
Final Test

Part II (cont.)

Directions: Write an essay that is well-organized and contains an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion. As you write your essay, you may refer back to the previous pages of the test. Be sure to include your own information, using specific historical details to extend the documents presented and to prove your knowledge of this period of history.

Setting the Stage of the Historical Context

From the framing of the Constitution there had been disagreement over the issue of the rights of the states and the rights of the federal government. In the industrialized North, anti-slavery advocates demanded an end to the “peculiar institution” in the South. With the election of Abraham Lincoln, a strong advocate of abolition, slaveholders felt that their livelihood was threatened. Almost immediately, they voted to secede from the Union in the belief that because slavery was not explicitly banned in the Constitution, it was to be decided by the states. They cited what they felt were the failures of the federal government with regard to their rights as states. In all, 11 states issued declarations of secession and established the Confederate States of America. The Union, however, did not recognize the rights of the states to withdraw, and held that they were in rebellion.

- Describe some of the attempts that were made to maintain a balance between slave and free states in the Congress. Were these efforts successful or not? Explain your answer.
 - Discuss the impact that the Emancipation Proclamation had on the war. Did it change the cause for either side? Why or why not?
 - Prior to the war, several other solutions to the issue of slavery were proposed, including payments from the government for slaves’ freedom and resettlement of the slaves. Discuss whether or not these options would have averted the war.
 - Was the fight to preserve the Union a war between the Southern states fight for independence and the abolitionists’ desire to free the slaves?
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