

# SPECULATING ON SOUTHERN HISTORY



I Think of Myself As An **Economic Historian**  
I Am Listed in the Program As **Novelist**

*Counterfactual History:*

“Counter” → **Not** What Actually Happened

“Factual” → **Based on** What Actually Happened

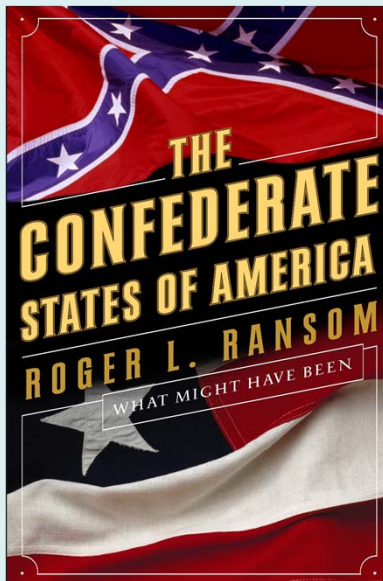
→ **Predict** What “**Might Have Been**”

*It Is A Blend of:*

**2 Parts Historical Reality**

**1 Part Imagination**

**1 Part Common Sense**



*The Confederate States  
of America:  
What Might Have Been*

**Each Chapter Asks a Counterfactual Question**

Chapter 1: *Conflicting Visions*  
Could this War Have Been Avoided?

Chapter 2: *The Southern Gamble*  
Could the Have South Won?

Chapter 3: *Against All Odds*  
*HOW* Could the South Win?

Chapter 4: *The King is Dead, Long Live the King*  
**What Was the Future for the Confederacy?**

Chapter 5: *What Might Have Been*  
**What Was the Future for Everyone Else?**

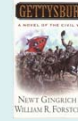
***HOW* Could the South Win?**  
**The Decisive Battles Occurred in 1862-63**



## HOW Could the South Win?



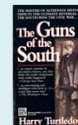
1. Slow the **Union** Advance in the West  
→ **Shiloh**



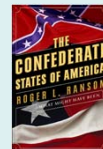
2. Lee Must Avoid Costly Defeats  
→ **Antietam** and **Gettysburg**



3. Force a Stalemate by **1864**



4. **Lincoln** Loses the **1864 Election**



5. **Britain** and **France** Help Broker a Peace

## What Was The Future For The Confederacy?

Southerners *Imagined* A Bright Future

→ Cotton, Slaves And Prosperity

**Reality** Was That The Cotton Boom Was Over

→ An Economy Tied To A Cotton Market  
That Was No Longer Expanding

## What Was the Future for the Confederacy?

Southerners *Imagined* They Were Fighting to  
Protect the Institution of Slavery

Reality Was That A Falling Demand For Cotton

- Falling Prices Of Slaves
- Capital Losses To Slaveholders
- Pressures to *SELL SLAVES !*

But Who Wants to Buy SLAVES ?

## What Was the Future for the Confederacy?

Reality Was That **Emancipation** Would Begin To  
Look Increasingly Appealing To Slaveholders

By The **Late -1880s** The **Planters** Would Be Willing  
To Support A Scheme Of **Emancipation**  
That Is Paid For By The **Government**

The **Former Slaves** Would Be Trapped At The  
Bottom of the Socio-Economic Pyramid

The **Confederate Economy** Would Still Lag Behind  
The **United States Economy**

**What Was the Future for the Confederacy?**

**My “Reality” of the CSA in 1900 Looks Like  
The South After a Northern Victory ...**

**We Need To Add some Imagination To Our Story**

**We Need To Look At What’s Happening  
Everywhere Else !!**

**What Was the Future for Everyone Else?**

**“Reality” In 1900 For The Defeated United States  
Is Harder To Predict**

**Impact Of Losing the War Would Include:**

**Loss of Territory & Population**

**A Powerful Slave Neighbor**

**Political Instability**

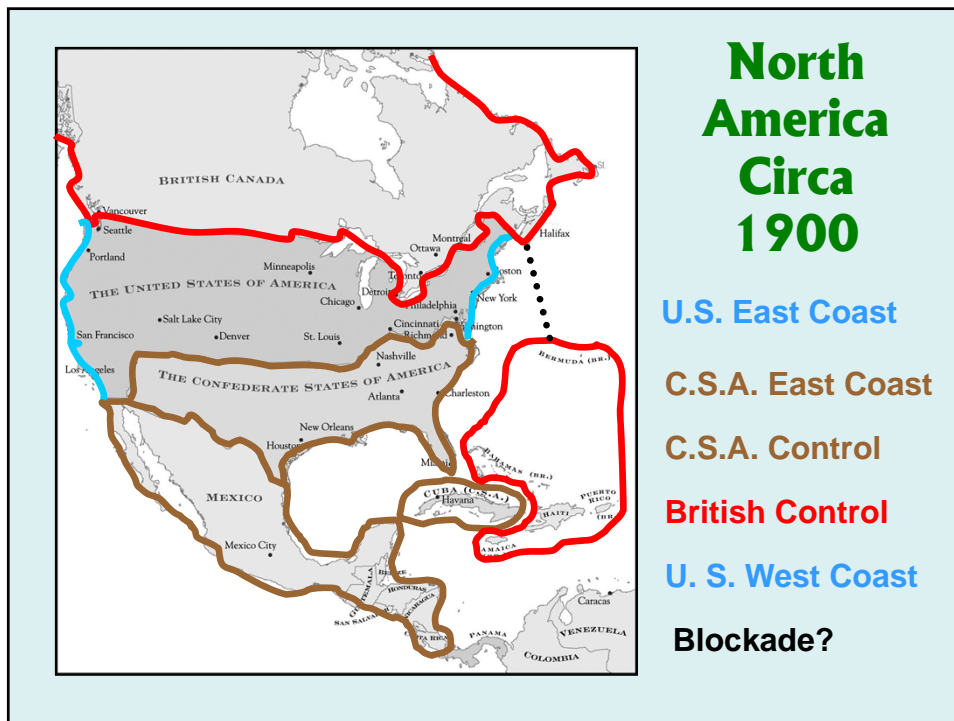
## What Was the Future for Everyone Else?

Economic/Political Power of The **United States** Would be Significantly Reduced

Both The **United States** And The **Confederacy** Would Seek Allies:

**Confederacy** → **Britain** and **France**

**United States** → **Imperial Germany**



## North America Circa 1900

U.S. East Coast

C.S.A. East Coast

C.S.A. Control

British Control

U. S. West Coast

Blockade?

**You Can't Disprove it ... But It Is A Bit of a Stretch**



**North  
America  
Circa  
1900**

**But it could  
Be VERY  
Different ...**