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RESEARCH



Civil War Net Score

Institutional Risk Analysis · 8th April 2026

Civil War Net Score **6/7** · Jamie Index **75 / 100** ·

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I. What Is the Civil War Net Score?

The Civil War Net Score (CWNS) is a quantitative framework for assessing the structural conditions that have historically preceded outbreak of civil war. It is not a prediction. It measures where the United States currently stands across eight structural indicators — military viability, legitimacy collapse, institutional capture, media fragmentation, theological intensity, values absolutism, geographic buffer, and common enemy — and whether the composite score has crossed the historical outbreak threshold.

The framework is calibrated across seven historical periods from 1642 to 2026, anchored by two major civil war outbreaks: the English Civil War (1642–1651) and the American Civil War (1861–1865). Both outbreak cases achieved a final score of 7/7. The current composite raw score of 8.5 already exceeds the post-cap outbreak threshold before any ceiling is applied; the reported score of 6/7 reflects the MV constraint on military viability.

The structural starting point of civil war is two distinct, internally coherent societies occupying the same state territory. As historian David Hackett Fischer documented in *Albion's Seed*, the United States has carried this division since its founding — rooted in four separate British migration waves, each bringing incompatible theologies and settling in separate regions. That separation has never resolved.

In June 2025, speaking on the FT Wolf–Krugman Exchange, Martin Wolf drew the constitutional parallel directly: a president claiming the right to levy tariffs at will is, in the history of the English-speaking peoples, Charles I claiming the right to levy taxes without Parliament. That confrontation ended in civil war. Paul Krugman framed the same moment differently — not the pre-Civil War period, but the undoing of the Glorious Revolution of 1688: a return to arbitrary rule by a single individual. Two distinct observations. The same structural alarm.

Source: The Wolf–Krugman Exchange, Financial Times / FT Podcast, June 2025.

Jamie Index & CWNS Alignment

Jamie Index (JI) = 75 — extreme regime stress, post-democracy fragmentation phase. CWNS = 6/7 — civil war conditions severe. Two independent instruments. Same signal.

II. The Formula and Eight Variables

The Civil War Net Score (CWNS) is calculated from eight structural variables. Each is scored independently on a 0–7 scale. The formula is deliberately transparent and replicable.

$$\text{CWNS} = \text{round}((\text{MV} + \text{LG} + \text{IC} + \text{MF} + \text{TI} + \text{VA} - \text{GB} - \text{CE}) \div 4)$$

Scale: 0–7 · Civil war threshold: 7 · Military Violence (MV) rule: if $\text{MV} < 5$, maximum score is capped at 6 · Geographic Buffer (GB) and Common Enemy (CE) are moderating variables: higher scores indicate more moderating capacity — 0 = no moderation, Minus 7 = full moderation

April 2026

Variable	Type	Score	Basis
MV: Military Violence	Military	3	Officer corps politically sorted by loyalty appointment since Jan 2025; no officer has yet openly defected to an opposing faction. $\text{MV} < 5$ triggers score cap at 6.
LG: Legislative Gridlock	Political	6	Constitutional trust at 16%; electoral legitimacy rejected by significant minorities; federal institutions contested — severe but short of total void
IC: Institutional Capture	Institutional	5	Courts and military command under active pressure: judicial appointments by loyalty, removal of inspectors general, attorney general functioning as presidential counsel rather than independent officer
MF: Media Fragmentation	Communications	7	Algorithmic amplification of factional conflict; no shared information commons; 2026 algorithms operate at the same structural role as the 1641 pamphlet wars — but at incomparably greater speed and scale — maximum
TI: Theological Intensity	Theological	7	Religious and quasi-religious frameworks are actively structuring political identity, coalition formation, and perceived legitimacy of opponents: progressive theology (structural sin, confession, enforced reformation) and unwoke theology (natural order, resistance to imposed false doctrine) are both fully developed. Identical to 1642 and 1861 — maximum
VA: Values Absolutism	Psychological	7	Both sides treat their core values as non-negotiable moral absolutes, not policy preferences subject to democratic bargaining. Opponents are not merely wrong but morally disqualified from holding power. No shared hermeneutic; no legitimate common ground. Identical to 1642 and 1861 — maximum
GB: Geographic Buffer (–)	Geographic	0	Buffer completely absent: the Puritan/Cavalier geographic separation (Fischer: New England vs Tidewater, 1629–1788) that moderated conflict for two centuries has collapsed; both populations now nationwide and fully overlapping — zero moderating capacity
CE: Common Enemy (–)	Geopolitical	1	No unifying external threat sufficient to override internal fracture; Operation Epic Fury has not generated a rally-round-the-flag effect — support for the strikes at 1 in 4 Americans; near-zero cohesion pressure

