



AP[®] United States History 2003 Sample Student Responses

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Q 4
E

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The Civil War basically crushed the South's economy and ~~caused the~~ disorganized the politics, but it caused the North to continue to dominate the U.S. economy and government.

Since the South lost in the Civil War it had to be built anew.

In politics, the Southern legislators had to regain the trust of the Northern and Western legislators to be able to effectively participate in Congress. Military Reconstruction, imposed by the North, had to be adhered to and cooperated with to regain admission into the Union to participate in Federal politics again. When it ended with the Compromise of 1877 — which ~~said~~ ~~that~~ ended the tie in the presidential election between Rep. Hayes and Dem. Tilden in that Hayes would become president and Military Reconstruction would end — the South had regained much respect and the Democrats were again more in proportion with the Republicans in Congress.

It was the same with the South's economy. It had to be built up from nothing since its primary labor force, the slaves, had been eliminated by the Emancipation

Proclamation (which freed slaves in the Confederate states), the 13th Amendment (which freed all slaves), the 14th Amendment (which gave the ex-slaves citizenship), and the 15th Amendment (which gave black male's suffrage). However, it wasn't a completely hopeless cause because many ex-slaves stayed in the South to farm as sharecroppers on their former master's plantations.

Since the North won the Civil War, it continued to

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dominate in the political and economic realms, It didn't have to ^{to} ~~back~~ anything anew. In politics, the ~~political~~ Republican party, which was the Northern political party, held the presidency for many years between 1865 - 1900. Only 1 Democratic president got elected in that time span. The North passed many governmental policies that helped its economy - such as the McKinley Tariff - which was relatively high since the North was pro tariff because of its manufacturing economy. The Northern economy continued to prosper from the tariff and because of the wave of immigration in the 1890s that provided employers at the factories, employees that would work for low wages.

Basically, the effect the Civil War had on the North and the South's ~~economies~~ and ~~politics~~ was completely opposite. The South had to rebuild both from destruction and the North continued to dominate to make the Republicans powerful and manufacturing the prime economy. While discrediting Democrats and ~~compa~~ devaluing ~~of~~ a completely agricultural economy.

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The Civil War had a tremendous impact on the United States of America. The disunion between North and South resulted in a stronger federal government ~~and~~ which then bound the states to the Union. In both the North and the West the Civil war had large effects on the political and ~~and~~ economic ~~systems~~ developments for an long period of time.

In the North, the war-funded economy grew tremendously while the federal government grew powerful. The economy of the Union during the war was booming ~~and~~ due to large government purchases of military goods. It is after the war that millionaires first appear in a large number. Many are proclaimed "shoddy millionaires" because of the horrendous condition of the goods they sold at high prices to obtain their ill-begotten wealth. This corruption in business also affected the political scene of the time. The Whiskey Ring scandal was just one example of the links between big business and federal corruption. President Grant's administration was littered with dishonest men who ~~would~~ brought scandal into the White House. The political minds of the time also devised a tactic to win the votes of patriotic Americans. Presidential nominees in the "Gilded Age", as Mark Twain satirically ~~was~~ named it, would wave the bloody

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flag in the North to ~~get~~ garner the votes of those who fought for the Union. This policy was endorsed by spendings of Civil War pensions by congress. The largest pensions were handed out by the Congress of 1890, the first ~~of~~ Congress to appropriate one billion dollars in a single year.

The amazing ~~of~~ growth of the Northern economy during the war and the increasing power of political machines inspired many to move to the frontier states to the West.

The post-Civil War period was a time of rapid expansion in the Western United States. The Homestead Act was passed by a Republican Congress ~~while~~ ^{after} the Southern states had seceded. The pro-western development movement had been stopped by the Southern legislators in Congress because they feared it would upset the critical balance of power between slave and free states. While the Southern legislators were out of congress the Republicans also passed a bill in favor of ~~the~~ building a transcontinental railway. The political scene in the West was one of rapid expansion including the Morell Act which resulted in the creation of many institutes of higher learning in the newly settled areas. ~~Also~~ Economically, the West was dominated by an agrarian lifestyle in the

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post-Civil War period. The Homestead act encouraged farming and the invention of barbed wire served to keep the cowboys from heading through newly acquired territory. The Western cowboy based his life around herding large amounts of cattle long distances from farms to newly constructed railway depots. Chicago became a mid-Western ~~the~~ metropolis as it ~~was~~ became the slaughter-house for Western meat products. The expansion of the railways and increased farming in the West resulted in the Census Bureau declaring that the West was no longer a frontier in 1890. The ~~post~~-Civil War economy and politics had settled the West.

The Civil War ~~was~~ dramatic effects on the nation were seen in both the North and the West by large increases in population and political power. The federal government of the North was powerful enough to force the seceding Confederacy to rejoin the Union and to settle the Western territories. Economically the Civil War boosted production and resulted in the complete change of the West from a cowboy ~~the~~ culture to complete agrarian domination. The post-Civil War era resulted in a larger, and stronger America.

