Steve Yeh 5/6/12

Ms. Finneran Technology DBQ Intro Paragraph

Technological advances have always benefited humans. The cotton gin had a huge impact on the United States. The cotton gin caused more cotton to be produced and was given the name “King Cotton” in the South. Cotton became the leading export after a few years of the invention of the cotton gin. Unfortunately, it also spiked the population of slaves in the South. The cost of a slave tripled from $600 in 1800 to $1,800 in 1860. The cotton production went from only 73,000 bales of cotton in 1800 to 3,841,000 bales of cotton, a difference of 3,768,000 bales of cotton. The sewing machine, invented in 1846 by Elias Howe, also impacted America. It caused the North to become very industrialized with many factories. In brief, the consumption of cotton to make clothing became huge. This was a cycle where more slaves would be bought to pick the cotton, more cotton produced because of the cotton gin, and then more factory workers to make even more clothing in textile mills using the sewing machine.