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**The Role of Slave Narratives in the Rise of the Abolitionist Movement
during the American Civil War.**

A case study: Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin.

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DEDICATION

First of all, thanks to Allah the most Merciful

To my family

My beloved sisters

To all my friends and relatives and loved ones

Without exceptions

Kais

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to god

And to my parents and siblings and I wish them all best

To my friends and relatives

Thank you all.

Oubayda

Abstract

This dissertation is a thematic research to analyze the deep relationship between literature and history and how do they interrelate each other in any given time. This research tackles the first beginnings of slavery in America and the immediate segregation that they lived. Furthermore, the paper narrates the emergence of the abolitionist movement and development alongside the increasing conflicts between the north and the south and the numerous events that led to the break of the civil war. This war is considered the deadliest war that the US has ever gone through. Eventually the north won and eradicated slavery. The first chapter makes the reader aware of the political and historical atmosphere of that period. In the second chapter we discuss the slave narrative as a literary genre that appeared to expose the horror of slavery through narration from a slave's point of view also to demonstrate the ugly truth behind the institution. We also recited many slave narratives but the one that caught our eye was Uncle Tom's Cabin. This story was composed by Harriet Beecher Stowe who wrote it as a response to the fugitive slave act. This story received a mixed social reaction among people, in the north the novel strengthened the social support of the abolitionist movement. In the south the story shook the social stability, many accused Stowe of favoring the story in favor of the north. Furthermore the south responded with their own anti Tom literature, where they portrayed slavery as a merciful institution. Stowe replied with a key to Uncle Tom's Cabin where she debunked all criticism and accusation. In this research we proceed to analyze the components of the novel from settings to symbols and how they played a huge role in addressing numerous issues. Finally the dissertation analyzes the conveyed messages in Uncle Tom's Cabin from exposing the evil of slavery to women empowerment the duality between the institution of slavery and Christianity.

Résumé

Cette dissertation est une thématique de recherche pour analyser la relation qui relie la littérature et l'histoire pendant cette période. Cette recherche aborde le début de l'esclavage en Amérique et la ségrégation qu'ils ont vécu, par ailleurs, cette investigation traite l'apparition du mouvement d'abolition et le développement mais aussi l'aggravation du conflit entre le nord et le sud et les nombreuses événements qui ont abouti à une guerre civile, cette guerre est considéré comme l'une des plus meurtrières que les USA ont connu, le nord fut vainqueur et à abolit l'esclavage, le premier chapitre permet aux lecteurs d'être conscient de l'atmosphère politique et historique de cette période. Ensuite, le second chapitre traite le récit d'esclave comme un genre littéraire qui est apparu pour exposer les horreurs de l'esclavage du point de vue d'un esclave et aussi démontrer la triste vérité derrière l'institution. On a aussi répertorié plusieurs récits d'esclaves mais le plus marquant est celui de « Uncle Tom's Cabin » écrite par Harriet Beecher Stowe comme réponse aux « the fugitive slave act », cette histoire a reçu diverses réaction sociale, Dans le nord elle a renforcé le support du mouvement d'abolition, par contre dans le sud cette histoire a eu la réaction inverse, les sudistes ont accusé Stowe de soutenir la cause des nordistes.

Par la suite, une rétorsion littéraire a vu le jour dans le sud qui contredit les accusations de Stowe envers l'esclavage, Stowe répond à ses détracteurs en dédiant un passage dans son ouvrage où elle souligne sa neutralité à l'égard du conflit nord/sud, dans ce travail de recherche on a analysé ce roman s'appuyant sur les composants littéraires de l'ouvrage et leurs rôles pour le faire découvrir aux large publics. Pour conclure, le but de la recherche par ce roman est d'exposer aux grands jours l'impacte néfaste de l'esclavage et l'importance d'y mettre fin, et aller à l'encontre des valeurs chrétiennes.

المخلص

هذه الأطروحة عبارة عن بحث موضوعي تحليلي للعلاقة العميقة بين الأدب والتاريخ وارتباطهما عبر التاريخ. يتناول هذا البحث بدايات الأوبسوديون في أمريكا والفصل العنصري الذي عاشوه. إضافة إلى ظهور حركة تحرير العبيد وتطورها في ظل الصراعات المتزايدة بين الشمال والجنوب والأحداث العديدة التي أدت إلى اندلاع الحرب الأهلية. تعتبر هذه الحرب من أكثر الحروب الدموية التي خاضتها الولايات المتحدة على الإطلاق لتختتم هذه المرحلة بانتصار الشمال والقضاء على العبودية في أمريكا. الفصل الأول يتضمن شرحاً للوضع السياسي والتاريخي لتلك الفترة، بينما يحوي الفصل الثاني على شرح للنوع الأدبي السري للعبيد اعتباراً من هوانغ أدبياً يظهر أنه يفضح جوهر العبودية من وجهة نظر العبيد أيضاً لإظهار الحقيقة القبيحة وراء هذه الحركة. كما يذكر العديد من روايات العبيد ولكن التباين هنا كان تكوينا وعموماً.

هذه القصة من تأليف "هيريو تيبشستر" التي كتبت لها كدفعة لثلاثون الذي منع إيواء العبيد الهاربين من الجنوب . تلقت هذه القصة ردوداً اجتماعية متباينة بين الناس، ففي الشمال عززت الرواية الدعم الاجتماعي لحركة تحرير العبيد . وفي الجنوب هزت القصة الاستقرار الاجتماعي، واتهم الكثيرون "ستو" بالترويج لايديولوجية الشمال المعادية للعبودية. كما ردوا عليهم المناقضة لرواية "ستو" ، حيث صوروا العبودية أنها تعيش ورحمة للعبيد في اوساط مجتمعية متحضرة .

ردت "ستو" بكتاب مفتاح كابينة العمتو حيث فضحت كل الانتقادات والاتهامات.

في هذا البحث نتقلنا لتحليل مكونات الرواية من الإعدادات والموزون وكيف لعبوا دوراً كبيراً في معالجة العديد من القضايا.

أخيراً تحليلنا لسائل منقول في كتاب كابينة العمتو من كشف الخلفية الحقيقية للعبودية وترقية مكانة المرأة في المجتمع والتناقض بين الاستعباد والتعاليم المسيحية.

