

Zelda Blowers

9/23/11

## 6. Analyze the causes of the Civil War.

The combination of differences between the North and the South are ultimately what brought our country to Civil War in 1861. Although the election of Abraham Lincoln and abolitionists played their part in the division of the nation, they are not discussed in this essay. It was the economical differences, the issue of greater state rights vs. federal government control, and the arguments between slave and non slave state proponents that ultimately led to secession.

The economical differences between the Northern and Southern states were greatly vast. While the South was based on agriculture, the North was primarily manufacturing. Plantations covered much of the South as the soil was much more fertile than the North's. Some crops grown and harvested there consisted of cotton, tobacco, and indigo. With the invention of the cotton gin in 1793 by Eli Whitney, the cotton processing method was greatly shorted as a machine separated the cotton from the seeds. This technological advancement made cotton very profitable, turning the South into a one crop economy. In order to farm in the South during this time, cheap slave labor was required. The South also had trade relations with Europe, mostly England and France. They traded raw goods for furniture, and other manufactured commodities. The economy of the South depended greatly on slave labor, of which differed greatly from the North. The North's economy was based on manufacturing and industry in the cities. This created an influx of immigrants to the cities and in turn made the populations of the North much more diverse than the South's. The trade relations between the South and Europe was a problem for the North as they were in competition with them creating the same products. In order to curb this relation, Northern Politicians pushed extremely heavy import taxes and tariffs. This in turn angered many Southerners and created more turmoil in Congress.

The problem of how much control the government should have has been an issue in Congress since the nation began. The first 13 states wrote a loose constitution with very weak federal power. When the Constitution was rewritten at the Constitutional Convention, more government control was added to it. Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry, both supporters of greater state's rights, were not present at this meeting. As problems arose throughout the nation it became apparent that Northern states were in favor of more federal control while Southern states wanted the states to have more power. The heavy import tariffs created by Northern politicians to control the trade relations between the South and Europe was an example of federal control angering the people of the South. The idea of nullification was created by John C. Calhoun, a Southern Senator. This ideology expressed that states could reject acts by the federal government if they were deemed unconstitutional. Northerners believed that "nullification" and greater states rights would ultimately weaken the nation. Additional issues arose in the government over the problem of slave and non slave proponents.

As the United States gained more territory, the matter of whether or not these new states would allow slavery began a controversial topic of discussion. The US gained territory from the Louisiana Purchase and the Mexican American War so a solution needed to be found promptly. The Missouri

Compromise of 1820 was written to help this problem. In this compromise the states below the latitude line of 30 degrees and 36 minutes would allow slavery, in addition to Missouri, while above the line slavery was not permitted. This solution worked until California wanted to become a state, and was cut in half by the dividing line of the Missouri Compromise. A new act was written up to help solve this problem, the Compromise of 1850. This act did a number of things; it admitted California as a free state, forbid slave trading in Washington DC. Stephen Douglas, a Democratic Senator from Illinois, wished for the Transcontinental Railroad to go thorough the land he owned and into Chicago. The proposal he wrote up was the Kansas Nebraska Act of 1854. A controversial aspect of this act was the ideology of popular sovereignty, in which the new states of Kansas and Nebraska would be able to choose whether or not slavery would be allowed in their state. Conflict erupted over this as settlers of the pro slave state of Missouri, also called "Border Ruffians" began to move into Kansas in order to make it a slave state. Violence broke out, calling this "Bleeding Kansas". The issue over the balance of slave and non slave states proponents in Congress, was constantly trying to be solved so that votes in Congress were equal in perspective- this was a difficult solution to find.

Essentially it was the combination of the differences between the Northern and Southern States that brought our nation to Civil War in 1861. The differences between the North's economy and the South's economy, the debate over greater states rights vs. more government control, and the conflict between the slave and non slave state proponents finally brought the US to war. The election of Abraham Lincoln and abolitionists also contributed to the nation's secession, but this is not ready discussed.