

Selecting Facts Assignment: Dylan Lowder

To what extent was the civil war inevitable?

Thesis and Concession: The Civil War was inevitable due to manifest destiny and the outbreak of war with Mexico, although other historians would say the Compromise of 1850 and Daniel Webster vastly reduced the inevitability of war

Reason 1 - Manifest destiny

Ex 1: Polk wished to annex California and New Mexico

Ex 2: John O'Sullivan declares it was USA's manifest destiny to control North American continent

Ex 3: Northerners saw this as smokescreen concealing evil intent of slavery

Ex 4: US troops invaded Native American villages and killed everyone in sight

Ex 5: New States rapidly were added to the union starting with Texas on December 29, 1845

Ex 6: Free/Slave state ratio was ruptured with the introduction of new states like Texas in 1848

Reason 2 – War with Mexico

Ex 1: Polk wanted war badly

Ex 2: May 1846 Mexican troops duly ambushed a party of US troops in the disputed area and 'shed blood on American soil'

Ex 3: Southerners and westerners supported the war

Ex 4: Northerners saw it as a southern war of aggression

Ex 5: war costed Americans \$100 million and the death of 13,000 soldiers

Ex 6: Southerners wanted annexation of Mexico while Northerners wanted no annexation

Reason 3 – Compromise of 1850

Ex 1: California to be admitted as free state

Ex 2: Utah and Mexico to be organized with no mention or restriction on slavery

Ex 3: slave-trading to end in Washington, but not slavery itself

Ex 4: a more stringent Fugitive Slave Act to be passed that specifies what can and can't be done

Ex 5: Texas should surrender disputed land with New Mexico and \$10 million debt would be assumed by congress

Ex 6: Compromise of 1850 brought peace for a decade

Reason 4- Daniel Webster

Ex 1: served in the senate for 20 years, was always against slavery

Ex 2: gave infamous speech where he "spoke as an American, not a member of the North or South"

Ex 3: served as secretary of state from 1841 to 1843

Ex 4: Advocated for a strong federal government, although he was rather extreme about states' rights in the beginning of his forty-year public career

Ex 5: helped ease border tensions with Britain through negotiations of the Webster-Ashburton treaty in 1842

Ex 6: to keep Southern states from seceding from the union, he supported the compromise of 1850 which allowed slavery in new territories