

Let flag fly as a reminder

I had heard about them, but the first transistor radio I ever saw was the Channel Master future school superintendent Gus Martin pulled from his pocket one Sunday morning at church. We marveled as he demonstrated, and I, though



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I had seen technological progress too sophisticated to ever be surpassed. But the transistor radio pales in comparison to the technological progress I have witnessed in my many years. For example, yesterday, one of my students pulled a small device from his pocket, spoke my narration into it, and immediately found documentation of every point I made. Therefore, I will not quote the sources of the following research I hope you will read and document for yourselves.

The Confederate flag has a blue square in an upper corner that contains a circle of white stars. There is a short red and a short white bar beside it. There is a long red bar across the bottom. The battle flag of northern Virginia (Stars and Bars) is multicolored and perfectly square. It is "a" but not "the" Confederate flag. The Rebel Flag raised on the S.C. Statehouse in 1960 one or two, is the Stars and Bars revised to a rectangular shape. It was created and manufactured in

the 1950s, not the 1850s, and lucratively marketed along with gray Rebel caps with stars and bars on the front, navy blue Yankee caps with crossed swords on the front, rubber Jim "Bowie" knives, and Davy Crockett coonskin caps. The Rebel flag, first produced ninety years after the war, is not a remnant of the Civil War: it is the result of brilliant marketing.

I find no evidence that the real Confederate flag or the real stars and bars were ever used in any white supremacist terrorist activity. However, our national flag was American racist's chosen crusade banner until the more sensationalistic Rebel flag came on the scene. Therefore, neither the original Confederate flag nor the original Stars and Bars battle flag were ever tainted with racist intimidation, torture, violence and murder. But don't take my word; pull up KKK march on Washington, D.C., 1928.

As for removing an authentic replica of the real Stars and Bars from the pole at the Confederate memorial at S.C.'s state capital, leave it where it is. And fly a replica of the real Confederate flag on the capital dome as well. Because our nation's Civil War was not fought over slavery. The northern industrialists wanted the slaves producing cotton on southern plantations just as much as the southern planters did. Northern workers wanted the slaves pro-

ducing job security in the South, not competing with them for jobs in the North. The five European nations which had abolished slavery were not above purchasing slave-raised cotton for their mills. Isn't that why the North blockaded the South from northern Virginia to the Texas/Mexico border? Was the tariff so economically destructive that southerners would risk losing their entire crops in "blockade runners?"

Was the war over slavery, or the 1861 Morrill Tariff Act designed to force southerners to sell their cotton in the North at deflated prices and purchase finished goods in the North at inflated prices, due to lack of European completion? Was the war fought over cotton-raising slaves, or slave-raised cotton, and whether the northern industrialist or the southern planters would reap the most profit from slave labor? Save during four years of conflict, did the Confederate, or the United States flag fly over the inexcusable horror of human slavery in the "Land of the Free?"

By all means, keep the commercially created rectangular Rebel flag off of flag poles on state and federal property. But let the authentic Confederate flags fly as a reminder of the period of our history when northern industrialists and southern planters collectively exploited southern slave labor. Yes, the after the fact "watering-down" and "sugar-coating" of

Civil War history would lead us to believe that a "benevolent" North fought a "cruel" South on behalf of pitiful slaves. But William Lloyd Garrison and Elijah Lovejoy were attacked, and Lovejoy was murdered for protesting slavery IN THE NORTH! In July of 1863, Negroes were hung from lampposts and a Negro orphanage was burned in New York City in protest of conscription.

Flags do not harm, but once again, the harm of human slavery and original white supremacy was committed under our national flag, and the last decades of racist harm were committed under the commercially created Rebel flag. The real Confederate and Stars and Bars battle flag flew over the war between wealthy northerners and southerners over who would profit the most from human slavery, not over the slaves. But the physical fighting in harm's way was done by draftees, leading to the historical phrase "A rich man's war but a poor man's fight." Yes, flags flew over our embarrassing history, but were they Confederate flags?

There was a time when disgruntled readers could simply deny my research. But today, modern devices smaller than 1950/60's transistor radios will immediately confirm what I write with documentation, so please, check it out for yourselves.

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Completion?