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Nat Turner’s Rebellion

The unwanted deaths of not only the innocent victims, but the perpetrators as well, spark fury and sorrow in the South. The South and North have had tension ever since the debates of how the country should be run started. This particular event spurred many feelings from the South towards the North such as; the belief that the neighboring Northern areas were complicit in the incitement of the Nat Turner Rebellion, distrust in the North and it’s interactions with the federal government, and the belief that the Northerners flagrantly violate the constitution.

The South believes that the Northern had either some part to do in the event of the Nat Turner Rebellion, or that they were the true culprit. The methods used are supposed to be through either post or from agents throughout the population sent by fanatics. As stated, “There is much reason to believe that the spirit of insurrection was not confined to Southampton; many convictions have taken place elsewhere and some few in distant counties” showing their blame to be on the outside (JOHN, pg350 par 7). The blame comes easy due to the conflicting opinions between the citizenry and the already present preachers.

After the event, there was a decrease in the general trust of the North and what they believe they are getting the federal government to do. The laws passed in recent years to this event already gave the impressions that there was either favor towards the North, or disdain for the South. As stated, “The tariff law, of which all the southern states so justly complain, is calculated to take from our citizens the profit they have earned by their industry…” demonstrating the frustration with the laws being passed in what seemed to them to be the hounds of the North (JOHN pg351 par10).

Finally, the South believed that there were unconstitutional actions through either flagrant disregard, or misinterpretation of the amendments. The acts that were being committed to were viewed as being incorrect and arguable against for its Northern favor and lack of concern for the freedoms of South. As stated, “If the legislative expediency is to triumph over constitutional rights, and the obligation of oaths be disregarded, then all human means for the security of liberty will avail us nothing, and freedom is gone forever” cementing their idea of how the constitution is being interpreted by North (JOHN pg351 par11).

In conclusion, the tension between the Southern and Northern states was only intensified by the Nat Turner Rebellion. Unfortunately, what the South believed about the North wasn’t entirely unfounded due mainly to previous actions taken that impacted them. Either way, the rebellion failed to accomplish what it was set out to do and only brought in additional innocents into the tragedy on both sides.

JOHN. *John Floyd,* “Excerpts from Governor John Floyd’s Message to the General Assembly”. https://encyclopediavirginia.org/primary-documents/excerpts-from-governor-john-floyds- message-to-the-general-assembly-december-6-1831/ December 6, 1831, *Niles’ Weekly Register* 41, no. 1,059 (January 7, 1832): 350–351.