

# Some background to the Civil War

- I. Civil War, Industrialization, and Immigration were occurring at the same time
  - A. **Industrialization** (building factories to make manufactured goods) started in the United States in the late 1700s
    1. North - rivers for power, trade based economy
    2. most early factories were **textile** mills (related to cloth)
  - B. Immigration increased dramatically in 1840
    1. Irish and German immigrants came looking to farm (linked to westward expansion)
    2. Many ended up staying in cities to work in factories and mills
- II. Economic differences between North and South lead to tension over slavery
  - A. South has plantation economy – workforce = enslaved African-Americans
  - B. North has manufacturing economy – workforce = women, children, immigrants
    1. BOTH getting rich on cotton – called “King Cotton”
    2. South producing, North manufacturing
  - C. Westward expansion brought slavery to the forefront; would these new territories/states follow Southern ways and be “slave” or follow Northern ways and be “free”?
- III. Some specific factors to consider
  - A. The Constitution outlawed the importation of enslaved people in 1808, 20 years after the signing of the constitution
    1. the institution of slavery remained
    2. **domestic** (inside the country) slave trade continued
    3. framers thought slavery would die out; already outlawed in much of Europe

- B. Eli Whitney invents the **cotton gin** – patented in 1784, validated in 1807
  - 1. separates the cotton seeds from the fibers; most labor intensive task
  - 2. made more enslaved people available to pick cotton
  - 3. plantation owners were practically unlimited in the amount of cotton they could produce
- C. Remember your supply and demand
  - 1. End of America's involvement in the international slave trade limits supply of enslaved people
  - 2. Cotton gin increases demand for enslaved labor
  - 3. Price/value of enslaved people goes through the roof!

**Bolded words** are vocabulary (with the definition in parentheses)

This information is also shown in the charts and graphs presented in class and posted on the weebly.