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The Civil War had widespread ramifications on the entire nation ~~and forever~~. It forever changed the existence of the Union from a confederation of states to a single nation. The war particularly affected the North and South both politically and economically. From 1865 to 1900, the North would be strengthened while the South would commence in a long reconstruction, which ended in 1876, but still left the South catching up for decades.

The war forced increased industrial output from the North and after the war the Northern economy flourished. With the end of the war the North could concentrate on business. This period became known as the "gilded age" named after a book by Mark Twain characterizing the period. The North no longer concerned themselves with black rights ~~as before~~ but concentrated on making money. The railroad industry took off along side the steel industry. The North held the industry giants Rockefeller, Carnegie, Morgan, Vanderbilt, etc. that were amassing fortunes never before equalled. During this period laissez-faire economy was at its height and the Northern business men fully exploited their workers. Despite bad working conditions and low wages, the government did little to interfere in Northern business and generally supported industry against labor unions as evident in the railroad struggle. During this period, the "captains of industry" or more negatively characterized Robber Barons, controlled the nation more so than any president and had such great influence on the national economy that they managed to throw the nation into a panic on one occasion. ~~The~~ The economy was also characterized by a periodic struggle between gold and silver, which was ~~the~~ temporarily devoid of monetary value. Gold and silver specie would both be major

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issue in elections of the time and ~~was~~ were a good example of the ever increasing role of economy in national politics.

The north financed the campaigns of most presidential presidents of the time while the west provided the candidates. During this time, the northern party of Republicans ruled the presidency on all occasions with the exception of Cleveland's two terms in office. Many of the northern politicians had corrupt administrations, most notably Grant who had the Credit Mobilier scandal and delayed the increase of government salaries. While Grant was not directly responsible in any case, his administration showed the lax hold of the government that allowed money to be made legally and illegally throughout the country. Another example of corruption in the north was evident by the Boss Tweed ring that was eventually brought down by a Thomas Nast cartoon. His political machine single handedly controlled all of the elections in the ~~city~~ New York. He was once noted for saying "there is power in counting" exemplifying his ability to modify voting results to better suit his purposes. The politicians of the Northern Republican party were for the most part great presidents and were favored industry wherever possible. The loose government control led to the incredible wealth shared by few and the poverty shared by the masses of the north. ~~So the most part~~ This period is also characterized by conspicuous consumption or the excessive expenditure of money by the wealthy. ~~Due to~~ Because of dissatisfaction, the populist party, and then the more successful ~~populist~~ progressive party sprung up. The latter would support some strong presidential candidates, like William Jennings Bryan, but none were ever elected. However, many of their ideas would be absorbed by the Republican and Democratic parties.

In the south, the situation was very different. The end of slavery

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also marked the end of cotton ~~boom~~ and the rise of corn (in accordance with the plague of the holerael). Despite the end of the plantation system, southern wealth never really changed hands. Most of the wealth remained wealthy, while the majority of whites and virtually all blacks became tenant farmers or share croppers. The south in general remained poor during reconstruction and suffered from a lack of industry. However, the South was rapidly industrializing with some Northern aid. The south had to develop an economy not totally based on agriculture. Some efforts were made to redistribute southern wealth to blacks but most attempts failed and thus all social ^{and economic} distinctions remained the same.

Politically, the south was overrun by carpetbaggers and scalawags, or ~~northern republicans and southern republicans~~ (in general) members of the north and south, respectively, who wanted to take advantage of the weak south. The vote was extended to blacks allowing for ~~the~~ republican to hold many positions in the south as well. Despite widespread resistance to black voting rights and the republican offices, the army occupation of the south kept ~~some~~ southern resistance held at bay. However, secret organizations like the KKK and lous like the grandfather clause deterred blacks from voting in ~~an~~ attempt to regain control over office. In South Carolina, a black man held a position in office signifying the changing of times.

Nevertheless, the election of 1876 caused for a trade of presidencies in which the Democrats had seemingly won for the end of reconstruction. With the end of reconstruction republican governments in the south fell and many blacks had a much harder time voting. In general, during this time, southern politics was more local and had very little influence on the nation's presidency or government in general. With the end of reconstruction,

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the North and South were once again able to engage in trade as the southern economy improved and democrats regained power in local southern governments.

The period between 1865 and 1900 in a way saw very little change while beginning a subtle new Era. While the country had been tremendously rich and poor economical gaps were still very wide and each region returned to their respective political parties. However, this period would open the future to a series of labor reforms, the break up of the large monopolies that had been built up, and a renewed rise of the democratic party. While the nation remained somewhat disunited during this period, it soon gave way to a new unity supported by imperialistic nationalism and a unified world war I front. The period of 1865 to 1900 was a reconstruction for the North and the South and began a slow reconciliation.