The unprecedented combination: Geographic Buffer (GB) and Common Enemy (CE) both score 0 and 1 respectively — meaning neither geographic separation nor a unifying external threat provides any moderating effect. The raw uncapped score of 8.5 is held at 6 purely by the MV rule.

In previous crisis periods, a common external enemy suppressed internal fracture — Germany in 1917, the Soviet Union through 1991.

In 2026, Operation Epic Fury has produced the opposite: an unpopular war that amplifies the fiscal confrontation rather than resolving it. Only military loyalty holds the reading below the outbreak threshold — and that is itself under active pressure.

III. Historical Calibration: 1642–2026

The Civil War Net Score (CWNS) is calibrated against two major civil war outbreaks: the English Civil War under Charles I (1642–1651) and the American Civil War (1861–1865). Both followed predictable structural sequences. Both achieved CWNS = 7/7 before outbreak. The historical record validates the framework.

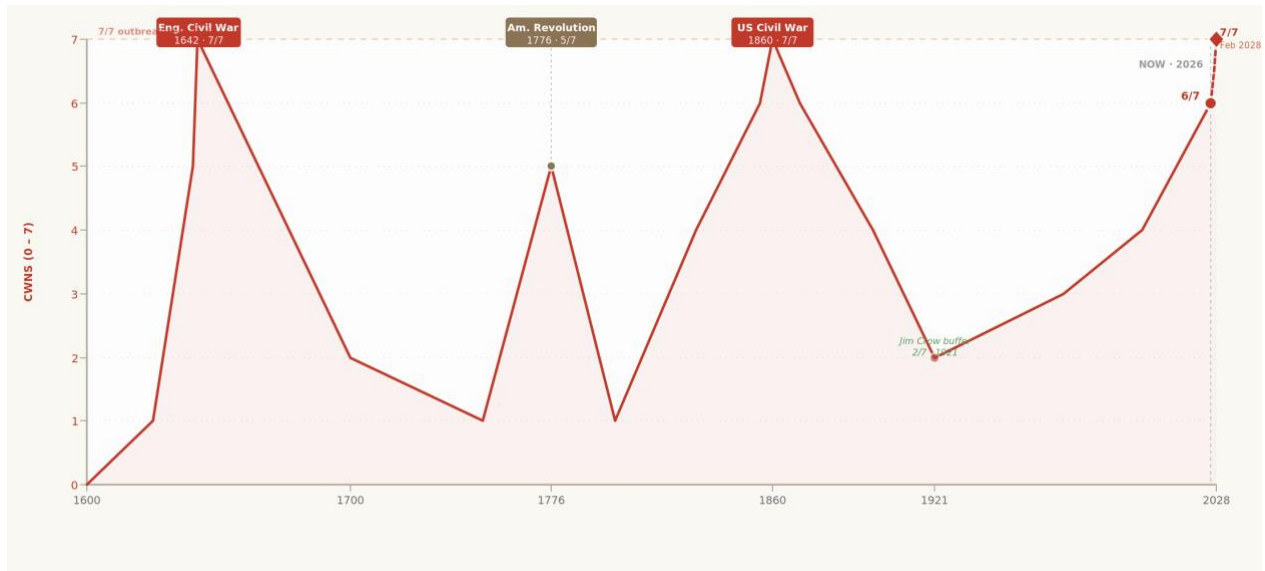


Figure 1: CWNS 428-Year Historical Calibration (1600–2028). Red line shows actual score 1600–2026, dashed projected to 7/7 outbreak threshold. Key events: English Civil War 1642 (7/7), American Civil War 1860 (7/7). Current reading: 6/7.

