

Part A:

This historical investigation appraises the central question to what extent were the Union and the Confederacy affected by the signing, after the Battle of Appomattox Court House, at the Appomattox Court House before, on, and after April 9, 1865. This specific subject captivated me because of the two different, but very much alike, ways of life that the United States has ever experienced. Due to last minute, or in this case last day, attempts to declare a definite victor, I will be evaluating some last minute attacks from both sides leading up to Robert E. Lee's surrender as well as tensions that may have been fabricated after the surrender and possible tensions during the treaty signing. Two articles about the event itself are used as sources to investigate the different views of the forces, of one nation that have been at war for four years, in relation to their value and limitations with reference to their origin, purpose, and content from the articles themselves.

OPCVL of Source 1

This is a letter that was written by Lieutenant-General Ulysses S. Grant on April 7, 1865 to Confederate General Robert E. Lee. In this particular letter, LT Grant is telling Gen. Lee that he does not want to be responsible for any more wasted American blood; hence he asks for the

surrender of the C.S Army known as the Army of Northern Virginia. This letter shows that LT. Grant did not want to shed blood if he was not forced to. This is seen when instead of asking Gen. Lee for one last fight, he asks for the surrender of most of his biggest army in an attempt to bring peace. Through the perspective of the Union, they saw a surrender being the logical choice of action; however, the Confederacy perceived it as the Union enfeebling them numbers for one last melee, the end all be of one side of the motherland.

OPCVL of Source 2

This is a letter that was written by Gen. Lee to LT. Grant as a response to the letter used in the first OPCVL. In this letter, Lee begins by acknowledging to Grant that he received his note and that he too does not want war; therefore he says “I reciprocate your desire to avoid useless bloodshed. Gen. Lee, before accepting Grant’s offer for a Confederate surrender, asks Grant what the terms of the surrender would be. This shows that both sides, despite being at war for four years, wanted peace and to end the fighting once and for all. Through the perspective of the Confederacy, they saw the surrender as bittersweet, not too good now but later on could possibly improve conditions between the Confederacy and the Union.

Part B:

In the spring of 1861, decades of simmering tensions between the northern and southern United States over issues including states' rights versus federal authority, westward expansion and slavery exploded into the American Civil War (1861-65)¹. The race of the abolitionist subjugation Republican Abraham Lincoln as president in 1860 brought about seven southern states to withdraw from the Union to frame the Confederate States of America; four more went along with them after the main shots of the Civil War were discharged. Four years of merciless clash were set apart by noteworthy fights at Bull Run (Manassas), Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Vicksburg, among others. "The War Between the States", as the Civil War was additionally known, set neighbor against neighbor and now and again, sibling against sibling. When it finished in Confederate surrender in 1865, the Civil War turned out to be the costliest war ever battled on American soil, with somewhere in the range of 620,000 of 2.4 million warriors slaughtered, millions more harmed and the populace and domain of the South crushed.

1. History.com Staff, "American Civil War History," History.com, 2009, , accessed September 22, 2016, <http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history>.

“The Civil War is the central event in America's historical consciousness.

The Revolution of 1776-1783 created the United States; the Civil War of 1861-1865

determined what kind of nation it would turn out to be. The war resolved two fundamental questions left unresolved by the revolution: whether the United States was to be a dissolvable confederation of sovereign states or an indivisible nation with a sovereign national government; and whether this nation, born of a declaration that all men were created with an equal right to liberty, would continue to exist as the largest slaveholding country in the world”². Northern triumph in the war saved the United States as one country and finished the foundation of subjugation that had isolated the nation from its starting. Be that as it may, these accomplishments came at the expense of 625,000 lives- - about the same number of American officers as kicked the bucket in the various wars in which this nation has battled joined. The American Civil War was the biggest and most dangerous clash in the Western world between the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and the onset of World War I in 1914.

The Civil War began in view of uncompromising contrasts between the free and slave states over the force of the national government to deny subjugation in the regions that had not yet get to be states. At the point when Abraham Lincoln won race in 1860 as the primary Republican president on a stage vowing to keep bondage out of the regions,

2. Mcpherson, James, Dr. "A Brief Overview of the American Civil War." Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed September 23, 2016.

seven slave states in the profound South withdrew and shaped another country, the Confederate States of America. The approaching Lincoln organization and a large portion of the Northern individuals declined to perceive the authenticity of withdrawal.