Table of Content

Acknowledgement.....	I
DEDICATION	II
Abstract.....	IV
Table of Content.....	VII
General Introduction.....	1

CHAPTER ONE

The Historical Background of Uncle Tom's Cabin

Introduction.....	4
1.1The birth of Slavery.	4
1.1.1Slavery in Land of Liberty	4
1.1.2The Disease Spreads: The Expansion of Slavery in America.....	5
1.1.3The Middle Passage.....	6
1.1.4Slave Codes.....	6
1.2The Emergence of the Abolishment Movement in America.....	7
1.2.1The Rise of the Abolitionist movement.....	7
1.2.2Development of Abolitionist Movement.....	7
1.2.2.1 Quakers: The Early Abolitionists.....	8
1.2.2.2 The Pennsylvania Abolition Society.....	8
1.2.3Famous Abolitionists.....	9

1.3	Backdrop of the Conflict between the South and the North.....	10
1.3.1	Increasing Disagreement between the South and the North.....	11
1.3.1.1	The Missouri Compromise 1820.....	12
1.3.1.2	Nat Turner Revolt 1831.....	13
1.3.1.3	The Compromise of 1850.....	13
1.3.1.4	The Fugitive Slave Act 1850.....	14
1.3.1.5	The Kansas Nebraska Act 1850.....	14
1.3.1.6	The Trials of Dread Scott	15
1.3.1.7	John Brown Raid 1859.....	15
1.3.1.8	The Presidential Election of 1860.....	16
1.3.1.9	The Secession Crisis.....	16
1.4	The American Civil War.....	16
1.4.1	Major Battles of the Civil War.....	17
1.4.1.1	Siege of Fort Sumpter April 12, 1861, South Carolina.....	18
1.4.1.2	First Bull Run Manassas July 21, 1861, Virginia.....	18
1.4.1.3	Shiloh April 6-7, 1862 Tennessee.....	19
1.4.1.4	The battle of Monitor and Merrimack.....	19
1.4.1.5	Antietam September 17, 1862 Maryland	20
1.4.1.6	Fredericksburg December 13, 1862 Virginia.....	20

1.4.1.7 Vicksburg May 2-July 9, 1863, Mississippi.....20

1.4.1.8 Gettysburg July 1-3, 1863, Pennsylvania.....21

1.4.1.9 Wilderness May 5-7, 1864, Virginia.....21

1.4.1.10 The Second Battle of Cold Harbor May 31-June 12, 1864, Virginia.....21

1.4.1.11 Surrender at Appomattox April 9, 1865, Virginia.....22

1.5 Reconstruction of the Constitution.....21

1.5.1 Amendments.....21

Conclusion.....22

Chapter two

Literary Analysis of the Slave Narrative and Uncle Toms’ Cabin and the Social Reception

Introduction.....23

2 Slave Narrative.....23

2.1 Definition of Slave Narrative.....23

2.2 Development of Slave Narrative.....24

2.3 Major Authors of Slave Narratives.....24

2.3.1 Lydia Maria Child.....24

2.3.2 Frederick Douglass.....25

2.3.3 Harriet Jacobs.....25

2.4 Major Slave Narratives.....26

2.4.1 Twelve Years a Slave (1853).....26

2.4.2 Oroonoko : The Royal Slave (1688).....26

2.4.3 Narrative of William W. Brown, a Fugitive Slave (1847).....26

2.4.4 Narrative of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave (1845).....27

2.5 Background of Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Social Reception towards the Novel.....27

2.5.1 Biography of the Author.27

2.5.2 Inspiration: the Story behind the Story.29

2.5.3 Social Reaction towards Uncle Tom’s Cabin.30

2.5.4 Social Reaction Towards Uncle Tom’s Cabin in the North.....30

2.5.5 The Social Reaction towards Uncle Tom’s Cabin in the South.....30

2.5.6 the Literary Reaction of the South.....31

2.6 Literary analysis of Uncle Tom’s Cabin.....31

2.6.1 Plot overviews of Uncle Tom’s Cabin.....31

2.6.2 Characters analysis on Uncle Tom’s Cabin.35

2.6.2.1 Uncle Tom35

2.6.2.2 George and Eliza.....35

2.6.2.3 Evangeline St. Clare— “Little Eva”.....35

2.6.2.4 Augustine St. Clair.....36

2.6.2.5 Ophelia St. Clare.....36

2.6.2.6 Marie St. Clare.....36

2.6.2.7 Topsy.....37

2.6.2.8 Simon Legree.....37

2.6.2.9 Cassy.....	37
2.6.3Settings of Uncle Toms' Cabin	37
2.6.4Symbols and Imagery in Uncle Tom's Cabin:	38
2.6.4.1Cabin.....	38
2.6.4.2 The Bible.....	39
2.6.4.3The North and the South.....	39
2.6.4.4 River.....	39
2.6.4.5 Eliza's Leap.....	40
2.7Major underlying messages in Uncle Tom's Cabin:.....	41
2.7.1Evil Institution of slavery.....	41
2.7.2The Contradiction between Christianity and Slavery:.....	42
2.7.3The Women Empowerment.	42
Conclusion:	43
General conclusion	44

Introduction

Slavery in America was present from day one , that's why many saw it as the core root of the prosperity most of the British colonies depended on till moving forward in time to a post-civil war in America where slavery was a crucial separation point between anti-slavery north and the pro slavery south , the south saw men as a way to flourish economically while the north persisted on seeing It as a cruel and inhuman treatment ,this paradox established an abolishment movement in order to free the slaves of the south and help them escape the injustice of their owners , this conflict was a decisive point in American history , in addition , it was considered as one of the reasons that erupted the civil war , this animosity has shade light on the literature of that period of time which directly appealed for writers to published literary works that are related to that manner , one of those works was Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe ,this novel came as a reaction to the Fugitive Slave Act which was stated in 1850. The novel described the harsh conditions of slaves in the south and the abolishment efforts to give them a taste of what every human should possess in other words the freedom.

This novel was written in a critical moment of the American history where it had a huge impact on molding the public opinion and sparked the American civil war, after the war Harriet Beecher Stowe met Abraham Lincoln when he greeted her with:

"So, you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this Great War!"

The aim of the presented work is to shine the light on the social and historical effects of the slave narrative in Herriot Beecher Uncle Tom's cabin and its impact in igniting the American civil war.

The goal of conducting this investigation is to inform the readers about the effect of the social and political phenomenon of slavery on Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin and the importance of this novel in supporting the abolitionism movement in America.

This research will also dig through the effects of the surrounding circumstances of the literary works and emphasis on the importance of history on literature.

In this research paper we will be dealing with the following questions:

- 1-what are the historical events that led to the creation of Uncle Tom'sCabin?
- 2-What was the political and social atmosphere that surrounded the issue of the novel?
- 3-what is the perception of both southerners and northerners to the slave narrative in Uncle Tom's cabin?
- 4-did the novel helped in the spread of the abolition movement?
- 5-what are the messages conveyed in Uncle Tom'sCabin?

