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APUSH – A2

I – Essay 15

For anti-slavery supporters, the question of slavery was befuddling easy to answer. It was clear that slavery was a wrong that would be abolished at some time. Therefore, blacks had a cause in the civil war, if it would emancipate slaves. However, even though Greeley and Christians too pointed out the wrongs of slavery, Lincoln’s top priority was to preserve the Union.

The effect of emancipating slaves to analyzers resembled an experiment and how it would affect the broader economy. A belief existed that blacks were not capable of being self-sufficient, and they were better suited in the confinements of slavery. Frederick Douglas’ words on this view were, “they are not wolves or tigers, but men.” Douglas argued that a Black man can manage just fine by himself, and it’s quite illogical to think otherwise.

The pro-slavery argument made was filled with rhetorical strategies. These were aimed at how slavery was absurd, and how condoning slavery just didn’t make sense. At the eve of the rebellion (or the civil war between the Union and the Confederacy), anti-slavery defenders thought that now was as good a time as any to put an end to the institution of slavery. The outcome that blacks worked towards was a complete abolition of slavery as a result of the “rebellion.” As said, “I do not agree with those men who see no hope in this war. There is nothing in it but hope. Our cause is onward.”

God and religion was also brought to the surface of the anti-slavery movement. Christian Leaders said, “God would reveal the path of duty to the President.” They added to the anti-slavery position through urging that abolition of slavery was the right thing to do at the present time. They said that abolishing slavery would gain foreign recognition, and from the “civilized world.” The tactic used in urging for emancipation was also focused on how it would be patriotic. This added to the pressure on Lincoln to abolish slavery.

Lincoln himself, under microscope, made himself clear in his response to Greeley his position. He explained through a very articulate letter that whatever he’d do, he would do it to save the Union. Whether that is not allowing one slave free, or abolishing slavery completely in order to save the Union. He also told of how he did not control events, but how they control him. Lincoln gave his own standpoint, stating that he took the oath to preserve the Union, so that is what he would do.

Anti-slavery supporters though claimed that, “the rebellion if crushed out tomorrow would be renewed within a year if slavery were left in full vigor.” Slavery’s 4 million victims would have to be emancipated. Therein, after fighting for the Union’s existence, the United States then was obliged to take slavery by the throat and choke her to death.