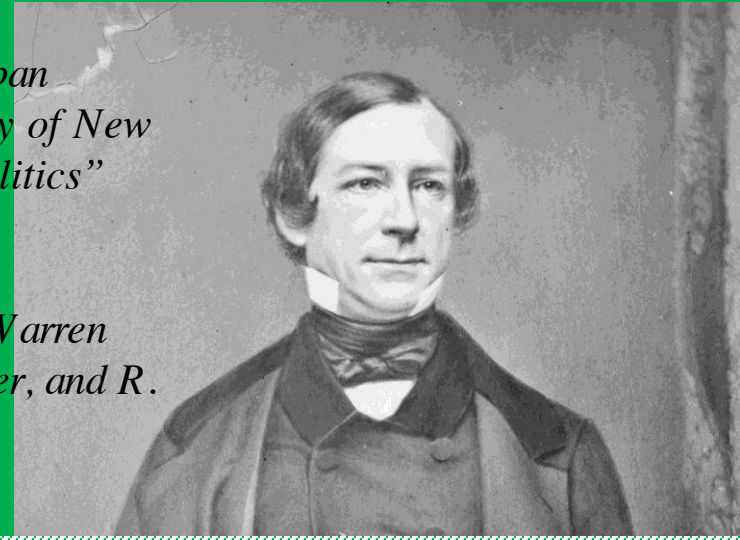




*“Loyalty and Disloyalty in Urban
America: A Comparative Study of New
York City and Philadelphia Politics”
By Justin Greenman*

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Abstract: This thesis examined the similarities and differences between the politics of New York City and Philadelphia during the American Civil War. As the war progressed, both cities diverged, with Philadelphia existing throughout politically stable and relatively politically united, while New York City for much of the war was divided and prone to violence and political extremism. The central question of this thesis, therefore, has been why did Philadelphia and New York City diverge so sharply and if and how did conceptions of loyalty and disloyalty play a role? My thesis is unique in focusing on how the politics of each city were defined by a conflict over defining loyalty to the Union and the war effort, definitions that evolved as the war progressed. In the end, one's loyalty and disloyalty could not be judged by one's religion, partisan identification, or even political allies. It especially could not be judged by one's rhetoric, which was often vague at best and deceitful of one's true intentions at worst. In fact, if there is one conclusion that this paper easily makes, it is that there were no universally agreed upon, or even mostly agreed upon, definitions of what constituted loyalty and disloyalty, only subjective opinions altered by time and animated by the politics of each city.

Implications:

- Bipartisanship works
- Strong mayor works
- Intraparty feuds often more politically significant than interparty feuds
- Factions choose voters, but voters choose factions and policies as well
 - Choices not binary
- Too much political choice is real, as is failing to present an alternative

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