

Overall Causes of the Civil War

A. *Economic Conflicts*

1. North (states above the 36°30')
 - a. primarily industrial
 - b. unsuited in both weather and land quality to agriculture
 - c. by 1860 the nine largest cities of the US were in the North
 - d. interested in a strong central government
 - i. make commerce smoother
 - ii. supported tariffs to which would protect their manufactures
 - e. interested in gaining control over new territory
2. South (states below the 36°30')
 - a. primarily agricultural
 - b. labor-intensive primary cash crops of cotton and tobacco
 - c. massive plantations were rare
 - d. most Southern whites were small farmers
 - e. the cotton kingdom exerted enormous economic power
 - f. interested in strong state and local rule
 - i. made control over agricultural goods easier and more under the sway of the individual
 - ii. had no interest in tariffs
 - g. interested in gaining control over new territory

B. *Political Conflicts*

1. expansion continually threatened to upset the balance of slave and free states
2. compromises engineered in order to not tilt the balance of power
3. compromises became less and less acceptable to both
4. Congress and the Judicial System wavered on their positions and policy relating to slavery

C. *Cultural & Philosophical Conflicts*

1. moral argument between North and South over slavery
2. most whites believed that blacks were
 - a. inferior
 - b. unable to govern themselves effectively
3. abolitionists: end slavery for religious reasons rather than for equality
4. awareness of the horrors of slavery
5. agitation over the morality of the institution
6. general cultural differences - "The Southern Code of Honor"
 - a. frequently fought with deadly weapons
 - b. biting off noses & lips
 - c. gouging eyes
 - d. murder rate 10 times higher than North
 - e. PRIDE - self esteem depends upon judgment of others
 - f. Slaves treated poorly - so would not stand for that treatment
 - g. Slightest insult led to duel