

Upper 5 study the economic impact of the American Civil War

Thursday 3rd October 2024
~ the social and economic impact of the civil war ~

| Economic impact on North | Economic impact on South |
|--|---|
| By the end of the war Northern industries ready for rapid growth. ✓ | economic disaster in the south |
| Northern shoe industry lost a big part of its market which was in the south. ✓ | the war destroyed the rail road systems |
| Confederate army was short of boots for its men. ✗ | cotton growing was disrupted production fell from 4 million bales in 1861 to 300,000 bales in 1865. |
| Industries related to the war: manufacture of arms thrived ✓ | food shortages became a major problem in the South towards the end of the war. As manpower shortages ↑ |
| Wealthy manufacturers and traders tended to profit most. ✓ | Trade cut off with Britain through the <u>naval blockade</u> by the Union. |
| Women and boys replaced men in the workplace and were happy to accept lower wages - 1864 protest for higher wages. ✗ | suffered from terrible inflation Printed more money than gold led to hyper inflation and the more money the government printed the worse it became. |
| Ordinary workers found their wages lagging behind prices as wartime and inflation pushed them up. ✗ | |
| | all negatives ✗ ✗ ✗ |

✗ = negative
✓ = positive



Upper 5 have continued their study of American history between the years 1840 and 1890 by looking into the economic impact of the American Civil War of 1861-65. By categorising the various effects of the war according to whether they impacted the Union or Confederate States, pupils could then assess whether these had positive or negative consequences for the two sides. Subsequently, Upper 5 were able to determine that whilst the war caused some problems for the Union, it also had positive long-term effects. On the other hand, the Confederate States suffered greatly and their economy was effectively devastated by the war.

In their upcoming exam, Upper 5 will be expected to be able to compare and contrast the effects of certain historical events or environments on different groups or across different time periods. Their recent work on the economic effects of the Civil War should therefore help them to respond to this type of exam question.

Dr James Taylor