

12/12/17

NUNO TOPIC SYNOPSIS

This committee is one where you will be competing against another committees of similar structure in order to gain land and, ultimately, power. The two committees are divided into two sides, the Union and the Confederacy. Committees will compete against each other to claim the most land on an interactive map. The winning committee is the one who claims the most land on the given map by the end of the night. Land can be gained by spending money to execute various actions. These actions can either aid your country in obtaining land, or sabotage the other committee in their quest for land. Committees will find out their designated money allocations when they first enter committee on the night debate. Arrive promptly and be ready to begin sharply at 6, we will begin explanations of the committee exactly when the debate is designated to begin.

It is April 28, 1861 and the American Civil War is beginning to make its mark on the American theater. You will be either a member of the Union, or the Confederacy. You will be competing in a Union, or Confederate committee against the committee you are not in to fight for your side and win the civil war; consequently, dictating the course of the United States for future generations. You must fight to gain more land than your enemy committee. Use your money allocations to execute actions and help you win the war. In speeches address your side's reason behind fighting in the war. There are many specific, influential reasons/instances besides those listed in the 'Background of Topic' below, so address those.

BACKGROUND OF TOPIC:

A common assumption to explain the cause of the American Civil War was that the North was no longer willing to tolerate slavery as being part of the fabric of US society and that the political power brokers in Washington were planning to abolish slavery throughout the Union. Therefore for many people slavery is the key issue to explain the causes of the American Civil War. However, it is not as simple as this and slavery, while a major issue, was not the only issue that pushed America into the 'Great American Tragedy'. By April 1861, slavery had become inextricably entwined with state rights, the power of the federal government over the states, the South's 'way of life' etc. – all of which made a major contribution to the causes of the American Civil War. In fact, it was the economics of slavery and political control of that system that was central to the conflict. By 1860 America could not be seen as being a homogenous society. Clearly defined areas could be identified that had different outlooks and different values. This was later to be seen in the North versus South divide that created the two sides in the war.

The South was an agricultural region where cotton and tobacco were the main backbone to the region's economic strength. The area relied on exports to markets in Western Europe and the class structure that could be found in the UK, for example, was mimicked in the southern

states. The North was almost in complete contrast to the South. In the lead up to April 1861, the North was industrialising at a very fast rate.

While the two sides that made up the American Civil War were apart in many areas, it became worse when the perception in the South was that the North would try to impose its values on the South. The North was also a cosmopolitan mixture of nationalities and religions – far more so than the South. There can be little doubt that there were important groups in the North that were anti-slavery and wanted its abolition throughout the Union. However, there were also groups that were ambivalent and those who knew that the North's economic development was based not only on entrepreneurial skills but also on the input of poorly paid workers who were not slaves but lived lives not totally removed from those in the South. While they had their freedom and were paid, their lifestyle was at best very harsh.

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In 1832, South Carolina passed an act that declared that Federal tariff legislation of 1828 and 1832 could not be enforced onto states and that after February 1st, 1833 the tariffs would not be recognized in the state of South Carolina. This brought South Carolina into direct conflict with the Federal government in Washington DC. Congress pushed through the Force Bill that enabled the President to use military force to bring any state into line with regards to implementing Federal law. On this occasion the threat of military force worked. People in South Carolina vowed, however, it greatly infuriated the South Carolina citizens as well as many southern citizens.

It was now that slavery became mixed up with state rights – just how much power a state had compared to federal authority. State rights became intermingled with slavery. The key issue was whether slavery would be allowed in the newly created states that were joining the Union. This dispute further developed with the 'Louisiana Purchase' of 1803 whereby Kansas, among others, was purchased by the federal government. Kansas was officially opened to settlement in 1854 and there was a rush to settle in the state between those who supported slavery and those who opposed it. The state became a place of violence between the two groups and Kansas got the nickname 'Bleeding Kansas' in recognition of what was going on there. However on January 29th 1861, Kansas was admitted to the Union as a slave-free state. Many in the traditional slave states saw this as the first step towards abolishing slavery throughout the Union and thus the destruction of the southern way of life.

When South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20th 1860, the first state to do so, it was a sign that the state no longer felt part of the United States of America and that America as an entity was being dominated by a federal government ensconced in the views of the North. Whether this was true or not, is not relevant as it was felt to be true by many South Carolinians. The secession of South Carolina inspired other southern states into doing the same. With such a background of distrust between most southern states and the government in Washington, it only needed one incident to set off the explosive civil war, and that occurred at **Fort Sumter** in April 1861.

MAP FOR DEBATE:

file:///C:/Users/lukas/Downloads/Night%20Debate%20Map%20-%20Sheet1.pdf

ACTIONS FOR DEBATE:

file:///C:/Users/lukas/Downloads/Night%20Debate%20Cost%20-%20Sheet1.pdf