

Government 1521 Third Paper Question

1. Read the assigned portions of Chandler's *The Visible Hand* and Richard White's "Information, Markets and Corruption: Transcontinental Railroads in the Gilded Age," *Journal of American History* 90 (1) (2003) [E]. Using Chandler and White as the evidence base for the modern corporate "case," conduct a "theory meets evidence" exercise like you did in the first two papers. Using two of the five theoretical frameworks reviewed in our course thus far – Weberian/contingency, behavioral, contractual, cultural/reputational and organizations as political coalitions – address the two following questions:

(a) how do these two theories illuminate features of the modern corporate form or the transcontinental railroad of the nineteenth century? What successful "predictions" or interpretations do these theories offer?

(b) how does the modern corporate form case show the limits of these theories? In other words, what would these theories predict that does not occur in the development of the modern firm, and what occurs in these cases that is not predicted or well explained by the theory?

Your paper should be four to six pages, double spaced, and is due on **Monday, December 18**, at **4PM**. Please submit an electronic copy to dcarpenter@gov.harvard.edu and a paper copy (which can arrive later in the week – for example, Tuesday's lecture – if you have sent your electronic version on time). Papers arriving electronically at 4:31:00 or afterwards will be graded late and will be docked one third of a grade for every day late.