

The American Civil War Study Sheet

Causes

1. The widening economic gap between the North and the South. The Southern Economy was agriculturally based and stagnant, relative to the industrial backbone that the North enjoyed. As a lawyer in Savannah, Georgia, expressed it in 1860, “in this country have arisen two races {i.e., Northerners and Southerners} which although claiming a common parentage, have been so entirely separated by climate, by morals, by religion, and by estimates totally opposite to all that constitutes honor, truth, and manliness, that they can no longer exist under the same government.”
2. The widening cultural differences also expressed by the comment of the Southern Lawyer contributed to the feel that there was something inherently different between Northerners and Southerners. This was complete anti-nationalism and easily explains why the South had no second thoughts about succeeding from what they viewed to be an unjust union.
3. States Right. The Southern States felt that the Union (Northern states) had no right to legislate for the South. Although it was clearly stated in the Constitution that the Federal Government did have the power to write laws that the states had to follow. The most example of this is slavery.

Main Battles

1. First and Second Bull Run
2. Antietam
3. Gettysburg

Positive Effects

1. The power in this country became more centrally focused.
2. The institution of slavery was abolished.
3. The Union was preserved.
4. The American economy moved from being primarily agriculturally based to being an industrial nation.

Negative Effects

1. The hundreds of thousands American lives lost.
2. The economic devastation felt by the South for decades from the war.
3. The Reconstruction era that existed immediately after the war was unconstitutional and produced anger in the minds of Southerners towards “carpet baggers” and other Northerners.

Sample T-Chart

Negative	Positive
- Thousands of Americans lost their lives	+ Abolishment of slavery
- Economic Devastation	+ Preservation of the Union
- Destruction	+ The economy moved from agriculture based to industry