In this research will use a thematic based approach to illustrate the phenomenon of slavery and abolishment traces in this novel and illustrate a historical approach as well to give an insight the social and political background surrounding Uncle Tom's Cabin. Documents, books, articles, reviews and a critical analysis will be used to elaborate more on the manner of approaching this literary work.

This research will be divided into two chapters:

On the first chapter, we will take a historical over view of slavery in America from the creation of the origins of slaverygoing through the creation of the abolitionist movement and the political tension between the south and the north, all the way to the civil war and reconstruction, just so the reader can understand the circumstances the novel was written in.

In the second chapter we will define the slave narrative and demonstrate his social reception among the southern and northerners. Furthermore, we will analyze the novel of Uncle Tom's Cabin as an independent literary work and give a literary interpretation in which we will explain the importance of imagery in the story and discuss the messages conveyed in the novel.

The significance of the thesis lays in shedding the light on the tight relationship between literature and history and specifically the intertwined connection between the slave narratives as a genre of literature with one of the most crucial historic events in the United States history which is the civil war. The research analyzes the influence of slave narrative on the social and its contribution to the social awakening of Americans.

CHAPTER ONE

The Historical Background of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Introduction:

Regarded as one of the lowest points in the human history, slavery represents any given activity. A slave was forced to do against his will while being commanded by an owner, this unusual episode was present from the early creation of the human race hence, it has corrupted a vast majority of nations, unfortunately, America was considered as the largest slaveholding institution worldwide and this exploitation of African Americans from the beginning of the nation in 1776 until the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment. In 1865 was premeditated as a major turning point in American history due to fact that it engendered a civil war upon the country in addition to a severe change in its interior politics and social visions.

1.1 The birth of Slavery:

Slavery as it is commonly known was considered as a widely spread practice that has been introduced to the world since the early beginnings of civilization starting from the ancient slavery of the Greeks and Romans to the arrival of the modern era in the legislation of the English and American slave trade (Blake 17).

A slave can be regarded as property through the eyes of his owner when he is held by the biblical laws that give all the rights to control a captive of war or an in-depth individual who will pass a given time in servitude in the ancient civilizations.

1.1.1 Slavery in Land of Liberty:

This dark period had all started when the American demand for slaves increased leading to an outstanding leap in the trade between the European continent and the Americas, as a consequence, the European economic status reached high levels and more Africans were imported to the new world (Klein 5).

According to (Buell 9), slavery in America was a direct outcome of three major causes; the first was a significant need for cheap labor in the southern lands, the second, and

the beliefs that were attached to the principle of white supremacy over the remaining ethnicities. Thirdly, the Racism against Africans who were seen as working hands more than human beings (Buell 9).

1.1.2 The Disease Spreads: The Expansion of Slavery in America:

During the 18th century, the widespread beliefs of slavery had unleashed its dominance over what was labeled as the southern part of modern United States of America, the growing number of enslaved Africans represented nearly 700,000 of 3.9 million Americans living in the country. Precisely 15 percent of the entire population, those slaves lived generally in agricultural states to provide working force in the slave owner's lands. In 1790, it has been recorded that 95 percent of slaves lived and worked in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North and South Carolina and present-day Kentucky (Rothman 3).

The expansion of the slavery institution did not affect the American society only, it had a considerable impact on the political atmosphere of the 19th century, this was the source of its inclusion in the American government in addition to reflecting a contradictory point between the northern and southern part of the nation who entered a severe succession of conflicts in the countries congress:

Historians generally agree that the interests of southern slaveholders prevailed

whenever the federal government confronted the problem of slavery expansion in the early American republic. Upper South planters in Congress fought for expansion because it opened up new lands for slaveholders, along with new markets for their regions' "surplus" slaves. Deep South planters threatened disunion whenever slavery was discussed, lessening even further any possibility that Congress might re-strict slavery's expansion. Despite their egg antislavery rhetoric, southern Republicans led by Thomas Jefferson could temporize on restriction because northern Republicans proved unwilling to

challenge their southern colleagues' mania for expansion. New England Federalists were supposedly the only group in the federal government that refused to acquiesce to slavery's expansion. But decimated by declining numbers in Congress, they could do little but pose occasional, ineffective opposition to the rapid acquisition of fresh territory for slaveholders. This status quo lasted until 1819, when "northerners seem to have awakened quite suddenly to a realization" that the expansion of the previous thirty years had created an empire for slavery in the West (Hammond 4).

1.1.3 The Middle Passage:

The infernal journey started with several European ships that were fully loaded with African captives with the objective of sailing across the Atlantic sea towards the Americas, trying to establish a firm slave trade between the British and the colonists of the new world. At the arrival, the newly enslaved Africans were immediately sold to colonial merchants that were in a desperate need for cheap labor in the southern plantations, this situation was not without any outcomes for black people who now are in foreign lands, facing an unknown destiny with the supervision of their white masters, as a consequence, the middle passage rapidly gained a dark reputation that can be defined as the core root to the introduction of slavery to America (O'Malley 30).

1.1.4 Slave Codes:

These codes are defined as an assembly of imposed rules on the African slaves that guaranteed a full submission to their white masters. This set of prohibition was considered as a heavy burden on the oppressed ethnicity that was not allowed to enjoy education nor marriage. It even disallowed simple freedom of movement and gathering under the fears of rebellions (Goodell 24).

1.2 The Emergence of the Abolishment Movement in America:

Upon the end of the revolutionary war, the issue of slavery came to the surface for the first time, some saw it as an economical mean of production while other saw it as an inhumane institution and while under a government that had little to know authority on slaves and slaveholders, this disagreement will launch a new wave of pro freedom abolitionists the sworn to take justice by their hands in order to abolish slavery in the states in any way possible.

1.2.1 The Rise of the Abolitionist Movement:

Although the antislavery wave was active during the American Revolution, the abolitionist movement was not popular until the 1830s. The controversy between a national defense of slavery on American soil on the one hand, and the universal freedoms declared in the Declaration of Independence on the other hand. This created a huge dilemma among the nation and its national culture. Moreover, during the period that preceded the Civil War, the abolitionists extended their popularity and became more effective in their tactics of resistance against slavery. By 1838, more than 1,350 antislavery societies existed with almost 250,000 members, including many women ("American Abolitionists 8").

The young abolitionists who started the movement in 1830's had a wide range of backgrounds and social status, but almost all of them agreed that slavery as the nations' greatest sin, those members ranged from wealthy and powerful political figures like Theodore Dwight Weld and to normal writers and public figures (Davis 252).

1.2.2 Development of Abolitionist Movement:

The abolitionist movement went through a lot of institutions and phases which eventually led to the strengthening of this noble cause.