Period	CWNS	Outcome
England 1603–1640	5/7	Royal stability; religious friction limited
England 1640–1642	7/7	Breakdown: LG, IC, MF all max; GB collapsed; no common enemy (CE=1)
England 1642–1651	7/7	Civil War outbreak; ~200,000 casualties
America 1820–1850	5/7	Manageable sectional tension; geographic buffer holds
America 1850–1860	7/7	Escalation: IC (courts/military capture), LG collapse, GB failing, CE absent
America 1861–1865	7/7	Civil War; ~620,000 casualties
America 1900–2000	2/7	Institutional restoration; shared legitimacy recovered
America 2016–2026	6/7	Rapid deterioration; GB collapsed (Fischer buffer gone); CE absent (no common enemy); MF at maximum

The MV Rule

If Military Violence falls below 5, the maximum score is capped at 6. This acknowledges that without military capability, civil war cannot occur — only insurgency or repression. Currently MV = 3. If a significant portion of the officer corps sided with either faction, MV would cross 5 and CWNS would immediately reach 7/7.

IV. The 2026 Reading — Variable by Variable

Here is how each variable reads in the United States today, compared directly to Charles I's England in 1641 — the moment just before civil war outbreak.

Variable	Charles I, 1641	USA, 2026
MV — Military Violence	Army formally loyal to Crown; no officer corps defection yet. Parliament raising independent militia	Officer corps politically sorted by loyalty appointment; no open defection yet — MV = 3
LG — Legislative Gridlock	Crown authority voided by Parliament; competing claims to sovereign authority; no shared constitutional settlement	Constitutional trust at 16%; electoral legitimacy rejected by significant minorities; federal institutions contested — LG = 6
IC — Institutional Capture	Star Chamber and Privy Council functioning as Crown instruments; judiciary under royal pressure; Parliament excluded from executive decisions	Courts under pressure via loyalty appointments; inspectors general removed; attorney general functioning as presidential counsel — IC = 5
MF — Media Fragmentation	Pamphlet explosion: Thomason Tracts document over 22,000 publications 1640–1661; no shared information commons; each faction controls its own print networks	Algorithmic amplification; no shared information commons; factional media ecosystems with no crossover audience — MF = 7
TI — Theological Intensity	Puritan/Anglican conflict at maximum: Laud's Prayer Book framed as heresy; Parliament's cause framed as godly reformation; clergy directing armed formations	Both sides carry fully developed quasi-religious frameworks: progressive theology (structural sin, confession, enforced reformation) vs. unwoke theology (natural order, resistance to false doctrine) — TI = 7
VA — Values Absolutism	Neither side could compromise without betraying what they held to be divinely true; Puritans: Royalists are apostates; Royalists: Parliament is sedition against God's anointed king	Neither side acknowledges the other's moral legitimacy; opponents are not merely wrong on policy but disqualified from power; no shared hermeneutic — VA = 7
GB — Geographic Buffer (–)	Regional sorting: Puritan strongholds in East Anglia and London; Royalist strength in the North and West — partial geographic separation still existed	Fischer's Puritan/Cavalier geographic buffer (New England vs Tidewater, 1629–1788) has fully collapsed; both populations nationwide and overlapping — GB = 0
CE — Common Enemy (–)	Scots war (Bishops' War) briefly created external pressure but fatally backfired — it triggered the fiscal crisis that opened the constitutional confrontation	Operation Epic Fury unpopular (1 in 4 Americans support strikes); no external threat sufficient to override internal fracture; war amplifies rather than suppresses fiscal conflict — CE = 1

Current Score: CWNS = 6/7

Raw calculation: $(MV(3) + LG(6) + IC(5) + MF(7) + TI(7) + VA(7) - GB(0) - CE(1)) \div 4 = 34 \div 4 = 8.5$.

