

# **ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM**

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## **Blueprint for Modern America**

By **Michael S. Green**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

### **Resources**

**If you can read only one book**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Richardson, Heather Cox	<i>The Greatest Nation of the Earth: Republican Economic Policies during the Civil War</i> . Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press 1997.

### **Books and Articles**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.   “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Boritt, Gabor S.	<i>Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream</i> . Memphis, TN: Memphis State University Press, 1986.
Curry, Leonard P.	<i>Blueprint for Modern America: Non-Military Legislation of the First Civil War Congress</i> . Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press, 1968.
Green, Michael S.	<i>Freedom, Union, and Power: The Mind of the Republican Party During the Civil War</i> . New York: Fordham University Press, 2004.
Paludan, Philip S.	<i>The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln</i> . Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1994.

## Organizations

## Web Resources

URL	Name and description
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWtDFNLBsCI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWtDFNLBsCI</a>	A one-hour lecture on The Civil War and Blueprint for Modern America by Professor Matthew Mason of Brigham Young University.

	Act	Main Provisions	Full Text of the Act (all accessed May 18, 2017)
1	Revenue Act of 1861	Introduced the first Federal income tax.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg292.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg292.pdf</a>
2	Homestead Act (1862)	Granted 160 acres of western land to anyone who farmed it for 5 years and established the Department of Agriculture.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg392.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg392.pdf</a>
3	Revenue Act of 1862	Established the Department of Internal Revenue.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg432c.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg432c.pdf</a>
4	Pacific Railroad Act (1862)	Promoted the construction of the transcontinental railroad.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg489.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg489.pdf</a>
5	Morrill Land Grant Colleges Act (1862)	Provided funding for new colleges in each state (or improvements to existing colleges) from the sale of federal lands.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg503a.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg503a.pdf</a>
6	National Banking Act (1863)	Established a system of national chartered banks and a national currency.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg665.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg665.pdf</a>

## Other Sources

## Scholars

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### Topic Précis

A key component of the Republican Party’s ideology was a desire to expand the power and scope of the federal government, and to galvanize it on behalf of national economic growth. During the Civil War the Republicans did not simply address military matters but also approved federal projects and laws that implemented their ideology. The result was what one author called a *Blueprint for Modern America* that remade the federal government, the nation’s role in the world, the economy, and the relationship between all of these. The Republicans who passed these acts saw the possibility of benefits from a more activist federal government that would encourage and enhance industrial, financial, and agricultural development.

The *Blueprint for Modern America* consists of six Acts of Congress passed by the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress, as follows:

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2	Homestead Act (1862)	Granted 160 acres of western land to anyone who farmed it for 5 years and established the Department of Agriculture.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg392.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg392.pdf</a>
3	Revenue Act of 1862	Established the Department of Internal Revenue.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg432c.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg432c.pdf</a>
4	Pacific Railroad Act (1862)	Promoted the construction of the transcontinental railroad.	<a href="http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg489.pdf">http://legisworks.org/sal/12/stats/STATUTE-12-Pg489.pdf</a>
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