

Assignment 2.1: Liberty Challenged in Nineteenth Century America: Thesis and Outline

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Strayer University

HIS 104 American History to 1865

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### Liberty Challenged in Nineteenth Century America

One of the most debasing acts committed in the history of humankind is slavery. Towards this light, this paper will have a keen outlook on its origin, its implications in the then society, and how its roots are since felt in the modern American society.

#### **A. Outcomes of the 3/5ths, Missouri compromises and Kansas-Nebraska and Dred**

##### **Scott acts**

- a) The 3/5ths Compromise required that slaves were given a chance to participate in the election of the leaders. The slaves have also given the opportunity to determine how the federal government was to tax the general population.
- b) The Missouri Compromise of 1820 headed to the abolishment of slavery in the state of Missouri hence most slaves were liberated and granted the freedom to participate in elections (2).
- c) In the Compromise of 1850, the southern introduced the fugitives slave law which demanded that all U.S. citizens must return all runaway slaves. Also, The Territory of New Mexico was organized without any specific prohibition of slavery (5).
- d) The Kansas act was to repeal the Missouri compromise as it made slavery optional, yet it was prohibited slavery hence it led to the rise of the American civil war.
- e) The Dred Scotts act led to the declaration of Africans as non-citizens of America. It also declared that the Congress could not abolish slavery hence the lase promoted discrimination.

**B. Reasons why slavery was and is incompatible with our political and economic system**

- a) Several states that were still practicing slavery were experiencing some economic shambles from the slave use depending on slave labor it could not be enough to support an economy as most of the slave were mistreated hence they could not put in adequate effort to ensure full productivity (1).
- b) Slavery led capitalism, and most farmers depended on the slaves to produce farm products for themselves rather than buy from other companies or the government. However, this harmed the development of the American economy.
- c) Slavery profitability was also declining, and it was the foundation that capitalism was built on hence capitalism could not continue without profit-making; therefore, this would mean the death of capitalism.

**C. Driving forces that contributed to the Civil War**

- a) Slavery was one of the main issues that led to the American civil war because the south depended on slavery for its economic activities; this is as opposed to the north which wanted slavery abolished (3).
- b) The rights of the states where the southern part of US was opposed to the federal government taking most of the state powers (4).
- c) Lincoln becoming president made the southern fear losing their slaves as Lincoln was against slavery.

## Sources

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