The uncapped raw score of 8.5 exceeds every historical outbreak threshold. Applied ceiling cap reduces to 7. MV rule ($MV = 3 < 5$) then caps the final score at 6/7.

Only the absence of full military factionalisation holds the reading below the outbreak threshold. If MV crosses 5, the score reaches 7/7 immediately.

V. The Charles I Pattern: The Six-Stage Sequence

On the FT Wolf–Krugman Exchange (June 2025), Martin Wolf identified the pre-Civil War confrontation between Charles I and Parliament as the correct historical analogue for what is happening in the United States today. The chart above maps the fiscal and constitutional trigger sequence — six stages running from the unpopular war and fiscal demand (Stage 1, February 2026) through to institutional breakdown (Stage 6, projected Winter 2027–28). Stage 1 is currently active.

The six structural preconditions that make this sequence irresolvable are set out below. Unlike the fiscal stages, which unfold sequentially over months, these structural conditions have accumulated over years and decades. All six are now simultaneously present in the United States.

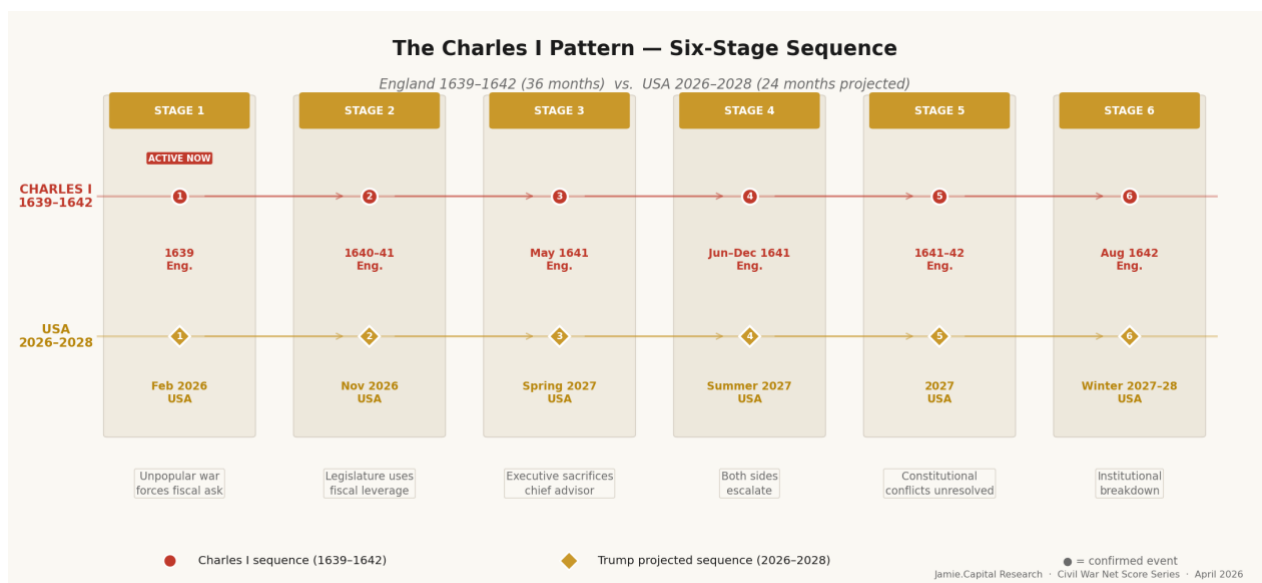


Figure 2: Charles I six-stage sequence — England 1639–1642 (36 months) vs. USA 2026–2028 (24 months projected). Stage 1 currently active. Note the compressed timeline driven by communication speed and institutional velocity.

STAGE 1 Initial Theological Fracture

1603 (England): Puritan/Anglican split widens over doctrine. 2016 (USA): Progressive woke theology rapidly displaces Christianity as binding cosmology. Both societies lose shared text.

