

Name

Period

## Slavery Debated

### Arguments Defending Slavery

(source: Houghton Mifflin)

How would the North argue against each defense of slavery?

1. Even white Southerners who did not own slaves took a pro slavery stand. Since most white Southerners benefited either directly or indirectly from the economy based on King Cotton, they supported slavery. Economic security was one powerful reason for the pro slavery position in the South.

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2. Some white Southerners also supported slavery out of fear. They believed that if slaves were freed and given legal rights, they would take control and white people would lose their property and even be in physical danger.

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3. Many people defended slavery by pointing out that the Bible / God accepted the existence of slavery. These people said that slavery had been accepted worldwide for thousands of years. They also noted that, by introducing Christianity to their slaves, planters had thereby saved their souls.

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4. Defenders of slavery also claimed that Northern industrial workers were little better off than slaves. They were badly paid, worked long hours, and lived in poverty. Some pointed out that slaves got food, clothing, and shelter from their masters while Northern industrial workers often went hungry and cold.

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5. Others who supported slavery claimed that black people were inferior to whites. In 1832, thomas R. Dew, a professor at William and Mary College in Virginia, wrote the first full-length book to defend slavery in the South. Dew argued that slavery was a “positive good”. He looked on black people as children who thrived under the discipline and care of their masters.

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6. James H. Hammond, a South Carolina planter and politician, said that every civilization had a “mud sill” class of laborers. (A mud sill is the lowest level of a building and supports the entire structure. ) Slaves, claimed Hammond, were the ideal mud sill class. Besides, someone had to do the lowest class jobs.

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