

VISUAL 18.1

WHY DID THE SOUTH SECEDE FROM THE UNION?

Was the South irrational to fight the Civil War? Some people thought so. In *Go Down, Moses* (1942), William Faulkner, a distinguished novelist from Mississippi, put the question in these terms:

Who else would have declared a war against a power with 10 times the area, 100 times the men, and 1,000 times the resources?

VISUAL 18.2

ADVANTAGES OF THE NORTH

At the outset of the Civil War, the North had many material advantages over the South.

- The North had a population of 22 million.
- The South had a population of 9 million, which included 3.5 million slaves.
- The North had 92 percent of the nation's industries.
- The North had 22,000 miles of railroad track. The South had 9,000.
- The North controlled the U.S. Navy and merchant marine.

VISUAL 18.3

ADVANTAGES OF THE SOUTH

While the South had far fewer material advantages, some elements were in its favor.

- The South had a clear war objective — to win independence. The North fought for the somewhat less definite goals of preserving the Union and eliminating slavery.
- The South needed to fight only to defend its territory. The North had to carry out an invasion.
- The South had a strong military tradition. Many U.S. Army and Navy officers had been recruited from the South. Great arsenals and army bases were located in the South.
- The South believed that its cotton trade with Great Britain and France would cause these nations to provide aid to the Confederacy.

VISUAL 18.4

ELIMINATING SLAVERY: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND THEIR PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES

1. Emancipation of the slaves by the owners without compensation.
 - How might this alternative affect slave owners?

2. Emancipation of the slaves, with compensation paid to slave owners by the federal government.
 - How might this alternative affect slave owners?
 - How might this alternative affect taxpayers in the North? In the South?

3. Fighting to eliminate slavery.
 - Did additional compromise on slavery appear to be likely?
 - What might the benefits be of fighting to eliminate slavery?
 - What might the costs be of fighting to eliminate slavery?

VISUAL 18.5

WAS COMPROMISE POSSIBLE?

- The Missouri Compromise of 1820 admitted Missouri and Maine to the Union. Missouri was a slave state and Maine was a free state.
- This dual admission — one slave state and one free state — allowed the nation to preserve the existing balance between slave states and free states.
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 overrode the Missouri Compromise.
- It authorized voters in portions of the Louisiana Purchase to decide whether or not to permit slavery.
- In the case of *Dred Scott v. Sanford* (1857), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Congress could not prohibit slavery in any U.S. territories.