

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

- American Civil War (1861-65) was described as the "**Central Crisis**" of American history.
- Though the war appears to be a war on the question of slavery between the North and the Southern states of America.
- In reality, the issues were different and highly complicated.
- Slavery was merely an excuse.

REASONS FOR THE CIVIL WAR

The main problem was the different systems of life, culture, and development that started between the North and the Southern states after independence.

- North made remarkable progress in terms of industry, infrastructure, and education.
- Of nearly 1200 cotton mills in the USA, more than 996 are concentrated in the North.
- The Northern states enjoyed '**Protectionist Policies**' of the center for their manufactured goods against competition from other countries.
- Under "**Federal financing**" development of infrastructure was given more importance benefitting the North.
- Universities like Boston, and Harvard became major centers of learning.
- Thus in the North a different system of life progressive, democratic, and highly enterprising developed.
- In contrast to the North, the South continued to lag behind.
- Her problem plantation economy with major crops-cotton, and tobacco was not cost-effective, but labor intensive.
- South constantly required new lands and employed Negroes in large numbers as manual laborers.
- The problem was the extent North benefitted from trade and commerce, but the South was not benefitted from farming and agriculture.
- Secondly, the infrastructure developed was only in the North, the South was neglected, particularly in terms of communications and transportation.
- In its import and export trade, the South was made to depend upon the ports of the North which caused a lot of disadvantages for the Southern states.
- Moreover, the South remained predominantly illiterate and its landlords were more aristocratic in their outlook.
- Thus it is quite clear that **civil war is mainly the result of two different systems of development viz. well-developed industrialist and capitalist economy on one hand and agriculturalist or plantation economy on the other hand.**

QUESTION OF SLAVERY

- When it comes to the question of slavery for the plantation economy of the Southern states, slavery was unavoidable and a necessary evil.
- Whereas for the North it was a nation's shame and disgraceful act against the spirit of the constitution.
- In 1808, the slave import trade was banned irritating the Southern American trade.
- In 1831, a movement started in Boston called the **Abolitionist movement by William Loyd Garrison.**

- He founded the journal '**Liberator**' for the cause of ending slavery.
- When in 1833, the Charter Act of England banned slavery in England's colonies, the anti-slavery movement gained momentum in America.
- For the South, it was unwanted interference in their internal affairs.
- The South took a very serious offense when the Northern states took the South as '**sinnners**' practicing slavery against the spirit of Christianity.
- The question of slavery had **political implications** as well.
- As and when new states were formed and applied for joining the Federal Government, the North wanted them to be '**Free States**' without slavery.
- Where the South wanted them to be '**slave states**' as it was going to affect the balance of power between the North and the South at the central level.
- In 1820, in Missouri, a compromise was worked out and Missouri joined as a slave state.
- The same problem arose regarding Texas and California.
- The American intellectual **Madam H.B Stowe** published her novel '**Uncle Tom's Cabin**' on the plight of slaves.
- It led to a serious difference of opinion between the North and the South.
- In 1854, **Kansas and Nebraska Act 1854** was passed giving the right for people of the state to decide whether to join as a slave state or a free state.
- Nebraska joined as a free state.
- Whereas in the case of Kansas both the North and the South contested fiercely.
- The civil war was proceeded by Kansas Civil war when Kansas joined as a free state.
- Balance turned in favor of the North in the center and for the South it was intolerable.
- In 1867, the **Chief Justice of America Roger Tany** in his historic judgment in the famous Dred Scott case declared that the Negroes were not citizens of America, and as such they had no rights. Secondly, they were purchased, and thus they were the property of the master.
- The congress had no right to divest the owners of their property.
- The judgment evoked a very sharp response in the Northern states.
- In 1861, in Presidential elections also issue of slavery became the central theme when the North supported the Republican candidate Southern states decided to secede from the Union.

They declared themselves '**Confederate states of America**' and declared Jefferson Davis as the President and drafted a new constitution for themselves