

Paper 1 Practice Assignment

To what extent do sources A-B support the idea that westward expansion caused the Civil War?

Quote #1

“The general government and the State governments derive their authority from the same source. Neither can, in relation to the other, be called primary, though one is definite and restricted, and the other general and residuary. The national government possesses those powers which it will be shown the people have conferred upon it, and no more...State sovereignty is effectively controlled...the Constitution has ordered the matter differently. To make war, for instance, is an exercise of sovereignty; but the Constitution declares that no State shall make war.”

Excerpt from Daniel Webster's Second Reply to Hayne written January 26-27, 1830

Content Analysis-This quote establishes that state powers come from the people but they are limited and defined, therefore it is illegal for states to declare war, thus the Civil War was unconstitutional in the first place.

Content Evaluation-When weighing this, it is important to consider how much emphasis and favor the South put on States rights compared to the North, therefore the source potentially suggests that the Civil War might have been caused due to different ideals rather than westward expansion.

Validation of Source- Daniel Webster was a highly educated, from the North, who was a member Whig party and fiercely advocated in favor for the federal government. Although it seems quite logical, his particular perspective, makes his statements and sentiments partial or skewed to a certain side, and it is not explicit enough to support western expansion causing the Civil War.

Quote #2

“Nor am I to be alarmed or dissuaded from any such course by intimations of the spilling of blood. If blood is to be spilt by whose fault is it to be spilt? Upon the supposition, I maintain it would be the fault of those who raised the standard of disunion and endeavored to prostrate this government, and, Sir, when that is done, as long as it please God to give me voice to express my sentiments, or an arm, weak and enfeebled as it may be by age, that voice and that arm will be on the side of my country, for the support of the general authority, and for the maintenance of the power of this Union.”

Speech on Preserving the Union by: Henry Clay, 1850

Content Analysis-The speaker suggests that if they were to go to war the blame would be on the South or anyone that sympathizes with secession, additionally, he pleads that everyone should be on his side, no matter who he is or his affiliations but rather to serve his country.

Content Evaluation-When assessing this is important to note the humbling and pleading tone in which, he speaks with so, it makes it seem like he is not a part of the equation, but rather the South and others are to blame for the war.

Validation of Source-Henry Clay wrote the Compromise of 1820 and 1850 and is highly educated making the source more dependable or reliable, but however, he uses a fallacy, in which he avoids to address the other arguments, making him seem predisposed or susceptible to bias.

Quote #3

“As Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States it is our duty to warn our constituents, whenever imminent danger menaces the freedom of our institutions or the permanency of the Union... At the present session a new Nebraska bill has been reported by the Senate Committee on Territories, which, should it unhappily receive the sanction of Congress, will open all the unorganized Territories of the Union to the ingress of slavery.”

Appeal of the Independent Democrats, January 19, 1854

Content Analysis- The quote suggests that it must make others aware the new Nebraska bill passed by Congress is causing tensions within the union due to it putting in question the legality of slavery in the Western territories.

Content Evaluation- When gauging the situation, it is important to consider the sheer amount of western territories and land that have not yet been established as slave or free states, then it is very evident to see why it caused uproar.

Validation of Source- This body of work was written by multiple passionate, like-minded people, that were educated, and are a part of Congress, thus making it conclusive. However, since it was written by people with similar values it makes it seem slanted and has a high potential for bias.

Quote #4

“That in all that territory ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, not included within the limits of the state, contemplated by this act, slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be, and is hereby, forever prohibited: Provided always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labour or service is lawfully claimed, in any state or territory of the United States, such

fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labour or service as aforesaid.”

Missouri Compromise of 1820, SEC 8.

Content Analysis-This example reveals that slavery above the 36 degrees North 30 minutes is illegal and below the line slavery is legal, thus creating a clear line and divide between the North and the South.

Content Evaluation-When assessing this it is important to understand the political differences between North and South, then it is evident to see why there is a sectional divide between them when expanding westward.

Validation of Source-This source is a government document, written by different people of different political back-grounds and ideals making it at first seem less biased, but however considering that most of them are white, educated, and they are all men, then it makes it seem more slanted, biased and less inclusive and representative of the nation.