Novels about the Civil War
- The Civil War in the Western United States
- A Famous Personality of the Civil War (ex. Lincoln, Davis, Lee, Grant, Seward, etc.)
- A famous battle (Gettysburg, Antietam, Manasses (Bull Run), Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, etc. or select another one that appeals to you) and its impact on the course of the war Note: We will be limiting the selection of battles to three or less.