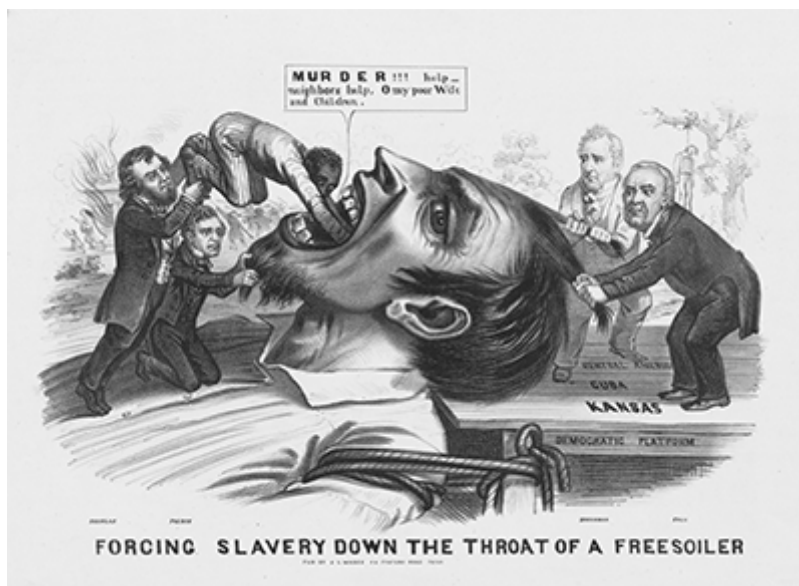


Short Answer Questions

Directions: Read the question carefully and write your responses in the corresponding boxes on the free-response answer sheet. Use complete sentences; an outline or bulleted list alone is not acceptable.

1. Using your knowledge of United States History answer parts a, b, and c.
 - a. Briefly explain why ONE of the following developments was the most significant factor contributing to the outbreak of the Civil War.
 - The Compromise of 1850
 - The *Dred Scott* Decision
 - The Presidential Election of 1860
 - b. Provide ONE piece of evidence to support your choice in Part A.
 - c. Contrast your choice in Part A against one of the other options, demonstrating why that option is not as good as your choice.

This question is based on the 1856 political cartoon below.



Forcing Slavery Down the Throat of a Freesoiler Cartoon
Library of Congress

2. Using your knowledge of United States History and the image above, answer parts a, b, and c.
 - a. Briefly explain the point of view expressed by the cartoonist about ONE of the following:
 - Territorial Expansion
 - States' Rights
 - Attempts at Political Compromise
 - b. Briefly explain ONE development from the period 1844 to 1856 that led to the point of view expressed by the cartoonist.
 - c. Briefly explain ONE way in which developments in the period following 1844 challenged or supported the view expressed by the cartoonist.

“President James K. Polk manufactured the war with Mexico. Some North Americans opposed the war—not on the ground that it violated Mexico’s territorial integrity, but because of the probability of the extension of slavery. Many North American military leaders admitted that the war was unjust, and that the United States had committed an act of aggression. However, patriotism and support for the war overwhelmed reason in the march ‘To the Hall of the Montezumas [sic].’ North Americans, buoyant in their prosperity, wanted to prove that the United States was a world-class power.”

Rodolfo Acuna, *Occupied America, A History of Chicanos*, 1988

“Polk and his advisors developed their Mexican policies on the dual assumption that Mexico was weak and that the acquisition of certain Mexican territories would satisfy admirably the long-range interests of the United States. Within that context, Polk’s policies were direct, timely, and successful....Polk’s persistence led him and the country to war. Like all escalation in the exertions of force, his decision responded less to unwanted and unanticipated resistance than to the requirements of the clearly perceived and inflexible purposes which guided the administration. What perpetuated the president’s escalation to the point of war was his determination to pursue goals to the end whose achievement lay outside the possibilities of successful negotiations. Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri saw this situation when he wrote: ‘It is impossible to conceive of an administration less warlike, or more intriguing, than that of Mr. Polk. They were men of peace, with objects to be accomplished by means of war; so that war was a necessity and indispensability to their purpose.’...What the Mexican War revealed in equal measure is the simple fact that only those countries which have achieved their destiny, whatever that may be, can afford to extol the virtues of peaceful change.”

