

AP US History Document-Based Question Directions:

**Prompt: The Civil War was caused primarily by the issue of slavery. Support, refute or modify this statement.**

**Document 1:** The case then, fairly stated between us and the manufacturing States, is, that the Tariff gives them a prohibition against foreign competition in our own market, in the sale of their goods, and deprives us of the benefit of a competition of purchasers for our raw material...With these views the [South Carolina] committee is of the impression that if the [tariff] system be persevered, after due forbearance on the part of the State, that it will be her sacred duty to interpose her veto; a duty to herself, to the Union, to present, and to future generations, and to the cause of liberty over the world. **South Carolina Exposition and Protest, December 1828**  
Questions to answer:

1. Who was President when this Document was created?
2. What nickname did they give this Tariff ?
3. Was South Carolina Pro-Slavery or Anti-Slavery? How do you know?

**Document 2:** You relied on the Constitution. It has not the word "slave" in it; and very good argument has shown that it would not warrant the crimes that are done under it... "For one would have said that a Christian would not keep slaves; but the Christians keep slaves. Of course they will not dare read the Bible. Won't they? They quote the Bible, quote Paul, quote Christ to justify slavery. If slavery is good, then is lying, theft, arson, homicide, each and all good, and to be maintained by Union societies? ...An immoral law makes it a man's duty to break it, at every hazard. For virtue is the very self of every man. It is therefore a principle of law that an immoral contract is void, and that an immoral statute is void. **Ralph Waldo Emerson, Speech on the Fugitive Slave Law 1852**

1. Who was Ralph Waldo Emerson?
2. Tell me something about the movement he created?
3. What is the message of this document?

**Document 3** I am aware, that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as un-compromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! no! Tell a man whose house is on fire, to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; – but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest- I will not equivocate- I will not excuse- I will not retreat a single inch- AND I WILL BE HEARD. **The first issue of The Liberator January 1831**

1. **Who was the creator & editor of the Liberator?**
2. **What kind of publication was the Liberator?**
3. **What type of people would hate this publication & why?**

**Document 4: Source: David Wilmot, speech in Congress, 1847.**

I make no war upon the South nor upon slavery in the South. I have no squeamish sensitiveness upon the subject of slavery, nor morbid sympathy for the slave. I plead the cause of the rights of White freemen. I would preserve for free White labor a fair country, a rich inheritance, where the sons of toil, of my own race and own color, can live without the disgrace which association with negro slavery brings upon free labor. I stand for the inviolability of free territory. It shall remain free, so far as my voice or vote can aid in the preservation of its character.

1. Who was David Wilmot?
2. What event was this a reaction to?
3. Who would have had a positive reaction to this speech & why?

## **Document 5**

I am not only fortified on my convictions that this will be the salutary and healing effect of this great plan of compromise and settlement of our difficulties, but I am supported by the nature of man and the truth of history. What is that nature? Why, sir, after perturbing storms a calm is sure to follow...The bells rang, the cannons were fired, and every demonstration of joy throughout the whole land was made upon the settlement [of the compromise in 1820]... But now, more than then, has this agitation been increased. Now, more than then, are the dangers which exist, if the controversy remains unsettled, more aggravated and more to be dreaded. The idea of disunion then was scarcely a low whisper....I believe from the bottom of my soul, that th[is] measure is the re-union of this Union. I believe that it is the dove of peace...

**” Henry Clay, 1850**

- 1. Who was Henry Clay?**
- 2. What law is he proposing here?**
- 3. Was this law successful in stopping the Civil War? Why not?**

## **Document 6**

“...that this assembly most solemnly declares a warm attachment to the Union of the States, to maintain which it pledges all its powers; and that for this end, it is their duty to watch over and oppose every infraction of those principles which constitute the only basis of that Union, because a faithful observance of them, can alone secure it’s existence and the public happiness. That this Assembly doth explicitly and peremptorily declare, that it views the powers of the federal government, as resulting from the compact, to which the states are parties; as limited by the plain sense and intention of the instrument constituting the compact; as no further valid that they are authorized by the grants enumerated in that compact; and that in case of a deliberate, palpable, and dangerous exercise of other powers, not granted by the said compact, the states who are parties thereto, have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose for arresting the progress of the evil, and for maintaining within their respective limits, the authorities, rights and liberties appertaining to them. That the General Assembly doth also express its deep regret, that a spirit has in sundry instances, been manifested by the federal government, to enlarge its powers by forced constructions of the constitutional charter which defines them...” **Virginia Resolution (1798), James Madison**

- 1. Who was James Madison?**
- 2. What was the Virginia Resolutions a reaction to?**
- 3. Who was President during the time period in which this document was created?**
- 4. What was this resolution proposing?**

## **Document 7 : Hinton Helper's Impending Crisis of the South 1857**

It is a fact that almost everything produced at the North meets with ready sale, while, at the same time, there is no demand, even among our own citizens, for the productions of Southern industry; that, owing to the absence of a proper system of business amongst us, the North becomes, in one way or another, the proprietor and dispenser of all our floating wealth, and that we are dependent on Northern capitalists for the means necessary to build our railroads, canals and other public improvements... In one way or another we are more or less subservient to the North every day of our lives... The lords of the lash are not only absolute masters of the blacks, who are bought and sold, and driven about like so many cattle, but they are also the oracles and arbiters of all non-slaveholding whites, whose freedom is merely nominal, and whose unparalleled illiteracy and degradation is purposely and fiendishly perpetuated.

1. Who was President in 1857?
2. What was the Impending Crisis to which they are referring?
3. What is the document's message?