

**BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**DOGS OF WAR 1861: A MARTIAL MOMENT**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2012**

Emory, you serve us a fresh look, salted generously with laughs and good humor, at that most somber of thoughts - a Martial Moment. There is sometimes no less an option than war. You quote Luke chapter 14: 31-32 which waxes well on the realities of war. To Wit: "If one side has 10,000 warriors and the other has 20,000, you have bad odds and had best search quickly for terms of peace."

This Civil War was a morality moment where slavery challenged industrialization and strong states rights met determined Nationalism. There were entangling issues. Yes, single shot rifles trumped muskets by a range of 100 yards versus 500 yards of deadly accuracy. Now a soldier knows who he shot. An "Ostrich" mindset substitutes invincibility for logic and gives us, to quote Emory, "an astonishing amount of downright stupidity." He shares with us the identity of a "North Carolinian" as written by an author named Daniels. North Carolina is the "ignorant-most State." You have 73,000 illiterates and more on the way because you reject "schooling." It is senseless to give you a newspaper - you couldn't read it. You have a propensity to eat dirt and become Africanized. On the other hand you would send Negroes South to become food for Florida alligators. Emory suggests our morality moments lead to martial moments --war. He calls war just politics by another means. Is this pseudo psychological idiosyncrasy?

Emory gives us a challenge. Re-examine Fort Sumter using cost analysis. It is folly that one Confederate can "lick" 20 blue-coats --regardless of what variables you choose to apply. Wars don't last 30 days to 9 months. The Confederate flag did not and could not fly over the White House dome in 30 days --the dome was not yet finished. He asks us to "lend our ears" to the Mark Anthony monologue from Julius Caesar by Shakespeare. Consider a price on Brutus' death and Caesar's assassination as a series of bad consequences and tactical errors. Please read Marcus Antonius with that thought uppermost but insert the whirligig of time and apply it to a "bloodless" Civil War.

And Caesar's spirit, raging with revenge,  
With Ate (goddess/ruin) by his side come hot from hell,  
Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice,  
Cry "Havoc" (destruction) and let slip the DOGS OF WAR,  
That this foul deed shall smell above the earth,  
With carrion men, groaning for burial.

Julius Caesar by Shakespeare Act 3 scene 1

“Dogs” (wars) go where they want and can cause havoc of unintended consequences. Emory asks: “What was the cost at Fort Sumter?” Was it worth 700,000 plus lives groaning for burial? Was there no better therapy for a very dysfunctional Nation? Was there some “Brutus” in both North and South. We listen and wonder as Caesar says to his assassin “YOU TOO BRUTUS????????????????????”

P.S. You just had to be there to hear Emory’s sure fire recipe for “Polk” Salad.

Submitted by: Dan Fink