

- Qn 1) (a) Critically examine the causes of American Civil War.  
(b) Discuss the role of Abraham Lincoln in preserving the Union.

Ans → the American Civil War was a conflict between the Union (led by Abraham Lincoln) and Confederate States of America (led by Jefferson Davis) from 1861 to 1865.

(a) Causes of American Civil War :

(i) Question of slavery: Slavery was a major issue in American Civil War. It was a recognised institution in the south and had an immense economic value as slaves were needed for plantation. whereas it was illegal in North.

(ii) Economic divide :

The Northern States were industrialised and the southern were agrarian in character.

The Northern States supported development of infrastructure whereas southern states opposed it as it affected the fertility of soil.

(iii) [Issue of tariff]: North wanted to protect their industries from competition of foreign goods; therefore they favoured high tariffs whereas South import various products from foreign markets and opposed high tariffs as it made products costlier.

(iv) [Social Contrast]: Discrimination on the basis of skin colour was one of main reason for Civil war. Blacks were usually exploited and suppressed.

(v) [Stephen Douglas's statement]: He passed an act 'Kansas Nebraska' which states that inclusion of new areas as slave free or slave trade to be decided by its people, it gave rise to protest from the south north.

Apart from these reasons, there are many other causes as well like Uncle Tom's Cabin (novel on slavery), westward expansion, presidential election etc.

(b) Abraham Lincoln's role in preserving the union -

The act Kansas Nebraska gave rise to protest from North and a new political party i.e. The Republican party was formed.

Abraham Lincoln was elected as new President in 1861, he belonged to the Republican Party.

President from Northern part intensified the crisis and Secession got started from South.

iii [Fierce Opposition by Lincoln]: He proclaimed Secession as unconstitutional and declared that union is not subjected to dissolution.

iv) Lincoln's fundamental aim was to preserve the union. And that's why though he had progressive outlook and didn't appreciate slavery but at this time he was concerned about the unity of US only.

(v) Gettysburg Speech: His Gettysburg speech developed true democracy in America & raised morale of the citizens.

(vi) In 1863, he issued proclamation of emancipation of slaves but it was more guided by his fundamental <sup>aim</sup> outlook rather than his progressive outlook.

In this manner, he preserved the Union.