

Sample Answers HW#2: Where possible use quotes or references to readings. These are mainly quotes some of you used. Your text answers were fine, what was missing were mainly quotes and direct references to readings. The magic of cut and paste is that it is faster to quote than to write... A&R stand for Acemoglu and Robinson, 2012 or 2013. That is, *Why Nations Fail*, from the syllabus. If the reading is not listed on the syllabus, please add full APA reference at the end of your answers (that is author date).

HW #2: Due January 29th 3 points, use [this word template](#), single space, add your answer after each question or in a different font. Turn in this word file on turnitin.com, class ID 9315874, Password: Kiara.

HW 2.1: The movie *Selma* reminds of the key Civil Rights and voting rights laws fomented by mass demonstrations and violence exactly 30 years ago. Use this word template to turn your answers in on turnitin.com a) Acemoglu and Robinson, 2012 argue the civil rights movement finally caused the South (Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, etc.) to move to a more inclusive development model? *“In Mississippi, for example, only about 5 percent of eligible black people were voting in 1960. By 1970 this figure had increased to 50 percent. In Alabama and South Carolina, it went from around 10 percent in 1960 to 50 percent in 1970. These patterns changed the nature of elections, both for local and national offices. More important, the political support from the dominant Democratic Party for the extractive institutions discriminating against blacks eroded. The way was then open for a range of changes in economic institutions. Prior to the institutional reforms of the 1960s, blacks had been almost entirely excluded from jobs in textile mills. In 1960 only about 5 percent of employees in southern textile mills were black. Civil rights legislation stopped this discrimination. By 1970 this proportion had increased to 15 percent; by 1990 it was at 25 percent. Economic discrimination against blacks began to decline, the educational opportunities for blacks improved significantly, and the southern labor market became more competitive. Together with inclusive institutions came more rapid economic improvements in the South. In 1940 southern states had only about 50 percent of the level of per capita income of the United States. This started to change in the late 1940s and ’50s. By 1990 the gap had basically vanished.”* (A&R 2012, p 412). *“Together with inclusive institutions came more rapid economic improvements in the South. In 1940 southern states had only about 50 percent of /the level of per capita income of the United States. This started to change in the late 1940s and ’50s. By 1990 the gap had basically vanished”.* A&R 2012 page 413. **How did this affect poverty and wages in the South during the next 30 years?** (See [slide 37](#) and [Chapter 12 excerpt](#)) *“The reason that the economic and political trajectory of the South never changed, even though slavery was abolished and black men were given the right to vote, was because blacks’ political power and economic independence were tenuous. The southern planters lost the war, but would win the peace. They were still organized and they still owned the land. During the war, freed slaves had been offered the promise of forty acres and a mule when slavery was abolished, and some even got it during the famous campaigns of General William T. Sherman. But in 1865, President Andrew Johnson revoked Sherman’s orders, and the hoped-for land redistribution never took place. In a debate on this issue in Congress, Congressman George Washington Julian presciently noted, “Of what avail would be an act of congress totally abolishing slavery ... if the old agricultural basis of aristocratic power shall remain?” This was the beginning of the “redemption” of the old South and the persistence of the old southern landed elite.”* A&R 2012 Page 396.

b) Why didn’t the South catch up with the North after the Civil War ended? (Hint: from “*Slavery to Jim Crow*” or the *Iron law of Oligarchy*). *“After the end of the war, the elite planters controlling the land were able to re-exert their control over the labor force. Though the economic institution of slavery was abolished, the evidence shows a clear line of persistence in the economic system of the South based on plantation-type agriculture with cheap labor. This economic system was maintained through a variety of channels, including both control of*

local politics and exercise of violence. As a consequence, in the words of the African American scholar W.E.B. Du Bois, the South became “simply an armed camp for intimidating black folk.” (A&R 2012 Page 397).

“The U.S. South shows another, more resilient side of the vicious circle: as in Guatemala, the southern planter elite remained in power and structured economic and political institutions in order to ensure the continuity of its power. But differently from Guatemala, it was faced with significant challenges after its defeat in the Civil War, which abolished slavery and reversed the total, constitutional exclusion of blacks from political participation. But there is more than one way of skinning a cat: as long as the planter elite was in control of its huge landholdings and remained organized, it could structure a new set of institutions, Jim Crow instead of slavery, to achieve the same objective. The vicious circle turned out to be stronger than many, including Abraham Lincoln, had thought. The vicious circle is based on extractive political institutions creating extractive economic institutions, which in turn support the extractive political institutions, because economic wealth and power buy political power. When forty acres and a mule was off the table, the southern planter elite’s economic power remained untarnished. And, unsurprisingly and unfortunately, the implications for the black population of the South, and the South’s economic development, were the same.” A&R 2012 Page 399.

How did the civil rights movement led by Martin and Coretta King and Malcom X finally end the extractive regime started by slavery? *“All in all, the extractive institutions in the southern United States, based on the power of the landed elite, plantation agriculture, and low-wage, low-education labor, persisted well into the twentieth century. These institutions started to crumble only after the Second World War and then truly after the civil rights movement destroyed the political basis of the system. And it was only after the demise of these institutions in the 1950s and ’60s that the South began its process of rapid convergence to the North.” (A&R 2012 p. 399).*

When did [protests in the South peak](#)?

1960 was the peak protest year, see slide 44 of Acemoglu, 2011.

Reference: Daron Acemoglu (2011) MIT lecture notes (online) *Why Nations Fail*: based on Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty by D. Acemoglu and J.A. Robinson, April 27, 2011

Parts c and d are optional

c) Compared to Latin America, the U.S. began with an inclusive regime starting with Jamestown (after a failed extractive model). How did this lead to a more equal distribution of income and wealth (in fact, the U.S. may never had any \$1.25 a day poverty, why?). After the first boatload of settlers starved to death after the first winter, John Smith gave each settler land and told them to produce whatever. This was followed by the U.S. policy of giving 160 acres per person (and a mule) to all immigrants who were also made citizens and given the right to vote (unless they were not women). Or quote Acemoglu, 2011, slides 4&5

The Beginning—United States

- Colonization attempts of Virginia Company in Jamestown in early 17th century, attempting to re-create an authoritarian, “extractive” regime:

“No man or woman shall run away from the colony to the Indians, upon pain of death.

Anyone who robs a garden, public or private, or a vineyard, or who steals ears of corn shall be punished with death.

No member of the colony will sell or give any commodity of this country to a captain, mariner, master or sailor to transport out of the colony, for his own private uses, upon pain of death.”
[from the laws passed by Sir Thomas Gates and Sir Thomas Dale].

- But the Company was unsuccessful—it could not force the English settlers into gang labor and low wages.

The Beginning—United States (continued)

- The Company switched to the 'headright system' giving all settlers 50 acres of land and then shortly thereafter also political rights, in the form of its General Assembly.
- Similar events unfolded in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland and Carolina.
- The chain of events that ultimately led to the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.