

Economic impact of the American Civil War

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By 1860, 26 percent of the Northern population lived in urban areas, led by the remarkable growth of cities such as Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Detroit, with their farm-machinery, food-processing, machine-tool, and railroad equipment factories. The North produced 3,200 firearms to every 100 produced in the South. The Transformation of the American Economy, 1865 —1914.

The Economic Consequences of the American Civil War

That way, goods produced in the North would seem relatively cheap, and Americans would want to buy American goods instead of European items. Slaves were concentrated on the large plantations of about 10,000 big planters, on which 50-100 or more slaves worked.

How Inflation Helped End the Civil War

The war also pushed the US government to take unprecedented steps. The Homestead Act, meant to open the West to small farmers was often frustrated by the actions of Railroad corporations and speculators.

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The remaining three million worked in agriculture, two million of whom worked in cotton. Many of these bills set the course for the United States to emerge by war's end as a nation with enormous economic potential and poised for a massive and rapid westward expansion. In a market society committed to the principle of private property, the enormous influence of the huge investment in slave property was able to effectively block any perceived political actions that would place limits on slave property.

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