1.2.2.1 Quakers: The Early Abolitionists:

During the end of the 18th century, the argument rose against the legitimacy of the slave trade in America. There for the abolitionist movement was assembled under one main principal which is to eradicate slavery in the whole of the United States. In this period a political group called the Quakers which launched a wave of protests in order to annihilate slavery or at least un-popularize it among the general public.

At the beginning, the message of the Quakers to end to slavery was overlooked by many. However, with time, the perspective of Americans towards slavery changed. The likes of Free blacks like Episcopal church leader Absalom Jones, the businessman James Forten, and Methodist bishop Richard Allen who worked on freeing their people, as well as some whites who expressed their reservations about “the peculiar institution,” as slavery was frequently referred to give a huge popularity to the Quakers. Furthermore, Slavery continued in the colonies, but public opinion towards this practice became more intolerable (Hillstrom and Hillstrom 16).

It wasn't long till Quaker activists expanded their authority into the general public. Their efforts were well organized. Moreover, the political group gained a wide range of support from intellectuals in politics and laws due to their revolutionary ideas about rationality, values, and noble goals to eradicate slavery (Newman 1).

1.2.2.2 The Pennsylvania Abolition Society:

The Pennsylvania Abolition Society was the world's most famous antislavery group during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Indeed, the PAS activists shaped the antislavery movement for an entire generation of abolitionist for in Europe and North America. The organization was supervised by Benjamin Franklin who was a former slaveholder. This association met a huge support internationally by the likes of French

philosophers and British reformers like Granville Sharp who were associated with the PAS (Newman 1).

The organization was efficient and continuous; its policy was to use all peaceful methods to abolish slavery through enlightenment instead of warfare. The PSA devoted most of its efforts in assisting the Negroes in their quest of gaining their freedom and to improve life of slaves in the north and the escapees. This act of bravery and chivalry should be always remembered about the abolitionists, who were perceived as rebels and chaos makers in the union. (Turner 109).

1.2.3 Famous Abolitionists:

- **Anthony Benezet:**

Anthony Benezet was one of the most popular activist and scholar in the Quakers political party. Situated in Philadelphia, Benezet was an eager activist, publicist, and networking agent who constantly promoted the agenda of his political party. While using media as the main source of spreading his message of reform in the Americas, he issued a numerous pamphlet denounce the slave trade in the world, the colonialslavery, Andthe European imperialism. He also started schools for African Americans to prove that blacks had the same intellectual abilities as whites. He died on 1784 in Philadelphia (American abolitionists 17).

- **David Walker:**

David Walker was a black abolitionist who was born as a free black in Wilmington, North Carolina. Although he was free, Walker witnessed the cruelty of slavery during his childhood in North Carolina. Walker is most famous for his pamphlet David Walker's Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World. Walker denounced the American institution of slavery

as the most abusive system in world history and called on people of African Americans to resist slavery and racism by all costs. The book was notable for refusing to conform to the period's conventions of polite and deferential etiquette, and terrified southern slave owners, who immediately labeled it seditious. A price was placed on Walker's head: \$10,000 if he were brought in alive, \$1,000 if dead (American abolitionists 17).

- **Frederick Douglass:**

As a lecturer, writer, editor and ex-slave, Frederick Douglass (ca. 1818-1895) emerged as the most prominent African American of the nineteenth century to fight for racial justice. Under Garrison's mentorship, Douglass adopted "moral suasion" as an abolitionist strategy. Impatient with this approach, Douglass later broke from Garrison, believing that political activism was the only way to achieve freedom. Although vehement in his rhetoric, Douglas refused to use violence. Indeed, he refused to defend or take part in John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry. Douglass wrote three autobiographies, edited four newspapers, lectured nationally and internationally, and recruited black soldiers for the Civil War. He advised and pressured Lincoln to make slavery the single most important issue of the Civil War and remained committed to integration and civil rights for all Americans throughout his life (American abolitionists 17).

1.3 Backdrop of the Conflict between the South and the North:

Being a part of the same nation had never rejected the fact that the US north and south were very different, those repetitive disagreements often led clashes mainly linked with the institution of slavery that represented an essential economic pillar to the southern state. In contrast, the north relied mainly on industry and manufacturing rather than agricultural features including slave labor (Calore 10).

The southern states were mainly known for being agricultural territories. This part of the United States hosted approximately ten million individuals mostly living in plantations and farms during the 19th century. Tobacco and rice were some of the major sources of income in these rich lands. Later on, the cotton industry appeared with the invention of the cotton gin in 1793, a product that would rapidly become king of the southern economy. Considered as a labor-intensive product that inevitably required a slave working force, the cotton was considered as the best justification to the intensive need of expanding slavery within the southern farms due to the effectiveness of the slave institutions on the southern economy .

The American north was very different from its southern neighbors, this can be highlighted in the multitude of underlying opposition in their perspectives of life, the northern states were against the institution of slavery and relied mainly on free labor to develop their economy, this state's focused on enlarging the revolutionary railroads to create a relationship between the northeast and northwest which would produce a highly effective manufacturing power that would flourish through the transportation of raw materials in addition to passengers and other goods like cotton and pig iron (Mountjoy 17).

1.3.1 Increasing Disagreement between the South and the North:

The disagreement on the faith of slavery in the new acquired territories westward have resulted in a significant oscillation in events between the two parts that ranged from a peaceful political negotiation to a full out rebellions and guerilla warfare which rose to the extent of a full out civil war.

1.3.1.1 The Missouri Compromise 1820:

The admission of Missouri as a slave state without restrictions made a mass controversy among the south vs. the north when it came to the political scene, this admission had a future plan to exclude slavery from all the land acquired through the Louisiana purchase while the

south planned to expand it, this paved the road to the most heated and prolonged debate in the American congress history (Woodburn 251).

The need of a compromise led the senate to issue to bills to solve the imbalance of power in the union, the first bill stated that Maine should be admitted in the union with its pre made constitution and as an anti-slavery state, the second bill granted the permission to Missouri to the right to issue its on constitution and furthered the policy of abolishing slavery in the western land acquired by the Louisiana purchase (Heironimus 13).

However, this compensation was disrupted and ended ears of planning and negotiations, this violation made the civil war unavoidable, the Missouri compromise as the beginning of the end of the union and asserted the necessity to rewrite the principles of the union (Forbes 275).

1.3.1.2 Nat Turner Revolt 1831:

On August 1831, a black preacher and a slave named Nat turner launched a vicious attack on white people, these attacks targeted slave owners but it got out of hand and caused more than sixty casualties. Men, women and children this killing spree terrified southerners all the way from Virginia and North Carolina To the rest of the slaveholding states, the leader of this rebellion who claimed that god sent him to free all slaves from their white owners (Morris 29).

