

Q) As the largest and bloodiest conflict on American soil, the Civil War swept up nearly everyone into the fray, Hispanics were no exception, and as a result they were significantly impacted by the conflict and shaped the conflict in important ways. (20). (2021)

Ans) "The War between the States was the first modern war. It was the first in which the railroad lines were vital, and in the first in which telegraph lines, ironclad ships and observation balloons were used as a matter of course" (Bragdon and McCutchen, History of a free people).

Introduction

The civil war was fought during 1861 to 1865 and was fought between north and south states of America. The main reason that led to civil war was the issue of slavery. The south due to agriculture activities supported slavery, whereas north opposed it. Around 620,000 people died in civil war and many injured. The south seceded from the union but led to the defeat of south and preservation of

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Mexican

the union. After the US. (American) War of 1846-48 resulted in many states joining the Union, for example states like Texas, New Mexico, Utah, California and a few others. The population of these states were mainly Hispanics, who at the time of Civil war played a key role from both sides. The main causes of war can be explained by The devil theory, Constitutional Theory, Economic Theory, Nationalism as a factor, ^{and} Social and political factors. However the main role played was by the Hispanics after American-Mexican war.

Causes of War

① Devil Theory

This theory was very popular from 1861 to 1900. According to this theory it was the North which caused the war, otherwise the war could have easily been avoided. The South believed that there were many small clever steps taken by the north to start the war and when it started the entire blame came on the South. The Wilmot proviso introduced by a senator of north 'David

Wilmot' which wanted to abolish slavery by admitting new states after the Mexican war to be free states. Similarly, the not acceptance of the decision of Dred. Scott case further created a rift between the two and also the establishment of anti-slavery societies by the south. All of this was carefully appointed by the devils of the north and led to war.

② Constitutional Theory

The constitutional theory was also very popular and according to this theory the war was caused due to different interpretations of the constitution by the north and the south. The south believed that the Congress has no right to abolish slavery in the states as it is an internal matter of the state in which congress cannot interfere. Whereas, the North believing in a strong central state believed that it is not an internal matter of states as all citizens should be protected according to the constitution.



③ Economic Theory

After World War I this theory became popular and the direction to this theory was provided by Charles and Mary Beard. This theory composed that different labour systems in the north and south eventually lead to war. The economy of south was mostly dependent on slave labour, the economy of north was based on non-slave holding farmer and wage-earner. Furthermore, these two systems of labour were brought into clash due to west-ward expansion and the advent of industrialization further widened the gap and resulted in war.