STAGE 2 Institutional Capture and Legislative Gridlock

1628–1640 (England): Parliament and Crown compete; each claims sovereignty; no arbiter. 2018–2020 (USA): Institutions captured by progressive faction; conservatives see elections as fraudulent; federal legitimacy collapses to 16% trust. No neutral arbiter emerges.

STAGE 3 Theological Frameworks Become Irreconcilable

1640–1641 (England): Puritans demand total theological hegemony; Cavaliers refuse submission. 2020–2022 (USA): Progressives demand total ideological hegemony (ESG, DEI, pronoun enforcement); conservatives refuse. No negotiated coexistence possible.

STAGE 4 Military Factionalisation Begins

1641–1642 (England): Officers choose sides; militia splits. Attempt to arrest parliamentary leaders. 2024–2026 (USA): The mechanism is top-down, not organic. Since January 2025, at least 13 senior officers have been dismissed — including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Chief of Naval Operations — and replaced with loyalty-tested appointees under Defence Secretary Hegseth. The command structure is being deliberately resorted before any crisis. This is arguably more dangerous than officers spontaneously choosing sides: it means one faction already controls the chain of command.

STAGE 5 Apocalyptic Framing and Dehumanisation

1641–1642 (England): Both sides frame the other as existential evil. Puritan literature depicts Cavaliers as demons; Cavalier propaganda depicts Puritans as fanatics. 2024–2026 (USA): Both sides deploy identical rhetoric — MAGA=fascism, progressives=satanic child abusers. Enemies no longer human; only elimination or submission acceptable.

STAGE 6 Constitutional Mechanism Failure

1642 (England): All constitutional mechanisms fail. Crown and Parliament both claim ultimate authority. No arbiter commands sufficient legitimacy. Fighting begins. 2026 (USA): 2020 and 2024 election legitimacy rejected by tens of millions; Supreme Court commands legitimacy only when ruling in a faction's favour; federal mechanisms cannot settle foundational disputes. No neutral arbiter exists.

Why the Timeline is Compressed

- 1. Communication Speed:** Theological conflict that took 40 years in the 1600s now unfolds in 4 years via algorithmic amplification.
- 2. Elite Factionalisation:** Charles I's elite took 30 years to irrevocably split. American elites split completely in 2020. Same endpoint; one-tenth the time.
- 3. Institutional Velocity:** Institutional collapse that took months in 1642 now occurs in weeks. Trust metrics move faster. Military chain questions resolve faster.

The Budget Confrontation: Fiscal Trigger for Breakdown

On the FT Wolf–Krugman Exchange (June 2025), Martin Wolf identified the specific mechanism: "We have somebody who says, I can levy tariffs at will. Tariffs are taxes. This actually takes you back in the political history of the English-speaking peoples to the early 17th century." Charles I claimed he could levy taxes without Parliament. Parliament refused. They fought a civil war over it. Wolf's point is that the tariff confrontation of 2025–2026 is not a trade dispute. It is a constitutional crisis of identical structure.

Operation Epic Fury launched February 28, 2026. War costs immediately spiked to \$900 million per day. Only 1 in 4 Americans support the strikes. Unpopular wars require congressional appropriations. Congress controls the purse. The sequence is now active. November 2026 is the critical milestone: if Democrats flip the House — polling credibly for a four-to-five seat gain — they control appropriations and fiscal leverage becomes operational. The projected timeline then runs: Spring 2027, Congress demands removal of the chief policy architect as the price of \$50B+ in supplemental war funding (Stage 2). May–June 2027, the executive sacrifices the advisor — the Strafford moment. If history repeats, the figure most

likely to play that role is Stephen Miller: Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, architect of the administration's core domestic agenda, already named by opposition as a removal condition. Summer–Fall 2027, both sides escalate rather than reconcile. Winter 2027–2028, institutional breakdown becomes operational.

The Strafford precedent is unambiguous: removing the minister does not prevent breakdown. It accelerates it. Parliament learned that leverage worked and demanded more. Charles I learned he was vulnerable and became more conspiratorial. The sacrifice was not the end of the crisis. It was the opening of the final phase.