They expected that it would dishonor vote based system and make a lethal point of reference that would in the end part the no-more United States into a few little, quarreling nations.

The occasion that activated war came at Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay on April 12, 1861. Guaranteeing this United States fortress as their own, the Confederate armed force on that day opened flame on the government army and constrained it to bring down the American banner in surrender. Lincoln got out the civilian army to stifle this "uprising." Four more slave states withdrew and joined the Confederacy. Before the end of 1861 about a million outfitted men went up against each other along a line extending 1200 miles from Virginia to Missouri. A few fights had effectively occurred - close Manassas Junction in Virginia, in the mountains of western Virginia where Union triumphs made ready for making of the new condition of West Virginia, at Wilson's Creek in Missouri, at Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, and at Port Royal in

South Carolina where the Union naval force set up a base for a barricade to stop the Confederacy's entrance to the outside world.

However, the genuine battling started in 1862. Gigantic fights like Shiloh in Tennessee, Gaines' Mill, Second Manassas, and Fredericksburg in Virginia, and Antietam in Maryland foreshadowed significantly greater crusades and fights in resulting years, from Gettysburg in Pennsylvania to Vicksburg on the Mississippi to Chickamauga and Atlanta in Georgia. By 1864 the first Northern objective of a constrained war to reestablish the Union had offered path to another system of "aggregate war" to annihilate the Old South and its essential organization of bondage and to give the reestablished Union "another birth of flexibility," as President Lincoln place it in his location at Gettysburg to devote a burial ground for Union warriors murdered in the fight there.

The signing affected the Confederacy because not only did they surrender, but the very place that they surrendered was the home of Wilmer McLean who was an American wholesale grocer from Virginia. His house near Manassas, Virginia was involved in the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861. After the battle he moved to Appomattox, Virginia in addition to proving to be the alpha and omega of the Civil War. In addition to this, the Appomattox Courthouse was McLean's home; therefore you could say that the South surrendered in the house of one of their own idols³.

3. Klein, Christopher. "How the Civil War Stalked Wilmer McLean." History.com. 2015. Accessed September 24, 2016 <http://www.history.com/news/how-the-civil-war-stalked-wilmer-mclean>.

The signing had a very much more contrasting and even gleeful ramification on the Union States, dissimilar to their enemy whose ground the signing took place on was not sacred to them as it was to the South. They saw the location as sacred as a place to serve as a memory of all their accomplishments, hard work, risks of death, as well as various sacrifices, whether they be made by soldiers on the battlefield, commanders giving the right or wrong orders at the right or wrong time, or their leaders who were "safe" in the back calling the shots from afar, that were made to reach that specific spot in their history.

To sum up the investigation, it is clear that the signing at the Appomattox Court House effected both the Union and Confederate sides of the U.S. Civil War. The Union took the signing as a positive effect to preserve various accomplishments that assisted in getting them to where they had become. The Confederate States, on the other hand, saw the signing as much more of an opposite. They saw the signing as a dishonorable deed towards one of their own, Wilmer McLean. In conclusion, it is made known that the signing affected both sides of the Civil War in different, opposite ways.

Part C:

The process of this investigation has undoubtedly entitled me to use a variety of research methods hence experience some, not all, of the trials that historians face. Intrinsicly, through my use of primary sources, in particular the letters written between Union General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee, I came to recognize the value and difficulty of obtaining unerring historical knowledge. In spite of the fact that primary sources are beneficial to bring us adjoining to our past and that of the world, we must nonetheless entrust on assumptions from them in order to suggest why and how things were at a specific time, signaling into question just how meticulous can be or has the potential to be. This dilemma was made perspicuous to me through the cross-examination the effects of the Signing at Appomattox Courthouse affected both the Union as well as the Confederacy, which most likely contained bias between the two Generals Grant and Lee writing back and forth with each other in the days leading, on, and after the Signing at the Appomattox Courthouse, hence negatively affecting the veracity of the knowledge we know about them.

The point in question I investigated was very enthralling and somewhat thought-provoking because it is a topic that I do not believe has just one definite answer about how each side affected both directly and indirectly. In a way, you could say that is what enables questions about how various sides of war are or were affected by it. In addition to this, I also believe that being a historian is an arduous occupation that requires people not thinking the same way so that questions about war effects opponents can be identified or introduced and hopefully solved with more than one possible answer.