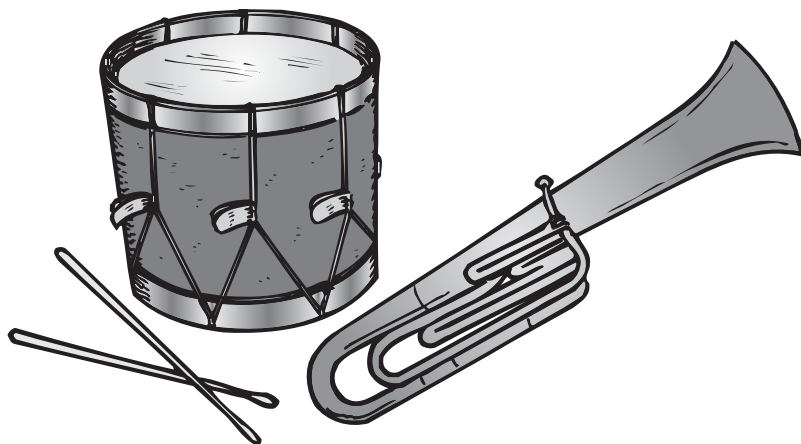


Table of Contents

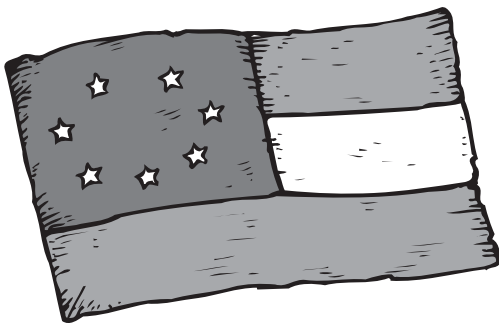
Causes of the Civil War	5
Causes of the Civil War Outline	8
Events Leading to the Civil War Time Line: Causes of the Civil War . . .	9
Events Leading to the Civil War Time Line: Pre-Civil War Fever Chart	17
Biography of General George B. McClellan	18
Biography of General George B. McClellan Questions	20
Photographs of General McClellan and General Robert E. Lee.	21
Biography of General Robert E. Lee	23
Biography of General Robert E. Lee Questions	25
Battle of Antietam	26
Battle of Antietam Questions	28
Map of the Battle of Antietam	29
Emancipation Proclamation	32
Emancipation Proclamation Questions	35
Emancipation Proclamation Historical Research Questions.	36
Internet Research Ideas	37
Multiple Intelligence Activities.	40
Answer Key.	43



Causes of the Civil War¹

The causes of the Civil War are many and complex; however, they become more easily understood if they are grouped together in three categories: economic differences, political differences and moral issues. The economic differences between the North and the South grew out of the fact that the people of the North earned their living from manufacturing, while the people of the South made their way through agriculture. Political differences caused problems because the North believed in federalism (a strong central government), while the South believed in states' rights (strong powers remaining with the states). Of course, the moral issue, which was the most inflammatory problem of all, was slavery.

The differences between the industrialized North and the agricultural South created specific problems. One might think that, since the two sections of the nation produced opposite goods, they would trade with each other. For the most part, that wasn't the case. The South sold its cotton to Great Britain and France and got its manufactured goods from Britain and other European countries. Meanwhile, the North got its food products from the western United States and sold its manufactured goods to the West. This brought up the very thorny problem of tariffs.



Tariffs are taxes that are put on goods imported into a country. For instance, the United States might put a tax on all cars sent by the Japanese to be sold in the U.S. The purpose is to protect the U.S. automobile industry. With the tariff added to the cost of Japanese cars, those cars will be more expensive for the American customer to buy. If U.S. cars are cheaper than Japanese cars, it is more likely that the U.S. customer will buy American cars, thus keeping the U.S. automobile industry strong.

Before the Civil War, the North wanted tariffs on imported goods so that U.S. consumers would buy Northern manufactured goods. The South opposed high tariffs, however, because customers in the South bought many of their manufactured goods from Europe. A high protective tariff on foreign goods meant that the South had to pay a much higher price for the manufactured goods they bought. A higher price on manufactured goods from abroad meant that the people of the South couldn't afford to buy as much from Great Britain and France as they might want. And if the South didn't buy many manufactured goods from Europe, then Great Britain and France couldn't afford to buy cotton from the South. It was vital to the Southern economy that tariffs remain low, while it was important to the Northern economy that tariffs remain high enough to protect their factories from foreign competition.

¹Major source: *The Civil War* by Bruce Catton, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1960, pp. 7-13.