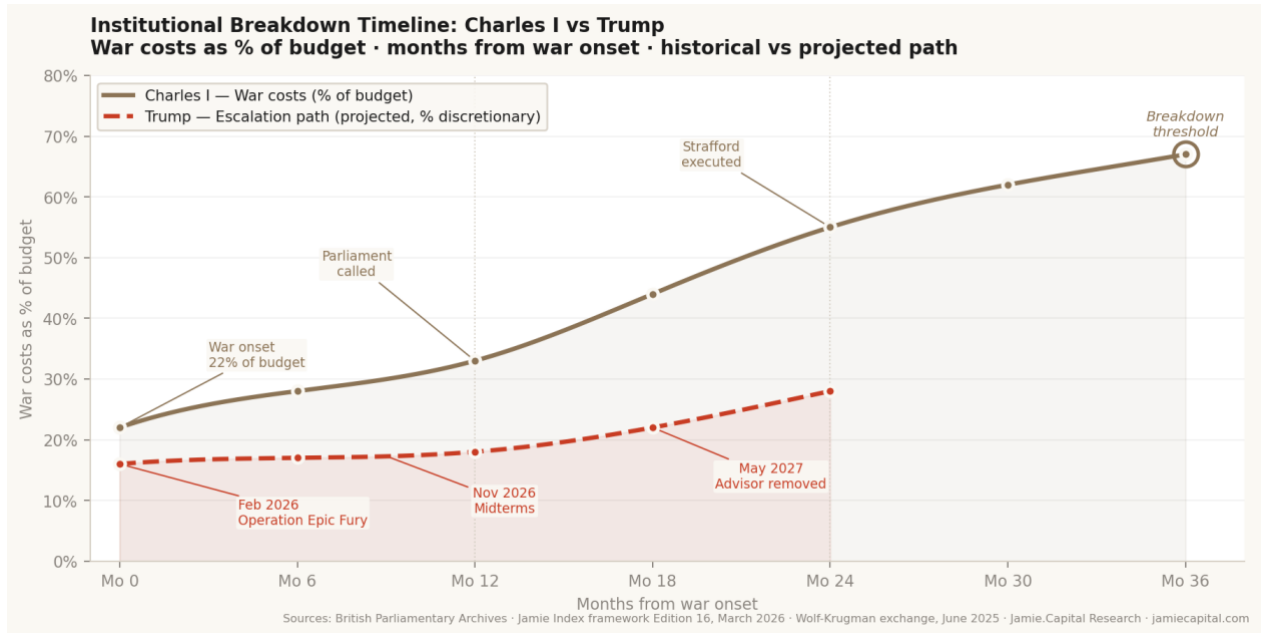


Figure 3: Institutional Breakdown Timeline — Charles I (historical) vs. Trump (projected). War costs as % of budget, months from war onset. Stage 1 active Feb–Nov 2026 (Operation Epic Fury, \$900M/day). Stage 2 (fiscal leverage/advisor removal demand) projected Spring 2027. Stage 3 (Strafford sacrifice) projected May–June 2027. Source: British Parliamentary Archives; Jamie Index Edition 17, April 2026.

VI. The Theological Foundation

Robert Franklin — Quondam Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford (Prize Fellow 1974–88); History master, Eton College 1973–97 — read an early draft and noted that the English Civil War was overlaid with religious conflict as well as financial, adding that "**tensions over wokery might be seen as analogous.**" That observation prompted a closer look at the theological dimension — and the closer the look, the more structural it became.

Civil war is always theological. The American Civil War was not about slavery alone — it was about two incompatible theodicies, two visions of God's will, two quasi-religious frameworks that could not share a state. The same is true in 2026. The conflict is primarily theological in structure, not political.

The Mechanism: Every political system has a binding theology — a story about what is true, what is good, what is legitimate, what deserves punishment. In stable periods, this theology is shared, or at least negotiated within one framework. When two incompatible theologies arise, politics cannot arbitrate them. Only one can rule.

