

Economic Differences

The cotton gin made cotton profitable. This machine was able to reduce the time it took to separate seeds from the cotton. The cotton gin made many more slaves work on plantations; plantations wanted to be as efficient as possible. The South was dependent on cotton and slavery. The South was based on the plantation system.

North based on industry. The North had abandoned slavery. The North relied on transportation to finish and bring goods to stores for purchase. The American System and its improvement in transportation were vital; the Tariff of 1828 and 1832 accordingly as well. The North had great numbers of people. Many immigrants came to the North; they feared the slave labor of the South.

The tariff paid for most improvements made by the federal government, such as roads, turnpikes, and canals. To keep tariffs low, the South preferred to do without these improvements; they also did the tariffs because they had to trade with other nations.

States versus Federal rights

The first government of the United States was under the Articles of Confederation. The weakness of the Articles made individuals create the US Constitution. People felt that the constitution ignored the rights of states to act independently, resulting in the idea of nullification, the states had the right to rule federal acts unconstitutional. The federal government denied states this right. When nullification did not work, states moved towards secession.

Slave states versus Free states

The Louisiana Purchase spurred debate over free and slave states with the Missouri Compromise. The debate ultimately began with the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and its three-fifths clause. The Missouri Compromise permitted slavery in the Louisiana Purchase south of 36°30'N latitude. During the Mexican War, conflict started over what would happen with the new territories that the US had gained. The South wanted Texas to be annexed so they would have greater power. David Wilmot proposed the Wilmot Proviso in 1846, banning slavery in the new lands. The Compromise of 1850 called for slavery in Arizona and New Mexico to be decided by popular sovereignty. The Kansas-Nebraska Act created two new territories allowed the states to use popular sovereignty to determine whether they would be free or slave. Proslavery Missourians poured into the state to vote for slavery, "border ruffians." In reaction to the sacking of Lawrence by pro-slavery forces, John Brown killed five pro-slavery settlers. The fighting that occurred dubbed it "Bleeding Kansas." Abolitionist John Brown and several followers seized the United States Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. He thought that slaves would help in the act in the slave rising he had planned; an abolitionist plan, but did not. John Brown was hanged for treason.

Abolition

The most important abolitionists spoke during the 1830s. For example, the renowned Sojourner Truth was one of them. Uncle Tom's Cabin aided in turning the public against the Fugitive Slave Act. Abolitionists were strongly against the ruling of the Dred Scott Case; a territory could not choose slavery. In reaction to the sacking of Lawrence by pro-slavery forces, John Brown killed five pro-slavery settlers; a great action of abolitionism.

Abraham Lincoln's election

The South believed that Lincoln was anti-slavery and in favor of Northern interests. Before Lincoln was even president, seven states had seceded from the Union; South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. Abraham Lincoln's election as president was viewed by the South as a threat to slavery and ignited the war.