

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

1. Analyze the extent to which the Civil War and its aftermath transformed American political and social relationships between the years 1860 and 1880.

Directions: This question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

In your response you should do the following.

- *State a relevant thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.*
- *Support the thesis or a relevant argument with evidence from all, or all but one, of the documents.*
- *Incorporate analysis of all, or all but one, of the documents into your argument.*
- *Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.*
- *Support your argument with analysis of historical examples outside the documents.*
- *Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.*
- *Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay.*

Document 1

Source: Abraham Lincoln, Letter to Horace Greeley, August 22, 1862

As to the policy I “seem to be pursuing” as you say, I have not meant to leave any one in doubt.

I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be “the Union as it was.” If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause....

I have here stated my purpose according to my view of official duty; and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men every where could be free.

Document 2

Source: Thaddeus Stevens, speech delivered in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, September 7, 1865

We especially insist that the property of the chief rebels should be seized and appropriated to the payment of the national debt....Give, if you please, forty acres to each adult male freeman....

The whole fabric of southern society must be changed and never can it be done if this opportunity is lost....How can republican institutions, free schools, free churches, free social intercourse exist in a mingled community of nabobs and serfs? If the South is ever made a safe republic let her lands be cultivated by the toil of...free labor....

No people will ever be republican in spirit and practice where few own immense manors and the masses are landless. Small and independent landholders are the support and guardians of public liberty.

Document 3

Source: Reverend James Sinclair, testimony before a Congressional Joint Committee, 1866

Question: What is generally the state of feeling among the white people of North Carolina towards the government of the United States?

Answer: That is a difficult question to answer, but...In my opinion, there is generally among white people not much love for the government....

Question: How do they feel towards the mass of the northern people—that is, the people of what were formerly known as the free States?

Answer: They feel in this way: that they have been ruined by them....

Question: How do they feel in regard to what is called the right of secession?

Answer: They think that it was right...that there was no wrong in it....

Question: Is the Freedmen's Bureau acceptable to the great mass of white people in North Carolina?

Answer: No, sir; I do not think it is; I think most whites wish the bureau to be taken away....They think that they can manage the negro better for themselves: that they understand him better than northern men do.

Document 4

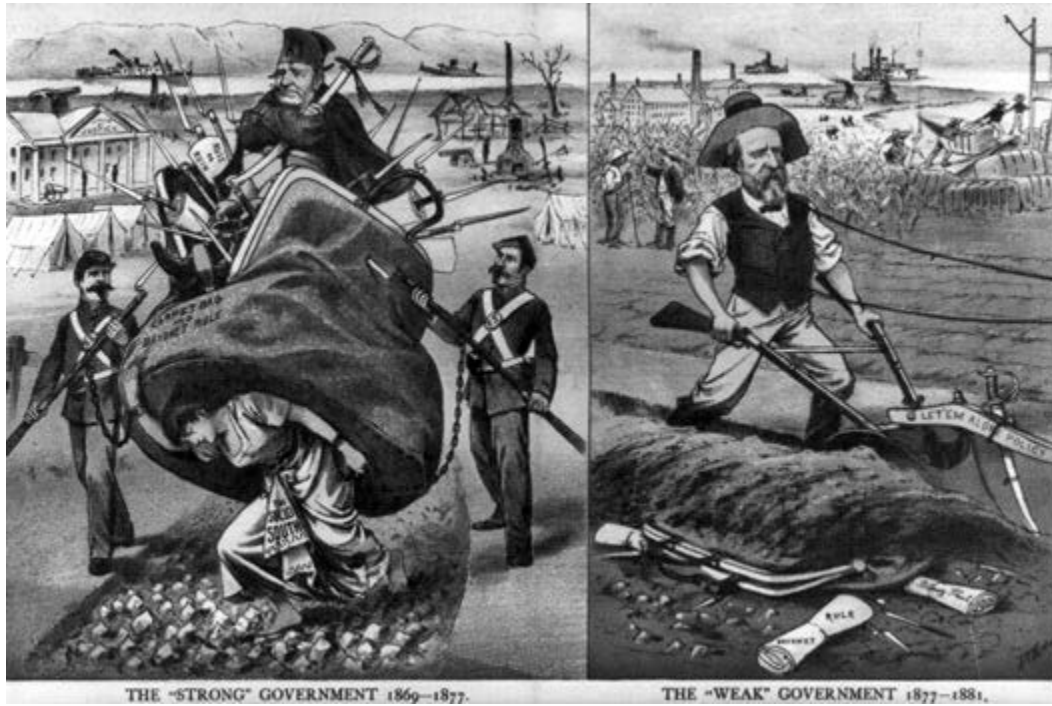
Source: Susan B. Anthony, statement in court, June 1873

Susan B. Anthony's response to Judge Hunt at her June 1873 trial,

All of my prosecutors...not one is my peer, but each and all are my political sovereigns;...[I have been tried] by forms of law all made by men, interpreted by men, administered by men, in favor of men, and against women;...But [only] yesterday, the same man-made forms of law, declared it a crime...for you or me, or any of us, to give a cup of cold water, a crust of bread, or a night's shelter to a panting fugitive as he was tracking his way to Canada. And every man or woman in whose veins coursed a drop of human sympathy violated that wicked law, reckless of consequences, and was justified in so doing. As then, the slaves who got their freedom must take it over, or under, or through unjust forms of law, precisely so, now, must women, to get their right to a voice in this government, take it; and I have taken mine [by voting], and mean to take it at every possible opportunity.

Document 5

Source: *Puck Magazine*, May 12, 1880



Document 6

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

From *Major Problems in the Civil War and Reconstruction*, ed. Michael Perman, (D.C. Heath), p. 569. Copyright © Cengage Learning. Reproduced by permission.

Year	Federal Expenditures for Rivers & Harbors (Thousands of Dollars)	Land Grants for Railroads (In Thousands of Acres)
1860	228	—
1861	172	—
1862	34	—
1863	65	30,877
1864	102	2,349
1865	305	41,452
1866	295	—
1867	1,217	23,535
1868	3,457	—
1869	3,545	—
1870	3,528	129
1871	4,421	3,253
1872	4,962	—
1873	6,312	
1874	5,704	
1875	6,434	
1876	5,736	
1877	4,655	
1878	3,791	
1879	8,267	
1880	8,080	

Document 7

Source: Frederick Douglass, Autobiography, *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, 1882

Nothing was to have been expected other than what has happened, and he is a poor student of the human heart who does not see that the old master class would naturally employ every power and means in their reach to make the great measure of emancipation unsuccessful and utterly odious. It was born in the tempest of war, and has lived in a storm of violence and blood....

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, the colored people have no reason to despair. We still live, and while there is life there is hope. The fact that we have endured wrongs and hardships which would have destroyed any other race, and have increased in numbers and public consideration, ought to strengthen our faith in ourselves and our future. Let us then, wherever we are, whether at the North or at the South, resolutely struggle on in the belief that there is a better day coming, and that we, by patience, industry, uprightness, and economy may hasten that better day. I will not listen, myself, and I would not have you listen to the nonsense, that no people can succeed in life among a people by whom they have been despised and oppressed.