Many historians agued the significance of Nat Turner's rebellion in changing the social atmosphere in the south, at this period white people formed a sense of paranoia towards the blacks, which made them, use different methods to eliminate the reemergence of such revolts. Some methods included mass deportation, executions and lynching. Furthermore, the legislative court of Virginia issued a bunch of slave codes in an attempt to repress any further escalations. This indicates the direct influence of this rebellion on the social life and its importance in the American slave history (Schafer 361).

1.3.1.3 The Compromise of 1850:

After the Mexican–American war, the debate one again rose about the spread of slavery in these new acquired lands, so in order to ease the tension and preserve the peace within the union , the compromise of 1850 was issued; it stated that California must be admitted in the union as a free state while Utah and New Mexico should have a public both to either allow slavery in their state or go the other a and abolish it; nevertheless, this compromise imposed the fugitive slave act, eventually this compromise didn't solve the issue of the slavery expansion in these new lands. ("The Compromise of 1850").

1.3.1.4 The Fugitive Slave Act 1850:

The passing of the fugitive slave act in 1850 had a huge impact on the social life of a post-civilwar American society. This law stated that the north is obliged to give assistance to the slave catchers and to grant them jurisdiction and provide protect for them; however, the fugitive slave act came as a counterpart to the northerner's legislations that protect the runaway slaves. This legislation stroke fear among African Americans to flee from the south, while the northerners promised to defend them even if it meant the breeching of the United States law (Brown 669).

As a reaction to the Fugitive Slave Act, Harriet Beecher Stowe composed Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1852. The novel was taken from her perception of servitude in Kentucky and her experience and contact with criminal slaves during her eighteen years home in Cincinnati. (MacPherson 89). The novel which portrays the abominations of slave life increased a colossal fame in the North, while it animated a serious disdain in the South (Sage 326).

1.3.1.5 The Kansas Nebraska Act 1850:

The Kansas Nebraska act was one of the most controversial bills ever released by the American congress, it did not only put the future of slavery in the spotlight once again but it also changed the American party system (Wolff 293). The Kansas Nebraska Act set by

Stephan Douglas was considered as the next solution for the slavery extension in the western lands after the demise of compromise of 1820. This bill neglected the previous legislation of abolishing slavery in the territories acquired from the Louisiana Purchase that were divided into Kansas and Nebraska. Furthermore, this bill suggested the idea of popular sovereignty which gave the right to each state to determine the existence of slavery in their territory was a well predicted result the south and north disputed over this bill; the north saw it as a violation to the compromise of 1820 and a potential spread of slavery in the western territories due to that the Whig party issued the appeal of the independent of demarcate which criticized the Nebraska bill and stated that this legislation could cause a disruption in the union. Furthermore, the north used its entire means to protest against the passing of this bill (Wolff 71).

1.3.1.6 The Trials of Dread Scott

The story begins with a slave named Scott Dread who was transferred to a new slave master after the death of his previous owner. Dread was taken to a free state and where he got abused by his master. On the light of this incident, Scott tried to ask the police to arrest his owner for assault on the basis that is he now a free slave since he was transported to a free territory. However, the court denied his appeal due to the fact that he is still a slave and doesn't have the rights as a common citizen to sue. Furthermore, the court went to an extent here is considered the compromise of as unconstitutional; this incident demonstrated the hardships of the presence of two ideologies within one union (Sage 331.330).

1.3.1.7 John Brown Raid 1859:

In 1859, a white American abolitionist and a former military general named John Brown lunched a raid on the federal arsenal of Virginia, he and his handful of men planed on starting a huge slave rebellion in order to abolish slavery once and for all. However, this blockade was intercepted and it ended up with the surrender of the rebels. In his trial, John

pledged not guilty and stated that his actions were biblical and claimed that god sent him to free the unfortunate. On December second 1859, John was convicted with treason and got hanged in front of a crowd; this incident pushed the division between the south and the north even deeper, southerners saw this as an attempt from the north to dismantle the industry of slavery in their lands, while northerners realized that there will be no co existing with the pro slavery entity anymore this dispute made things more hostile between the two parties on the eve of the presidential election (Sage 333, 334).

1.3.1.8 The Presidential Election of 1860:

The political race occurred in the midst of the battle between the South and the North. It was between the Republicans selected Abraham Lincoln who emphatically restricts the augmentation of bondage, and Stephan Douglas; the pioneer of the Democratic Party. In any case, expecting that Douglas would not be a solid advocator of the augmentation of subjection, southern states set forward a contender for their own to contradict Lincoln. The Democratic Party split: Northern democrats designated Douglas while southern democrats named JohnC. Breckinridge.

1.3.1.9 The Secession Crisis:

Forthwith the presidential elections of November 1860 and the victory of the republican leader Abraham Lincoln, several problems started to rise at the surface of the United States but the main issue was the withdraw of South Carolina from the Union after calling for a state convention in addition to dragging a multitude of states to follow from which we can count Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Taxes to form what will be referred to as the confederate states of America (Denton 28).

The tension between the union and the confederate state continued to grow rapidly due to the political differences between the two parties, for months the union troops were in control of the fort of Sumter which was considered as a part of the confederate south

Carolina, that was the essential cause behind the birth of the first battle of the Civil war, captain Abner Doubleday was the Union officer inside the fort who wrote " after sailing high in the air, came down and buried themselves in the ground, their explosion shook the fort like an earthquake (Burgan06)".

1.4 The American Civil War:

The civil war was largely considered as the second major significant event of the American history. After the great Revolution of 1776-1783 and the separation from Britain which led to the birth of a new nation, the civil war of 1861-1865 witnessed a rising disagreement over the subject of political ideologies divided between the republican's anti-slavery north and the democratic slavery south (Mcpherson).

Across the time, several and different types of conflicts appeared between the two American sections, starting from the early beginning when the original thirteen colonies were founded, each for different purposes be it religion, economical or even on a hope to change the world, after the great revolutionary war of 1776, the disagreements grew and forced the north and the south to fall apart due to their different perspectives when it comes to life style and political ideals but the main cause of the conflict which would rage a 4 years civil war from 1861-1865 was determined as a form of great debate over the institution of slavery and its significance for both the anti-slavery north and the pro slavery south.

This inevitable conflict started in 1861 and opposed 23 northern union states to a minor number of 11 states in the American south, a much greater number of states which would signify a large difference in the population between the two forces, the northern states counted approximately 21 million individual whereas an inferior southern territory has a 9 million population (of whom about 3-5 million were slaves) furthermore, the union dominance is not only spotted in the population. This party of the country had the control over 70 percent of the railroads in addition to 100.000 manufacturing plant against 18.000 south of

the Potomac River, an obvious economic and military advantage with thirty to one superiority in the arm production and the two-on-one manpower in the direct confrontations (Mountjoy 14).

