



PALGRAVE MACMILLAN TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY SERIES

THE TRANSNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Edited by Jörg Nagler, Don H. Doyle,
and Marcus Gräser



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The Transnational Significance of the American Civil War

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Palgrave Macmillan Transnational History Series

ISBN 978-3-319-40267-3 ISBN 978-3-319-40268-0 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-40268-0

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016953845

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Cover illustration: © Hermann Berghaus

Printed on acid-free paper

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by Springer Nature
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG Switzerland

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book originated in two conferences on “The Transnational Significance of the American Civil War” which were held at Friedrich Schiller Universität, Jena, Germany (September 15–18, 2011) and at the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC (September 20–22, 2012). The German Historical Institute contributed the major funding for both conferences. The Washington conference was also funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. The conference in Jena received additional funding from the University’s Faculty of the Humanities as well as from the Ernst Abbe-Foundation, Jena, the American Embassy at Berlin, and the Hamburg Institute for Social Research (HIS). We are most grateful for their generous support of this project.

We thank all those colleagues who participated in the two conferences as chairpersons, contributors, and discussants and whose contributions could not be published here. We are equally grateful for the diligence and cooperation of the authors whose essays are included here. We also thank the staff at both institutions, in Jena and Washington, DC, whose work helped us enormously in realizing the conferences. We would also like to thank Kristin Purdy, our editor at Palgrave Macmillan, who has been an ardent supporter of this project.

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Introduction: The Electric Chain of Transnational History

Jörg Nagler, Don H. Doyle, and Marcus Gräser

The American Civil War was not only the culmination point of a hitherto “unfinished nation” and the central crisis in American history but it also had significant international ramifications for the political, social, economic, and military conditions in many parts of the world. What usually is described as an ‘age of nationalism’ witnessed the rise of the modern constitutional state and globalized interdependent capitalist economies. America’s Civil War was central to the transformation of the modern world in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

For a very long time, the Civil War has been the central chapter in America’s national history. For generations, the American public as well as historians and readers elsewhere in the world have seemed content with a parochial vision of the Civil War within a strictly national framework. The recent turn toward transnational historical studies is now beginning to have

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