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Per. 2

Source Based Essay Test

Slavery was an extremely large institution in America from its beginnings when the first slaves came to America in 1619 to its ending in 1865. It can be viewed from several angles as being completely reasonable or completely unreasonable. Source A and B confirm the statement that the defense of slavery is unreasonable, as they show the true suffering of slaves and that it is just a temporary institution. On the other hand, Sources C and D refute the claim that defense of slavery is unreasonable, as they show the true reasons for slavery and how it affects the South. Finally, Source E is the most important source, as it shows the advantages and disadvantages of slavery from the viewpoint of a modern historian. It does confirm the statement that the defense of slavery is unreasonable, though, as it leans slightly more towards the anti-slavery standpoint. This source is the most reliable of the sources, as it presents each angle on slavery with a more neutral perspective. (1)(2)

Source E supports the claim that defending slavery is unreasonable, as it shows what a capitalistic society would do for economic gain at the time period. This document is a historian's analysis on slavery, making it a very valid source due to the fact that he had vast resources at his disposal and all the time he needed to analyze them and build conclusions from his findings. However, the author's view is slightly flawed in the fact that he wasn't a firsthand witness to slavery and all that it entailed, but this is overruled by his highly educational analysis. The information presented in this text reflects first the view of slavery as a profitable and viable way of life for many Southerners. After all, England depended largely on the cotton exports of the South in this era, which all derived from slavery at its roots. However, despite the fact that slavery was a lucrative investment that brought in vast wealth, it also dehumanized humans in the process, which prevalently expressed near the end of this document. That said, it is clearly seen where the author of this source stands, as he openly displays the fact that slavery is unreasonable in this era, as it destroys the moral and sane properties in which America was thought to have grown up with. This source is similar to Source B, as in its overall view it shows the brutality of slavery and its true nature in society. However, it also slightly agrees with Source D, as it views slavery on another level as being economically prosperous in its undertaking, which was greatly needed in this old era when America was fully developing. Overall, though, Source E expresses why slavery may have been good, but that it ultimately is unreasonable in the fact that it creates the illusion of humans being property. SE
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Source A confirms the claim that the defense of slavery is unreasonable, as it acts upon the fact that it is only one aspect of life and can be done with easily, plus it is demoralizing in its overall efforts. This source, which is a speech by William Seward, is valid in the fact that Seward is a well-respected senator of high power, but he can, however, be slightly subjective in his views, as he is largely against slavery and believes that there is a "Higher Law" (God) that says it is immoral. Either way, though, Seward presents the fact that resistance should not be taken against excluding slavery from new territories, as it is extremely immoral. This speech was presented in 1850, which shows that it was mainly talking about the Wilmot Proviso, which in fact kept the issue of slavery in minds of the public for nearly 14 years before the Civil War started. Thus, it is viable to see Seward's standpoint when he states SE

that slavery is obviously a huge issue and should just be put away with and resolved once and for all. The way in which Seward expresses these views shows that he wants America to expand and move forward, but that cannot occur if it is split apart against a subject which is very revolting to him. That is clearly why he makes this speech in the first place, as he is attempting to reunite America and create peace, which ultimately failed 11 years later with the start of the Civil War. This source is evidently related to Source B in its standpoint on slavery as an immoral wrongdoing. However, despite the fact that these sources clash against each other in viewpoints, Sources A and C are also related in a way of expressing the cultural and social views of their side. Overall, Source A supports the claim that the defense of slavery was unreasonable, as it is immoral in the eyes of God and should be put away with for peace of the Union.

Source B additionally confirms the statement that the defense of slavery was unreasonable, as it shows the brutality and horror that many slaves faced throughout their lives. This source was written by Frederick Douglass, making it a very effective source on the slavery subject, as Douglass himself was a former slave. However, this can be seen with slightly less validity in the sense that Frederick wasn't looking at both sides of the argument and failed to recognize the Southern views of society. The information presented, though, is powerful in the way that it creates an image of slavery and how it uses that image to show what slavery truly was. Frederick discusses that slaves live in the shadows and are dehumanized in the eyes of their owners. They are nothing but work. These ideals accurately coincide with the time, as in 1852, when this address was spoken by Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe published Uncle Tom's Cabin, which also was a look into the real world of slavery in America. Therefore, this source, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and other sources of the like show that abolitionists were beginning to rise up and end slavery by any means possible. Source B holds ties towards Source E, as they both show that slavery is the demoralizing truth of our society. It also relates to Source A in the fact that is spoken by one man of the time period who is trying to change an entire country, ultimately putting a heavy burden on his shoulders at the time. Therefore, it is just to say that Source B confirms the claim that defending slavery is unreasonable, as Frederick is attempting to change the views of the American society by shocking them with the truths of the slave society.

Source C refutes the claim that the defense of slavery is unreasonable, as it attempts to display the social way of life that Southerners have developed and have become accustomed to over time. This source is a speech by Alexander Stephens in 1861, which is already after the Southern states have seceded from the Union and war is nearing. This source is valid in the fact that it comes from a man of high position, the Vice-President of the Confederate States, but it loses some of this reliability in the sense that it is prejudice against the Northern anti-slavery views and is fully for slavery. The actual content of the piece stands to show why the Southern states ultimately seceded, as they wished to keep their old ways of life rather than succumb to new ways spawned on by peace groups and abolitionists. Alexander continues by adding that the Confederate states have constructed a new Constitution, or a new law, that shows the morality and justification of slavery. Therefore, Alexander is merely stating that the Confederacy has fully broken apart from the Union and wants to continue their ways in peace without interruption from the North. This obviously did not last long, however, as the attack on Fort Sumter in the furthering months proved that war would be prevalent and would infect the nation. This source is connected to Source D in the way that it is attempting to make sense of why the Confederacy split from the Union and where they stand in 1861 in relation with the Union. Overall, this source

refutes the claim that defending slavery is unreasonable, as it is coming from a man who wholeheartedly believes in slavery as a moral necessity that is rooted in American culture.

Source D also refutes the statement that defending slavery is unreasonable, as it attempts to show every which way that it is reasonable and worthwhile. This source is a speech by Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, which holds merit in the fact of his status and power, but it stands as a one-sided attack that only expresses slavery as a moral solution to America's flawed society. The information that is present in the speech expresses the view that Davis has on slavery as an economic benefit. He also attempts to show that the slaves have matured and have become more intelligent and civilized over time. Therefore, his true meaning in his statements is to show the Union how slavery is a good institution that should be kept. This speech was spoken on the brink of war, which shows Davis' frustration and frantic manner in trying to stop it from starting. This shows why he spoke this, as he was trying to downplay the demoralizing truths of slavery to make it look nice and appealing to the Union. This ultimately failed, though, as war began and continued for four years. The meaning of this piece is overall a reflective view of the Southern society and stance at the time period and how they were truly connected to slavery in many economic and social ways. This source is connected to Source E in the manner of showing the economic advantages that slavery brings to the table, despite the clear fact that these sources disagree on the subject question of slavery being reasonable or not. This source also denies Source B, as it shows how slaves have truly grown with society and have become different from the slaves before. Therefore, this source is undeniably justified in the sense that it refutes the claim that defending slavery is unreasonable, as it was a way of life for Southerners and had vast economic advantages that were hard to pass up.

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