1.4.1 Major Battles of the Civil War:

The civil war is considered by many as the deadliest and most expensive conflict to ever occur on the United States. This war witnessed many battles and direct conflicts that left a deep cut in the bodies of the soldiers, but a deeper cut in the American history.

1.4.1.1 Siege of Fort Sumpter April 12, 1861, South Carolina:

After the secession of seven southern states from what was referred to as the union, a high tension has been introduced to the political atmosphere of the country, the southern states claimed the total control on the US arsenal and forts present within their lands as a final sign of military independence from their neighbors, by the begging of the 1861, the Confederate demands turned into a siege of their propriety beginning with Fort Sumpter that remained under the control of the Union represented by major Underson, the demands of evacuation rapidly turned into a massive attack after the last warning launched by the confederates who fired the first shots of the civil war at 4:00 am on April 12.1861, this interaction caused the death of one confederate soldier in addition to four union troops before surrendering the fort after a day of resistance (J.Wallenfeldt.102).

1.4.1.2 First Bull Run Manassas July 21, 1861, Virginia:

This battle took place in a small piece of land called Bull Run, near Manassas Northern Virginia, General Irvin McDowell led the Union Army towards Richmond Virginia nevertheless, the confederate troops under the command of P. G. T. Beauregard managed to block the march when the raiders reached the valley of Bull Run, the fight raged between the two forces and carried on endlessly before a Southern withdraw caused by the lack of casualties, unfortunately for the Federal army, reinforcement of 10.000 additional southern

soldiers with General Joseph E. Johnston arrived at the front and provided an extra force in the balance leading McDowell to retrieve towards Washington after an estimated defeat of about 3000 casualties whereas the southern troops combined force registered between 1.700 to 2000 wounded or lost soldiers (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 103) .

1.4.1.3 Shiloh April 6-7, 1862 Tennessee:

Also called the battle of Pittsburg Landing, this confrontation occurred on the 6-7 of April 1862 after the triumph of General Ulysses S. Grant on the confederate army by taking over two major forts named fort Henry (Tennessee river) in addition to fort Donelson (Cumberland) from the enemy, the General's successful tactics led him to aim for further conquests, by planning an attack on Charleston railroads, unfortunately his troops got attacked by an unexpected raid from the confederate troops under the command of both generals A. S. Johnston and P. G. T. Beauregard while camping near Pittsburg Landing Tennessee, the battle went back and forth for 2 days ending when the Union soldiers regained the control of their camp after the retrieve of the confederate troops, several casualties counting 10.000 men were lost from both sides leading to a recovery period of three weeks without engaging any battles from the two sides (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 109) .

1.4.1.4 The battle of Monitor and Merrimack:

Commonly known as the battle of the Ironclads, is was the first naval confrontation between the Union and the Confederate enemies at sea, occurring near Hampton Sewell's Point where both sides introduced powerful steam driven ships named Monitor for the Union commanded by Lieutenant John Worden against the Confederate Merrimack Virginia vessel under the command of Commodores Franklin Buchanan, the battle raged and the Virginia destroyed several wooden Union ships but was damaged by the Monitor after a long clash between the vessels (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 106) .

1.4.1.5 Antietam September 17, 1862 Maryland:

Also called the battle of Sharpsburg, the confederate army gained confidence after their success in the second battle of Bull Run and decided to peruse their conquest by targeting the Capital Washington D. C. under the command of General Robert E. Lee, the troops marched towards Maryland before getting intercepted by the Federal army of General George B. McClellan's forces within the Antietam creek where the fierce battle was fought, the casualties were enormous for both sides, historians counted a total of 13.724 southern soldier against 12.410 northern ones, giving this battle the horrible title of the bloodiest single day combat of the entire civil war (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 112) .

1.4.1.6 Fredericksburg December 13, 1862 Virginia:

The newly appointed Union commander General Ambrose Burnside received orders to organize a raid against the confederate Richmond and decide to cross the Rappahannock River with 120.000 soldier, unfortunately the troops were stopped by an ambush organized by the General Robert E. Lee with about 78.000 Confederate men who took a advantageous high ground position before charging a destructive attack upon the Union men who received a sever defeat with almost 12.500 casualties compared to 5.000 confederate lost only, a catastrophic scenario for Burnside who was obliged to resign from his commander position for being a major cause of the new confidence taken by the Confederate opponents (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 113).

1.4.1.7 Vicksburg May 2-July 9, 1863, Mississippi:

Vicksburg was considered as a major Confederate city located on the eastern side of the large Mississippi river that installed a full dominance of that part of the United States, a relevant excuse for the repetitive Union attempts to take it over through using ironclads or direct attacks from the north by Gen W. Tecumseh producing epic failures until a last clever flank by Grant who decided to march with 40.000 troops towards Bruinsburg located 48 Km

away from Vicksburg before reaching it using naval fleet led by Admiral David D. Porter, the Union managed to secure key provision sources like port Gibson and Grand Gulf which weakened the city to the point of surrendering on July 4 by Gen Pemberton.(Hillstorm and Hillstorm 114).

1.4.1.8 Gettysburg July 1-3, 1863, Pennsylvania:

Fought from July 1-3, this heavy confrontation was considered by many historians as the turning point of the civil war due to the harsh confederate defeat under General E. Lee with 75.000 troops against General G. Meade, after several trials to take control of strategic areas under the Confederate's dominance such as Little Round Top, Cemetery Hill, Devil's Din, the Northerners managed to succeed after devastating battles within this lands, significant casualties were registered for both sides counting 88.000 Northern soldiers against 23.000 Southerners who were ought to retreat from the battle ground weakened by the lack reinforcement (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 116) .

1.4.1.9 Wilderness May 5-7, 1864, Virginia:

Considered as the first Union attempt to capture Richmond, the Confederate capital, under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant leading a total of 115.000 soldier to battle across the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg meeting with the Confederate army of General E. Lee with a number of 62.000 before engaging a devastating confrontation of two days that ended up with an important number of casualties for Grant who refused to retreat and carried his march towards Richmond (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 119) .

1.4.1.10 The Second Battle of Cold Harbor May 31-June 12, 1864, Virginia:

Regarded as a important southern victory for General E. Lee who managed to occupy a strategic defensive position while blocking a violent attack from the Union Leader General S. Grant at the head of more than 100.000 men determined to take Richmond from the

Confederacy, the battle lasted from May 31-June 12 leaving a marked defeat to the Northerners who lost 7,000 soldiers while only 1,500 southerners died in that event (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 121).

