

Paper 1 Practice Assignment

To what extent does source A-D support that territorial expansion caused the civil war.

Quote #1

“Resolved, That as slavery does not exist by law, and is not likely to be introduced into any of the territory acquired by the United States from the republic of Mexico, it is inexpedient for Congress to provide by law either for its introduction into, or exclusion from, any part of the said territory; and that appropriate territorial governments ought to be established by Congress in all of the said territory, not assigned as the boundaries of the proposed State of California, without the adoption of any restriction or condition on the subject of slavery.”

Compromise of 1850, Henry Clay

The prior sentence emphasizes that slavery has to be decided by the individual states as they are introduced into the union, and that the congress will implement state governments relative to the geographical position of the new land.

Henry Clay was supportive of the idea to go to war with the UK, which calls into question his position of writing a compromise that supposedly diluted tensions between the north and the south. Regardless, Clay was voted in as speaker of the house for the 12th congress, and at the time, he was also the youngest person to be inducted as speaker of the house (34 years old); in relevance to these qualities, one may also assume that his part in the Compromise of 1850 set precedent for the morals of territorial expansion and inevitably led to the Civil War.

Quote #2

“We arraign this bill as a gross violation of a sacred pledge; as a criminal betrayal of precious rights; as part and parcel of an atrocious plot to exclude from a vast unoccupied region immigrants from the Old World and free laborers from our own States, and convert it into a dreary region of despotism, inhabited by masters and slaves. Take your maps, fellow citizens, we entreat you, and see what country it is which this bill gratuitously and recklessly proposes to open to slavery... This immense region, occupying the very heart of the North American Continent, and larger, by thirty-three thousand square miles, than all the existing free States including California...this immense region the bill now before the Senate, without reason and without excuse, but in flagrant disregard of sound policy and sacred faith, purposes to open to slavery.”

Source information from document Appeal to the independent democrats, January 19, 1854

The previous excerpt exemplifies the vehement emotions surrounding the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska act that would allow for slavery to be practiced in the newly acquired territory.

The group responsible for the manifesto wrote in a style that was genuinely designed to arouse southern attention and to remind the North of the weaknesses of the compromise of 1850, when elaborated upon, it is clear that the language in the writing was highly exaggerated and merely served to stir up tension between both the North and the South. Despite this, the writers actually spearheaded the creation of the Republican party (anti-Nebraska movement) and communicated the problems to northerners in a way that caused a collective political awakening, the strength of the source itself is adjacent to the strong emotions it causes upon reading regardless of the blatant fallacy that is presented as negative feelings against the south. The source, holistically, is very important to supporting the argument that territorial expansion caused the civil war.

Quote #3

“The notion that slave labor for cotton fields caused the Civil War has been reinforced by textbooks and fictional narratives for more than a century. Historians, however, argue for a more nuanced, complex understanding. The Civil War was fought for many reasons, not solely or even primarily because of the growing importance of cotton on southern farms. Moving away from economic differences and cotton as simplistic causes leads to a more complex and far more interesting story.”

Source information from “Causing the Civil War”

The prior enumeration explains that slavery paired with cotton harvesting did not cause the civil war, and even further, that there was no definitive cause for the war.

The source implies that there is no way to simply define what caused the civil war; a revelation that is made weak due to the lack of an explanation following this claim. However, the source claims that there are many different causes to the civil war alongside denouncing cotton farming as a cause; the source saves its validity by providing what DID NOT cause the civil war, but falls short on elaborating what “is”, because of this, it is a medium strength source pertaining to the lack of a correlation of territorial causes and the civil war.

Quote #4

“Thus he (Rev. Mr. Kirk) only pointed to the thunder cloud that hung over us. "God," said he, "may avert it. Man cannot it. Coaxing, compromise, letting alone, are all too late. Mr. Brooks is nothing in this matter. Mr. Douglas is nothing in this matter. The doctrine that *a negro is not a man* and the doctrine that *the negro is a man* have now come to the death struggle, and a nation will heave with every convulsive struggle of the contest. Neither will yield until a continent has been swept with the deluge of civil war.”

Source information from A NORTHERN FREE REPUBLIC: STAND BY THE UNION. Boston, Massachusetts, Post [Democratic] (3 June 1856)

The previous statement concurs that the struggle between slavery and the north/south has reached a threshold whereupon compromises and legal bills won't slow the inevitability of civil war between the sides.

The author uses an informal amount of pathos-based language that has the potential to jeopardize the validity of his claim. However, this same exact language paired with the contiguity of his speech, is a call to action for the Northern side; nevertheless, the faulty language choice may unintentionally weaken his argument for the impending civil war and its implementations. The source as a whole is essential to proving the claim that the civil war is not a result of territorial expansion.