

Alternatives to Eliminate Slavery and Avoid Civil War

Several plans to solve the slavery issue were suggested before 1861. Three are listed below. Consider each of these alternatives, and then answer the questions that follow.

Alternative 1: Emancipation of the slaves by the slave holders.

How might this alternative affect the slave holders?

Alternative 2: The Federal government would compensate the slave holders by paying a designated amount to the slave holders who would free their slaves.

How might this alternative affect the slave holders?

How might this alternative affect the taxpayers in the North? In the South?

Alternative 3: Go to war to maintain or to eliminate slavery.

Did compromise on slavery seem likely?

What were the benefits of going to war? The costs?

Explain how the North and the South measured benefits and costs as they considered the alternative of war.