

Slave dbq

Sociology, Human Rights



Julie Giaimo DBQ Going back to 1619, Africans were brought to America and sold to Americans as workers. It wasn't long before slavery became a controversial issue. Over the course of almost two and a half centuries the debate of whether to continue or abolish slavery went on. The supporters and the abolitionist had their arguments on how they viewed slavery, and the government played their part too. Those who supported slavery were for the most part southerners. Senator John C. Calhoun states that slavery is a "positive good".

He says that through slavery, the conditions of the races improved physically, morally, and intellectually and the two races of black and white were brought together. Calhoun also says that the living conditions for the slaves were good and they were taken care of. But in reality, the slaves were living in shacks fearing for their lives and hoping not to get beaten by their slave owner after a long hard day of working in the blistering sun on the plantations (document 2). Another man against the abolition of slavery is Chancellor Harper.

According to Harper, the emancipated slaves would harm the economy of the United States and Europe. This is because he believed that the free laborers would strike against working for higher pays and they wouldn't do their jobs, thus affecting the trade. The slaves did get paid but very low amounts compared to the hard work that they put into their jobs (document 3). Those were some arguments of people who supported slavery and believed that it should be continued. People who didn't believe in slavery are known as abolitionist.