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Review Packet #7 – Unit 5.1: Causes of the Civil War

UNIT RECAP

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| There were **four causes of the Civil War** in the United States: (1) **slavery**, (2) economic differences—**agriculture vs. industry**, (3) **states’** **rights**, and (4) the **election of Abraham Lincoln**. Overall, the war was about whether or not the Southern states could continue to have slavery, which was outlawed in the North.    **SLAVERY**  Slavery had expanded in the South over many years. The biggest cause of the spread of slavery, though, was the invention of the **cotton gin** by Eli Whitney in the 1790s. The cotton gin allowed cotton seed to be removed from the cotton fiber much faster. Since this could be done faster, farmers planted more cotton. Since more land was being farmed, the demand for slaves increased. The number of slaves increased drastically in the South through the slave trade and natural population growth of slaves (children of slaves were also slaves).  Slaves lived a very difficult life. (This is an understatement.) Most slaves lived in crowded houses on **plantations**. **Plantations** were large farms that grew cash crops using slave labor. Slaves did every type of work there was to be done on a plantation: farming, tending to animals, cleaning, cooking, sewing, building, repairing, etc.  In some cases, slaves tried to rebel and fight back. Several slave rebellions occurred in the United States, but they were not very successful. In other instances, slaves successfully resisted owners by slowing down work, breaking machines, or escaping. The most famous route was a collection of safe houses and hideouts that allowed slaves to escape to freedom in the North called the **Underground Railroad**. **Harriet Tubman** was the most famous leader along this trail, which helped hundreds of slaves achieve freedom.  Consequences for rebelling or resisting could be severe. As a result, slave owners established extremely strict rules for slaves, known as **slave codes**. These codes made it illegal to teach slaves to read or write, outlawed meetings between slaves, and set up restrictions about where slaves could travel. Disobeying these rules would result in severe beatings or even death for slaves.  So why did Southern slave owners want to keep such a harsh system? Money. This system allowed Southern farmers to become millionaires because cotton and other cash crops were in such high demand in the 1800s. Even though only one-third of Southerners owned slaves, most of the politicians and lawmakers in the South were slave owners. Because of this, they did not want new laws in the United States to change their way of life.  **AGRICULTURE VS. INDUSTRY**  During the Industrial Revolution, Northern cities began turning to machinery to do most of the jobs in factories. They still needed people to run the machines, but the labor was not as intense. Northern factories would take raw materials from around the country and turn them into finished products. Northern factories paid their workers and did not have to worry about them beyond that. Most people in the north liked this system and were disgusted by slavery based on religious or moral grounds. Many even believed the federal government should outlaw or **abolish** slavery. These people were known as **abolitionists**.  In the South there were fewer factories. The South provided many of the raw materials to factories in the North. Since the South used slavery to produce many of these raw materials, Southern slave owners believed the system benefitted both the South and North.  The differences in the economies of the North and South also led to disagreements over what the government should do. Should the government make laws that helped industry in the North? Or should the government make laws to help farming in the South? Because of these disagreements, the North and South began arguing and disagreeing on nearly everything (think about Democrats and Republicans today). This caused a big divide in the country.  **STATES’ RIGHTS**  The biggest ideological disagreement between Northerners and Southerners was over the role of the federal (national) government. Northern states thought the federal government should have more power to make laws. They believed the country, as a whole, was more important than the individual states. Southerners disagreed. The South thought that states should have more power and that the federal government should only deal with disagreements between states. States should be allowed to choose which laws they wanted to accept and follow.  The issue of States’ Rights came up several times in the 1800s, especially over the issue of tariffs and slavery. Northern states thought that all states should follow the laws passed by the federal government. Southern states thought the federal government could not tell states what to do.  **THE ELECTION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN 1860**  The final straw for Southerners was the election of Abraham Lincoln, the country’s first Republican president, in 1860. Abraham Lincoln was an abolitionist. Even though he did not intend to end slavery when he became president, Southern states were extremely worried that he would. In response to Lincoln being elected, South Carolina became the first state to **secede**, or break away from the Union. Ten other states followed. They created a new country called the **Confederate States of America**. When Confederate troops fired on **Fort Sumter** in South Carolina in April of 1861, the **Civil War** began. |

UNIT RECAP QUESTIONS

1. What were the **four causes** of the Civil War?
2. Which of these causes was the greatest?
3. List two reasons why the number of slaves increased in the United States during the 1800s.
4. How did slaves try to resist their owners?
5. What was the **Underground Railroad**?
6. What were **slave codes**? How did they try to control the lives of slaves?
7. Who were **abolitionists**?
8. What were the differences in the economies of the North and South?
9. Why were the Southern states opposed to the election of Abraham Lincoln?
10. What does it mean to **secede**? What new nation did the Southern states create?

PRACTICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following BEST describes the economies of the North and South before the Civil War?
   1. The North’s economy was based on agriculture and the South’s economy was based on industry
   2. The North’s economy was based on running the government, the South’s based on slavery
   3. The North’s economy relied on industry and manufacturing, the South’s economy on farming and slavery
   4. The North’s economy relied on slavery, the South’s on paying its workers
2. Which invention from the first Industrial Revolution causes the largest growth in slavery in the United States?
3. Sewing machine
4. Steel plow
5. Cotton gin
6. Telegraph
7. Which of the following was NOT a goal of abolitionists?
8. They wanted to establish a new country without slavery
9. They wanted to reunite freed slaves with their families
10. They wanted to end slavery all over the United States
11. They tried to stop the spread of slavery in new states