Norman A. Graebner, “The Mexican War: A Study in Causation,” 1980

3. Using your knowledge of United States History and the passages above, answer parts a, b, and c.
 - a. Briefly explain ONE major difference between Acuna’s and Graebner’s historical interpretations of the debates over origins of the Mexican-American War in the 1840s.
 - b. Briefly explain how ONE development in the 1840s or 1850s not directly mentioned in the passages supports Acuna’s argument.
 - c. Briefly explain how ONE development in the 1840s or 1850s not directly mentioned in the passages supports Graebner’s argument.

“We affirm that these ends for which this Government (United States) was instituted have been defeated, and the Government itself has been made destructive of them by the action of the non-slaveholding States. Those States have assumed the right of deciding upon the propriety of our domestic institutions; and have denied the rights of property established in fifteen of the States and recognized by the Constitution; they have denounced as sinful the institution of slavery; they have permitted open establishment among them of societies, whose avowed object is to disturb the peace and to eloign the property of the citizens of other States. They have encouraged and assisted thousands of our slaves to leave their homes; and those who remain, have been incited by emissaries, books and pictures to servile insurrection.”

Declaration of the Immediate Causes that Compel South Carolina to Leave the Union, 1860

4. Using your knowledge of United States History and the passages above, answer parts a, b, and c.
 - a. Briefly explain how South Carolina used either provisions from the Declaration of Independence or the United States Constitution to justify secession.
 - b. Briefly explain how the non-slaving states used provisions from the Declaration of Independence to justify their reactions to the statement of South Carolina.
 - c. Briefly explain how the non-slaveholding states used provisions from the United States Constitution to justify their reactions to the statement of South Carolina.

“I think, and shall try to show, that it is wrong; wrong in its direct effect, letting slavery into Kansas and Nebraska and wrong in its prospective principle, allowing it to spread to every other part of the wide world where men can be found inclined to take it.

This declared indifference, but, as I must think, covert real zeal for the spread of slavery, I cannot but hate. I hate it because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world; enables the enemies of free institutions, with plausibility, to taunt us as hypocrites; causes real friends of freedom to doubt our sincerity, and especially because it forces so many really good men amongst ourselves into an open war with the very fundamental principles of civil liberty – criticizing the Declaration of Independence, and insisting that there is no right principle of action but self-interest.”

Abraham Lincoln, 1858

“I will stand by that great principle of States’ rights, no matter who may desert it. I intend to stand by it for the purpose of preserving peace between the North and the South, the free and slave States. If each State will only agree to mind its own business, and let its neighbors alone, there will be peace forever between us. ... I hold that the people of the slaveholding States are civilized men as well as ourselves; that they bear consciences as well as we, and that they are accountable to God and they posterity, and not to us. It is for them to decide, therefore, the moral and religious right of the slavery question for themselves within their own limits. I assert that they had as much right under the Constitution to adopt the system of policy which they have as we had to adopt ours. So it is with every other State in this Union. Let each State stand firmly by that great Constitutional right, let each State mind its own business and let its neighbors alone, and there will be no trouble on this question. If we will stand by that principle, then Mr. Lincoln will find that this Republic can exist forever divided into free and slave States, as our fathers made it and the people of each State have decided.

Stephen Douglas, 1858

5. Using your knowledge of United States History and the passages above, answer parts a, b, and c.
 - a. Briefly explain the main point in the first passage.
 - b. Briefly explain the main point in the second passage.
 - c. Briefly explain how one of the two perspectives influenced American politics in the 1850s. Provide at least ONE piece of specific evidence to support your explanation.