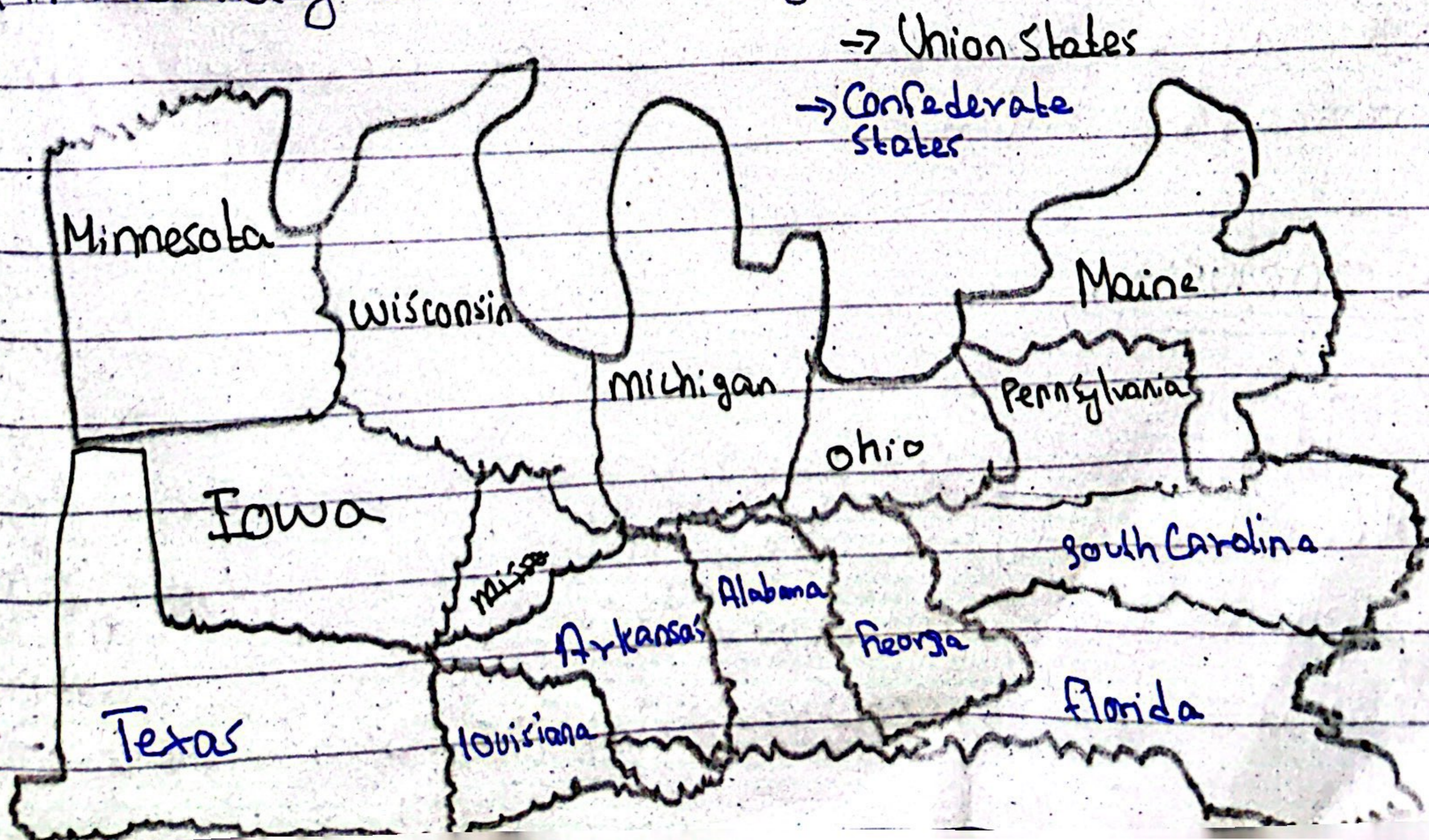
④ Nationalism as a factor

Nationalism also played an important part which caused war. The states of south favoured a strong state government, a government which has more powers than the central and for this reason their nationalism of state was more important as compared to the nationalism towards the union. Whereas the north state wanted to have a stronger union and they

Favoured nationalism towards America. This factor eventually also contributed to the civil war.

⑤ Social and Political Factors

The southerners held that the 'social order based on slavery provided happiness to both workers and upper classes. In south the entire economy was controlled by Big Planters who formed a sort of Aristocracy. On the other hand, the north believed in social democracy and considered the existence of slavery as a big grumbling block in a way of achieving democracy. Hence, it can be said that civil war was merely a struggle between Aristocracy and Democracy.



War impacts on Hispanics

After the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo many hispanics suddenly found themselves Hispanic that too ~~at~~ when civil war was about to break out. During the civil war large number of hispanics served in the south-west due to many Mexican-Americans living there. Similarly, some of them in Texas served under the union too and were forced to fight in the civil war. However they all supported the Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln as most of them owed a lot of debt to their landowners while serving as labours. Around 20,000 Hispanics fought in the Civil war and most of them lost their lives. Their lives were impacted a lot as this war was not foreseen by them.

Conclusion

The civil war was one of the biggest internal conflicts of the late 18th century. Many people fought and lost their lives. The outcome resulted in the preservation of Union and

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abolition of slavery as by 13th amendment. This war slowly took everyone in its fray and it was one of the costliest wars fought. However the outcome proved to be favourable as if this war had not been taken place, we would not have seen America's hegemony in the entire world.