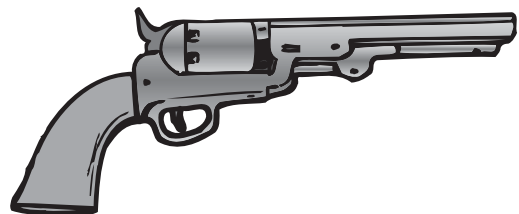
Causes of the Civil War

A second economic difference between the North and the South was the source of their labor. The Northern factory owners hired immigrants and paid them low wages. The Southern plantation owners kept slaves and paid them no wages, but gave them shelter, food and clothing. Immigrants to the U.S. settled mostly in the North because that's where the jobs were. Thus, the North grew in population and economic power. Immigrants mostly did not settle in the South because slaves held most of the agricultural jobs. Importation of slaves into the U.S. had been halted in 1807 by a provision in the Constitution. The labor force grew only as the slave population grew through the size of slave families. Thus, the population of the South was relatively stagnant and the agricultural economy could grow only through gaining new lands in the western United States.

This led to a third economic problem, which was the acquisition of land. The South needed more land in order to expand economically, especially when plantation lands in older areas became worn out and did not produce as many crops as before. The North could expand by building more factories; but, if it gained more land, it also gained more customers in the West who would buy manufactured goods. Every time the U.S. gained more territory in the West, a crisis arose over how it would be divided between slave and non-slave areas, Northern and Southern lands. It happened in 1820 over the division of the Louisiana Purchase, and it happened again in 1850 over California and the Mexican Cession.

Territorial expansion quickly became a political issue as well. It was clear early in the history of the U.S. that the population of the North would outdistance the population of the South. This meant that the North had more members in the House of Representatives than the South. Therefore, if the South wanted to maintain any chance to control laws passed in Congress, it had to keep even in the Senate with the number of states in the North. That was why, in the Missouri Compromise of 1820, the slave state of Missouri entered the Union at the same time as the free state of Maine. That was why, in the Compromise of 1850, when the admission of California gave the advantage in the Senate to the anti-slavery North, the South got other benefits such as a stronger Fugitive Slave Law. And that was also why there was such fierce fighting in "Bleeding Kansas" in 1854-1855 between the slavery and anti-slavery factions. Land was political power to both the North and the South.

While gaining land had political consequences for the North and the South, the real political differences were philosophical. The two regions saw the purpose and composition of the federal government differently. The North believed in federalism. Under federalism, the power in a nation is divided between a strong central government and weaker state governments.² While the state governments retain



²*The American Political Dictionary*, (3rd ed.) by Jack C. Plano and Milton Greenberg, New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1972, pp. 36-37.

Causes of the Civil War

many powers and duties, they have also given up some of their power to the national government. (For instance, state governments cannot make treaties with foreign countries or coin money.) The South believed in states' rights. Power is still divided between a national government and state governments; but Southerners believed that, since the states formed the national government, the states had certain powers over the central government. The two major states' rights were nullification and secession. *Nullification* meant that a state could declare a national law to be null and void so that the citizens of that state did not have to obey the law.³ In 1832, South Carolina tried to nullify the Tariff of 1828 and the Tariff of 1832. (When President Jackson threatened to use military force against South Carolina, that state backed down, and Henry Clay helped negotiate a compromise tariff in 1833.) Secession was the right of the state to withdraw from the Union and to form its own government, alone or with other states. Eleven Southern states seceded from the Union in 1860-1861. The Civil War was fought partly to establish whether states have the right to secede from the Union and exercise their states' rights.

The moral cause of the Civil War was slavery. Civil War historian Bruce Catton says, "Although there were serious differences between (the North and the South) all of them except slavery could have been settled through the democratic process. Slavery poisoned the

whole situation."⁴ A large percentage of the South's economy was built on slave labor. In 1860, cotton exports alone were worth \$191,000,000. That was 57% of the value of all U.S. exports, from the North and the South combined. In that same year, the value of slave property was two billion dollars.⁵ It would have bankrupted the South and many individual planters to give up slavery. Yet abolitionists were adamant that owning another human being was immoral. The anti-slavery movement grew stronger in the 1830s and 1840s. William Lloyd Garrison, the Grimke sisters, Theodore Dwight Weld and James G. Birney were among those who led the abolitionists. The extremes to which some anti-slavery people would go to make their point was shown in 1859 when John Brown raided the arsenal at Harpers Ferry and tried to arm Virginia's slaves for a revolt against their masters. As Lincoln said, the nation could not continue to exist half slave and half free.

In summary, the major causes of the Civil War were economic, political and moral. Economically, the North was industrialized, while the South was agricultural. This led to a difference of opinion over tariffs and whether labor should be free immigrants or slaves. The political disagreement was between the ideas of federalism and states' rights. Finally, the unsolvable moral difference between the two regions was over slavery.

³*Ibid.*, p. 42.

⁴Catton, *The Civil War*, p. 10.

⁵*Ibid.*