

DBQ - The North, The South, and the Civil War

Though tension between the two sides has significantly decreased, Southern and Northern states have always been visibly divided. On a map regarding opinions on the Force Bill in 1833, the difference between North and South is visible. Even in recent years Southern and Northern states vote and think very differently. Their very differing values regarding expansion, freedom, and slavery eventually led to the Civil War. Everyone on both sides fought for freedom. However, the concept of human rights was not well developed or understood then. While the Union wanted to end slavery and unify, they seemed to have the goal of freedom for all but not equality for all. On the other hand, there was the Confederacy, thinking only white people deserved to be free. But even amongst White men, not everyone was equal.

The Northern and Southern states had very differing moral views. The Southern states focused on religion and the well-being of the economy and slave owners. The Northerners focused on freedom and the well-being of the country. In the early 1800s, the Anti-Slavery Society formed. Their goal was to show people the truth behind slavery and that slavery was un-American. Oppression and harm were what they had been trying to leave behind by escaping Europe. The South, on the other hand, did not want to see their slaves as human. They wanted freedom for whom they saw as human (White Christian men).

The Confederacy felt they needed slaves. They did not want to free those whose unpaid labor got them their wealth. They valued their economy. Their economy profited from slavery. Therefore they could not imagine getting rid of a valuable income, especially not without compensation. The Southern states had increased value as long

as slaves were there, sold, bought, and worked. Without slaves, the Confederacy feared that value would go down.

“It is, in truth, the slave labor in Virginia which gives value to the soil and to her economy,” stated Thomas R. Dew in defense of this idea. The Union also cared about the economy, but they did not rely on slavery as much as Southern states did. Therefore they did not have much reason to defend it. In 1828 a law was passed (to the dismay of Southern states) placing a tax on manufactured goods. The South got their manufactured goods from Northern states, and some felt that they should not have to pay the tax. Eventually, South Carolina did refuse to pay the tax. In response, the president passed the Force Bill allowing military force to ensure taxes got paid if need be. If the tax had been for something that targeted Northern states, it would be the South supporting the bill and the North against it. But as the bill would help Northern states gain profit and didn't have a positive effect on the South, the South didn't support the bill, and the North did.

The North wanted to expand into the territory of Mexico and unify the states, while the South felt that said territory was a place of people who should not have been part of the Country. When the North wanted to annex Texas, the South was against it. They feared the annexation of Texas would lead to another free state, giving the North more power. The South didn't like the idea of more free states than slave states for this reason. With the taxes and protesting of slavery in addition to this, White men of Southern states felt that it would be better for them to secede and elect their own president. South Carolina eventually left, along with other Southern states shortly after. They decided they would become a separate Union. Because the South was leaving while the North wanted unification, increased tension politically and economically, the conflict built up and led to war.

The South wanted to fight for their idealistic freedom, and the North wanted to give every man freedom. The Confederacy wanted to separate from the Union as their economy relied on slavery. The Union wanted to unify them, as their economic value would increase so long as the South purchased their merchandise. The Southerners believed that it was their right to have slaves and create a happy life free of much work for the rich and white. The North thought it was every man's right to live their life and make their own choices. The North and South were so divided that war seemed the only solution. This war lasted Four years, ending in 1865 when the Confederates surrendered. It didn't truly end there though. Even today states teach a different history. Even today the U.S is divided.