Theological Category	Puritan 1640s	Progressive / Woke 2026
Original Sin	The Fall — human nature corrupt without divine grace	Structural racism / white privilege — society corrupt without anti-racist reformation
The Elect	Visible saints — signs of grace through behaviour	The "ally" — demonstrating correct consciousness and active solidarity
Sin	Moral failing, worldliness, failure to live by the covenant	Racism, microaggression, silence in the face of oppression, complicity
Confession	Public acknowledgment of sin before the congregation	Land acknowledgment, privilege acknowledgment, public allyship statements
Heresy	Deviation from true Protestant doctrine; crypto-Catholicism	Denial of structural racism; "colour-blindness"; anti-woke positions
Excommunication	Removal from congregation for moral failure	Cancellation, deplatforming, institutional removal for speech violations
Reformation	The ongoing work of purifying church and society	DEI initiatives; institutional reform; decolonisation

Frame	Cavalier (1640s → Unwoke 2026)	Puritan (1640s → Woke 2026)
Established order is	Divinely sanctioned; natural hierarchy	Corrupted; perpetuates structural sin
Reform movements are	Disruptive heresy disguised as virtue	Justice work; the ongoing reformation
True virtue is	Honour, loyalty, tradition, order	Allyship, anti-racism, active solidarity
The corrupt are	Reformers, agitators, the self-righteous	The complicit, the silent, the privileged
Heresy is	Imposing false moral frameworks on free people	Denying structural racism; colour-blindness
The enemy institution is	Universities, media, DEI bureaucracies	Legacy structures, police, patriarchal norms
Redemption is	Reasserting natural order, merit, tradition	Acknowledgment, transformation, reparation

Five Historical Expressions of the Divide

English Civil War (1642–1651) Theological Intensity (TI): 7 · Values Absolutism (VA): 7

Puritan Roundheads vs. Royalist Cavaliers. Theology: predestination vs. organic hierarchy. Outcome: ~200,000 deaths, regicide, republic, Restoration.

American Revolution (1775–1783) TI: 3 · VA: 4

Theological intensity present but partially suppressed by the common British-enemy frame. Patriot covenant theology (self-governance as a God-given right) vs. Loyalist providential order (the Crown as divinely appointed). The shared external enemy temporarily suppressed the internal Puritan/Cavalier conflict — which reasserted itself within a generation.

American Civil War (1861–1865) TI: 7 · VA: 7

Puritan/Yankee industrialism (North) vs. Cavalier/Southern agrarianism (Confederacy). Theology: predestination/mission vs. hierarchy/tradition. ~620,000 deaths, Reconstruction, federal victory but unresolved theological divide.

Jim Crow / Civil Rights Era (1877–1965) TI: 3 · VA: 3

Theological intensity present but structurally suppressed across most of the period. The Civil Rights movement used explicitly religious framing — King's Letter from Birmingham Jail is a theological document. White resistance also invoked religious language (segregation as God's natural order). But institutional separation kept direct theological confrontation muted. Scores reflect the period average; by the early 1960s, as that separation collapsed, TI and VA rose sharply.

Woke/Unwoke Divide (2016–2026) TI: 7 · VA: 7

Theological intensity at maximum: both sides have fully developed quasi-religious frameworks. Values absolutism at maximum: neither side acknowledges the other's framework as legitimate — not merely wrong on policy, but morally disqualified from holding power. TI and VA scores identical to 1642 and 1861. On the theological dimension alone, 2026 is at the same level as the outbreak points of both the English Civil War and the American Civil War.

Expression	Theological Intensity (TI) Score	Values Absolutism (VA) Score
English Civil War (1642)	7	7
American Revolution (1776)	3	4
American Civil War (1861)	7	7
Jim Crow / Civil Rights (1877–1965)	3	3
Woke/Unwoke (2016–2026)	7	7

VII. The Atlantic Migration: 400 Years of Theological Sorting

Fischer's analysis shows that the American theological divide is not recent. It is rooted in four distinct British migration waves (1629–1775), each bringing a different theology, each settling in a different region. These regions are still identifiable. The theological map of 1750 is still the political map of 2026.

