

Period 5 (1844-1877)

Question 1 is based on the excerpts below.

Source: Abraham Lincoln, speech given in 1860

“John Brown’s effort was peculiar. It was not a slave insurrection. It was an attempt by white men to get up a revolt among slaves, in which the slaves refused to participate. In fact, it was so absurd that the slaves, with all their ignorance, saw plainly enough it could not succeed. That affair, in its philosophy, corresponds with the many attempts, related in history, at the assassination of kings and emperors. An enthusiast broods over the oppression of a people till he fancies himself commissioned by Heaven to liberate them. He ventures the attempt, which ends in little else than his own execution.”

Source: Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Remarks At a Meeting for the Relief of the Family of John Brown, at Tremont Temple, Boston,” 1859

“I said John Brown was an idealist. He believed in his ideas to that extent that he existed to put them all into action; he said ‘he did not believe in moral suasion, he believed in pulling the thing through.’ He saw how deceptive the forms are. We fancy, in Massachusetts, that we are free: yet it seems the government is quite unreliable. Great wealth, great population, men of talent in the executive, on the bench – all the forms right, – and yet, life and freedom are not safe. Why? Because the judges rely on the forms, and do not, like John Brown, use their eyes to see the fact behind the forms.”

I. Using the excerpts above, respond to parts a, b, and c.

- a. Briefly explain ONE major historical difference between Lincoln’s and Emerson’s interpretations of the actions of John Brown.
- b. Briefly explain ONE other specific historical event or development that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts that could be used to support Lincoln’s interpretation.
- c. Briefly explain ONE other specific historical event or development that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts that could be used to support Emerson’s interpretation.

----- ●●●●●●●●-----
3. Respond to parts a, b, and c.

- a. Briefly explain ONE of the historical developments that led to the creation of the Compromise of 1850.
- b. Briefly explain ONE of the components of the Compromise of 1850.
- c. Briefly explain ONE outcome of the Compromise of 1850.