

Q. Identify and discuss five but not more than seven most significant factors leading to the outbreak of the American Civil War 1861-1865.

Do you think the Civil War was inevitable?

1) Introduction

The American Civil War in 1861 changed the future of America. With the country's independence in 1776, the state got divided into two major regimes; the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists. These two were divided with the geographical structure of America while North America supporting Federalists and South America supporting Anti-Federalists. This factor was also a major debate in the history leading to the American Civil War of 1861.

The answer at hand will pertain to the discussion on factors leading to the American Civil War and will analyse its impacts.

2) Background of American Civil War

America during the 1800's was experiencing tremendous growth in economy. A new born state with several internal issues still produced a lot of capital for the country. America's Northern states were mostly industrial based economy. They contributed widely to America's economy while the Southern states were mostly based on agriculture land. Most of the South America had a plain and had high agro-potential. The dispute between the North and South was the actual cause of American Civil war.

3) Factors that lead to the American Civil War 1861-1865.

There were many reasons to American Civil war, with social, political, and economic reasons, the ideology of Americans was also significant.

a) Making of Constitution by Anti-Federalist.

James Madison in 1781 laid the foundation of first US constitution. The Articles of Confederation was established with several flaws as to lacking of taxation, trichotomy of power, foreign policy and had inefficient legislature. This followed a few amendments to the constitution in 1787 and 1788. However, the constitution being formed by an Anti-federalist, lacked the concept of no-slavery. The Southern States (Anti-federalist) were agriculture based economy. They required physical labour to cultivate agriculture. The Southern America was famous for slave trade and therefore the debate of free state or slave state emerged leading to the factors for American Civil War.

b) The Louisiana purchase by USA in 1803 leading to debate of free and slave state.

The Louisiana purchase was the purchase of imperial rights to the western half of Mississippi river basin from Napolean, french leader, in 1803. for 15 million dollars. This was in exchange for a military support of us to France against the Great Britain, which eventually led to The War of 1812. The positive impact of this was the expansion of us to western America and a good trade relation with France. However, the negative impact was the main reason of American civil War. The Louisiana Purchase led to joining of 13 states but the question of either it lays within Southern territory (slave state) or Northern territory (free state) become a major issue. The land purchased had mixed topography, with

few states with agricultural land and potential and the other good for industrial growth. Due to this another factor to American Civil War came into debate, The Missouri Compromise.

c) Missouri Compromise resulting as a fuel to the fire.

The main ideological debate of free and slave state was given a topographical perspective in the Missouri compromise in 1820. James Monroe, then President of United States signed this compromise and defined a geographical division between the south and north on 36° 30' parallel line which prohibited slavery above this line calling it a northern federalist state. This debate further fueled fire during the addition of three states. The "3M", Massachusetts (free state), Missouri (a slave state), and Maine (slave state).

This compromise incidently legitimized slavery and any state falling within this imaginary line would become a slave state.

d) The start of Abolitionist Movement

Abolitionist movement was a activist movement for the prohibit elimination of slavery in the Southern America. This took rise in 1830 as the first anti-slavery society for the protection of African-American slaves. William Lloyd Garrison made a formal petition to the Southern States to abolish slavery. However, no such improvement was administered. During this time period an American activist Harriet Tubman freed more than three hundred slaves.

e) US-Mexico War and Mexican Cession in 1850.

Mexico was considered as a good agricultural state, therefore with the US interest in the land a Texas Revolt was organised which led to Texas annexation by Mexico. In 1946 till 1948 a US-Mexico war broke which resulted in the victory of the United States. Due to this a dispute between 15 states broke for slave or free slave. During this debate Henry Clay, a US senator, laid a 1850 compromise making California a free state and leaving New Mexico and Utah for a majority self decision. which eventually decided for south due to its agro-economy contribution. Another, concept during this war was established calling a fugitive slave law making any slave on a run to north in scope of freedom would be returned to south.

f) The Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854

The Kansas valley was a mixed topographical location. The popular vote system was followed. The state being in the North had to join the South, which led to pro-slavery and anti-slavery conflict. The government at this point declared an act in 1854 calling it the Kansas-Nebraska Act which followed the popular vote strategy ending to the guerrilla warfare between pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups making it the 'Bleeding Kansas'.

g) The Dred Scott case, a landmark in American history.

In 1857 a slave named Dred Scott along with his wife sued his owner Sanford for his freedom on the basis of Missouri Compromise. He was unsuccessful due to the court following the ^{law} statute.

set in the constitution considering slaves as property. The court then decided how Dred Scott is a slave and not an American citizen, therefore, cannot appeal before any court in America and gave a decision against him. This led to the response of Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He stood up for the Presidential election as a republican in order to abolish slavery.

4) Abraham Lincoln and the result of American Civil War (1861-1865).

Abraham Lincoln came to power as a president in 1860, however, during his regime, South Carolina got seceded from USA. Where Anti-Federalist regime took control. The Confederate state (Anti-federalists) was led by Jefferson and the other was led by Lincoln therefore resulting to a civil war between the two. North won the war and

Lincoln amended the constitution of The United States as he promised. He abolished slavery in the 13th Amendment which resulted to a social order, more employment, second wave of industrialization and ended the state debate. In the next 14th and 15th amendment, African Americans were given civil rights and right to vote.

⑤ Was the American Civil war inevitable?

Yes! the American civil war was inevitable as the southern states had no objective towards an end to slavery, and in order to avoid this war, the South had to abolish slavery. However, this was not possible due to its' ideology of agricultural economy and successful slave trades.

6) Conclusion.

In short, the American civil war was ignited through some historical events since the formation of constitution to the missouri compromise to the Kansas - Nebraska Act and to the rise of Abraham Lincoln. The role of Abraham Lincoln is a significant mark in the history of America as he made America a proper nation and fulfilled the ~~word~~ motto of America "The land of immigrants".