The Puritan Great Migration (1629–1640)

20,000 Puritans migrated from East Anglia (Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk) to Massachusetts and Connecticut. They brought a theology of predestination, moral reformation, and covenant community. In Massachusetts, they built a "city on a hill" — a deliberate theocracy. This Puritan culture is the root of American progressivism, abolitionism, temperance, civil rights activism, and today's woke theology.

The Cavalier Tidewater Migration (1640s–1675)

Virginia's cultural character consolidated as Royalist England collapsed. Fischer traces the Virginia planter class to the southwestern counties (Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Wiltshire) and younger sons of Royalist families whose English prospects were destroyed after Parliament's victory and the execution of Charles I in 1649. This Southern culture is the root of honour culture, Southern identity, and today's conservative/unwoke position.

British Origin	Wave	Settlement	Civil War 1861	Present 2026
East Anglia / London (Puritan)	1629–1640	New England: MA, CT, VT, RI, NH	Union core	Blue state core (CA, NY, New England)
SW England / Royalist gentry	1640s–1675	Tidewater Virginia, Carolinas, Georgia	Confederate core	Red state core (Deep South, TX)
North Midlands / Quaker	1675–1725	Delaware Valley: PA, NJ, DE	Union (contested)	Purple/swing (PA, OH, AZ)
Scottish Borders / Ulster Scots	1717–1775	Appalachian backcountry	Deeply divided	Rural red / libertarian

Geographic Buffer Collapse

Until 1900, these populations remained geographically separated.

Starting 1900, internal migration and telecommunications eliminated geography as buffer.

By 2020, both populations are nationwide and overlapping — Puritan progressives live in Texas suburbs; Cavalier conservatives live in Massachusetts towns.

No exit is possible without territorial conquest.

VIII. What Resolution Requires

The Civil War Net Score (CWNS) score of 6/7 means the composite reading stands one step below the level that has historically preceded outbreak. The single remaining moderator is military factionalisation: a critical mass of officers has not yet openly chosen a faction. History suggests civil war is not inevitable — but if it occurs, the structural preconditions are already fully in place. Preventing it requires resolving three structural problems simultaneously.

Condition 1: Shared Legitimacy Must Be Restored

Federal institutions must recover legitimacy with both populations. This requires either: (a) a genuine compromise government that both sides accept, (b) a trusted third party that both sides will obey, or (c) a catastrophic external event that unites both sides. None of these currently exist.

Condition 2: Partial Loss Must Be Accepted

Both populations must accept that they cannot impose their theology on the other. Some mechanism of coexistence must emerge: federalism (different rules by state), exit (one group leaves), or integration (a shared framework emerges). In 2026, neither side accepts loss.

Condition 3: A Trusted Referee Must Appear

In 2026 America, the Supreme Court commands approximately 40% legitimacy in each faction, and only when ruling in its favour. Creating a trusted referee — whether through constitutional amendment, military intervention, or external arbitration — is the central bottleneck.

The Strafford Lesson

In 1641, the Earl of Strafford was executed by parliamentary order to appease Puritan fears. Charles I signed the death warrant of his own adviser. This appeasement did not prevent civil war — it accelerated it. The lesson: appeasement of irreconcilable positions does not prevent conflict. It demonstrates weakness and ensures escalation.

The Civil War Net Score (CWNS) of 6/7 is not a prediction. It is a measurement of current structural conditions. The United States is in a state of high structural fragility. The baseline trajectory is continued institutional erosion, further factionalisation of military leadership, and escalating fiscal confrontation. At 6/7, the framework has never previously recorded this reading without subsequent deterioration to 7/7.

DISCLAIMER: This document is institutional risk analysis, not investment advice. The CWNS is a descriptive framework, not a predictive model. Human agency, leadership, and contingent events always matter. For authorised recipients only.