1.4.1.11 Surrender at Appomattox April 9, 1865, Virginia:

General E. Lee surrenders after a last confrontation with the Union army at Appomattox, Virginia on the 9th of April ending officially the bloodiest conflict of the American history, the site of surrender was the former country seat known as the Appomattox Court House that will become a historical monument in 1940 (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 124).

1.5 Reconstruction of the Constitution:

According to (Barney 202), the reconstruction included establishing union among the states in the country and granted freedom to the slaves after the end of ruinous Civil War.

After the death of Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes at Ford's theater, Washington, the new American president Andrew Johnson started to develop a plan to integrate the South socially and monetarily and merge it with the rest of the country under the same values and restrictions (O'Callaghan 54).

The establishment of the Freedmen's Bureau by the congress helped the lost African Americans whom the war had liberated and provided them all the means to reform their lives (Barney 202).

1.5.1 Amendments:

The reconstruction program granted the slaves civil rights and also voting rights and promoted them to the status of a normal American citizenship.

- The Thirteenth Amendment which issued in 1865, canceled slavery in America ((Conway 52).

- The Fourteenth Amendment that issued in 1866, gave the citizenship to all people who were born or naturalized in the United States and urged the Southern states to liberate all black men (Conway 52).
- The Fifteenth Amendment issued in 1870, stretched out the option to vote to every US citizen to their race, regards of their social and professional status (Conway 52).

In spite of the fact that the Thirteen Amendment abolished slavery and prejudice, Segregation among blacks and white and the racial contrast among North and South stayed long after it's the issue of the reconstruction. In addition, American history as a slaveholding nation kept on testing the standards of freedom and majority rule government that most Americans have about their nation (Torr 19).

Conclusion

Slavery constitutes one of the darkest chapters in American history that has divided The country into two contradicted sides, ones who saw slavery as a highly profitable economical institution while the others saw it as inhuman and racist treatment for African Americans. The long history between the north and the south had many clashes from rebellions to compromises and political conflicts that escalated far to the declaration of the Great War, a war that resulted in a massive bloodshed in both parties; ultimately the north came out on top and succeeded in abolition slavery through a new reconstruction.

Chapter two

Literary analysis of the slave narrative and Uncle Toms' Cabin and the social reception.

Introduction

Starting from the early 19th century, there had been a revolutionary approach concerning what could be referred to as a protesting method against the injustice of the human nature concerning certain unusual defiance's, the emergence of political literature within the American society served as a reflecting image to the devoted writers in cracking masterpieces that played major roles in inspiring readers to protest against immoral acts.

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin in a very critical time and was considered as a remarkable slave narrative that portrayed a descriptive image of the misery endured by the enslaved African Americans in their horrifying journeys under captivity.

2 Slave Narrative:

2.1 Definition of Slave Narrative:

Slave narratives are the individual records by black slaves and ex-slaves of their involvement with servitude hence of their endeavors to acquire opportunities, these accounts were reviews which helped the storyteller characterize, or even narrate ways of life as they were witnessed by these individuals, relating these examples to their horrible experiences, Progressively significant, the stories narration gained the attention it deserved inevitably via creating a historical abolitionist movement responsible of the breakdown of the institution of Slavery (Foster 03) .

The literary genre of slave narratives can be regarded as a mirror through which a reader can explore a multitude of themes related to the retrospective of the oppressed narrators. Eventually, creating a relationship between the major aspects of this literature, in addition to the appeal to humanity and equality transported by the works showing any given reader what was the basic foundations of the unethical behavior of slavery and how its victims were exhausted physically, mentally from being repressed by the white owners. (Morgan 74).

2.2 Development of Slave Narrative:

The slave narrative literary genre saw the light during the 1770 and 1780s giving the late eighteenth century a source of revolution in the production of literature, this interesting yet expected writings style appearance was majorly linked to the political and religious atmosphere surrounding that period of history, representing a unique opportunity for the Black people to melt within the virtues of the humanism through publishing what was referred to as the early slave narrative texts that received a positive reaction from the religious Christian groups who procured a vital help for their cause, creating important anti-slavery associations from which we can name the Pennsylvanian Abolition Society in addition to prevailing the slave trade in 1787, these actions can be regarded as the first ancestors of the famous abolitionist movement that appeared later on. (GOULD 11).

The development of the slave narrative literature was the concern of numerous changes, regarding the fact that they represent a retrospective image of the society of their time, the first slave narratives, written in the eighteenth century relied mainly on the autobiographical experience of the captive during his servitude time under the laws determined by the institution of slavery, whereas the final version of this writings endured a slight change due to the diversity of the social opinion regarding the subject of slavery and with the appearance of the antislavery movement under the principle of equality in the human rights, slave narrative literature shifted from the descriptive aspect to the practical appeal for the abolitionist principles. (Foster 17).

2.3 Major Authors of Slave Narratives:

2.3.1 Lydia Maria Child:

Lydia Maria Child was (1802-1880) An American Novelist, Scholar, and activist for the women's rights, inspired by the Garrison's news journal, The Liberator. In 1833, she became an active Abolitionist gaining fame through the writing of "An Appeal to that Class

of Americans Called Africans,” an anti-slavery tract in where she protested the right of emancipation for the African Americans. From 1841-43, she became the editor of the National Anti-Slavery Standard, the American Anti-Slavery Society’s newspaper. Child strengthened her opposition to after the issue of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 and John Brown’s attack on Harper’s Ferry in 1859. She continued publishing letters in addition to editing Harriet Jacob’s Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl and many others anti-slavery tracts through her period of activity as an abolitionist.

2.3.2 Frederick Douglass:

Frederick Douglass, (1818-1895), considered as one of the most prominent abolitionists of all time, he was a lecturer, writer ,and editor who served as an ex-slave for some time , refusing to use violence to claim racial equality, Douglass believed that the politics were a more efficient way to achieve his goals, that was the main reason for publishing three legendary autobiographies, in addition to editing four newspapers widely known both nationally and internationally not mentioning the fact that he personally served as a recruiter of African Americans for the Union Forces during the explosion of the Civil War.

2.3.3 Harriet Jacobs:

Harriet Ann Jacobs was born inNorth Carolina, in 1813 .where he grew up in a plantation. After escaping the torments of slavery she endured in 1835 she became a writer, abolitionist speaker and reformer who gained attention after publishing her single work, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, in 1861 under the pseudonym "Linda Brent, this unusual retrospective was considered as the first autobiographical narratives about the battle for freedom by female slaves and a detailed account of the sexual abuse atrocities they witnessed. ("I Will Be Heard!" AbolitionisminAmerica").

2.4 Major Slave Narratives:

2.4.1 Twelve Years a Slave (1853):

Recently adopted by the Steve McQueen film of the same name (2013), the famous account of *Twelve Years a Slave* was originally published in 1853 when the ex-slave Solomon Northup met a Lawyer and Legislator under the name of David Wilson who insisted on flashing the spotlights on the life of Solomon as a captive via publishing “a faithful history of Solomon Northup’s life exactly as it happened and received directly from his lips, the account was inspired by the tragic kidnapping of a free Black man who was sold to the southern institution of slavery in which he remained for 12 years in the Louisiana Bayou Boeuf plantation region before being rescued by a Canadian Abolitionist and sent back to the North, the book obtained a positive reaction from the Americans and more than 3.000 copies were sold(MicAnderson).

2.4.2 Oroonoko : The Royal Slave (1688) :

Written by AphraBehn, an English Women of the seventeenth century, *Oroonoko or the Royal Slave*, was published in 1688 and was considered as a remarkable antislavery text with a thrilling theme, The novel focuses on an African prince as he is dragged by force to become a slave after being captured by British slave traders who decided to sell him to an owner in a South American colony of the British where he finds his lost love, the women turn to be from royalty as well, the plot of the story highlights the efforts of the couple to regained their precious freedom under the torments of their masters. This interesting series of events managed to express successfully, the writer’s point of view towards the inhumane slave trade (MicAnderson).

2.4.3 Narrative of William W. Brown, a Fugitive Slave (1847):

William Wells Brown’s *Narrative of William W. Brown, a Fugitive Slave*, published in 1847, was an extremely popular autobiography of the nineteenth century, considered as the

second-best work of its time (behind that of Frederick Douglass) the narrative shed the light on the inhuman treatment of slave owners towards enslaved individuals. Also Brown highlighted the unethical atrocities which were caused by the Fellow Christian slave owner who was supposed to represent an idealistic example of generosity for their human guests, After gaining his freedom in 1834 and earning acclaim for his slave narrative, Brown entered the history books for being the first Black American to publish a novel and to have successfully run a tour book (Mic Anderson).

2.4.4 Narrative of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave (1845):

Regarded as one of the most prominent autobiographies of all time, the retrospective of Frederick Douglass represents an authentic account of slavery in the nineteenth century, this work takes the reader to the early life of Douglass as a slave, Throughout the text, the writer created an interpreting image of the horrors shaped by the dark period of American history in addition to his personal experience with his servitude time, after being transferred to the city, Douglass realized the importance of education in an individual's life, he Eventually used its benefits to escape his torments and obtained his freedom. After his deaths, the legendary autobiographies he created shifted to represent a source of inspiration to the upcoming abolitionist generations during and after the Civil war (MicAnderson).

2.5 Background of Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Social Reception towards the Novel:

2.5.1 Biography of the Author:

Harriet Beecher Stowe was born in 1811, Litchfield, Connecticut from a father who served as a congressional minister, named Lyman Beecher and his wife Roxana Foote Beecher, Harriet was their seventh daughter, since her early years, she showed a high intellectual level and maturity, a gift that even her brothers did not possess, a disappointment to her father who wished this special individual was born a boy, the young Harriet attended a progressive school called the Litchfield Academy where she shined as an excellent learner

winning a multitude of writing competitions organized by the school. At the age of thirteen, Harriet moved to Hartford Female Seminary, during that time, she obtained higher education, promoting the young women to become a prolific teacher before serving as a head of administration for Hartford, earning her a vast reputation as a source of inspiration to all the females near her(Robbins 3).

Stowe was a remarkable writer since her early age, but she did not discover her true writing voice until moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, with her sister Catharine, where she began to produce her first short stories and articles, with Ohio located across the river from Kentucky, the young Harriett encountered some fugitive slaves who shared their experience with her, this led to the eruption of the abolitionist nature she had, in January 1836, Stowe got married to a brilliant teacher named Calvin Ellis Stowe. The widower of her friend Eliza encouraged her writing skills while living a happy conjugal life, she gave birth to six children. In 1846, she published *The Mayflower: Or Sketches of Scenes and Characters among the Descendants of the Pilgrims*. ("Harriet Beecher Stowe").

In 1851, Stowe's 18-month-old son died. This awful tragedy had managed to awaken her sense of empathy towards the poor slave women who were forced to watch in total submission as their children were taken away and sold to cruel slave owners, this feeling of sorrow and pain was the major cause behind the inspiration of her famous novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* where she depicted the story of Tom, a very respectable man who was taken away from his family to be sold as merchandise to the horrible institution of slavery (" Harriet Beecher Stowe").

The novel of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* granted an honorable celebrity for Harriet who organized several book tours to promote her work spreading awareness among people to protest slavery. in 1864, after her husband's retired from his teaching position in the Andover

Theological Seminary, the Stows moved to Hartford, Connecticut, the novelist continued her writings publishing thirty books before her death on July 1, 1896. ("Harriet Beecher Stowe").

2.5.2 Inspiration: the Story behind the Story:

In 1893 Theodore Weld published a collection of essays called *American Slavery as It Is*, these pieces of writing contained testimonies of both black and white people describing the horrors of slavery that they witnessed. Sarah Grimke was the daughter of a southern slave master, she recounted one of her testimonies in an essay when she narrated an incidence between two slave masters when they disputed the authenticity of religious belief among the slaves, during this argument a slave was threatened to death by whipping if he didn't Jesus .however , the slave refused to do so and was killed by flogging .reportedly Harriet Beecher Stowe was so profound of Mr. Theodore's work and especially Sarah Grimke's testimony, This tale encouraged her to write her version after witnessing a public whipping of a black man in 1851 this scenery was a climactic point in the construction of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Bloom 13). Furthermore, politics had a huge effect on the creation of this story. During her time living in Cincinnati, Harriet was exposed to the political tension over the slavery cause and its eradication. moreover, Mrs. Stowe witnessed the horrific acts of cruelty and suffering of the slave and its effects first hand moving and the constant debate about slavery and abolitionism which provoked her to start writing about slavery on her own (WINSHIP 311).

In the beginning, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* emerged regularly as serials in the national era where it ran from June, 5th, 1851 until April, 1st, 1852 due to its success Harriet Beecher Stowe decided to print them into a two-volume novel in 1852. The work was translated into many languages and made remarkable hits in twenty-two nations selling millions of copies; the unperceived success of this novel made it one of the most successful novels of all time (Nichols 328).

2.5.3 Social Reaction towards Uncle Tom's Cabin:

The publication of Uncle Tom's cabin received a wide range of reception from both the north and the south; this work sparked a social revolution among Americans who were already divided about the institution of slavery in their country.

2.5.4 Social Reaction towards Uncle Tom's Cabin in the North:

The influence of Uncle Tom's Cabin on both northerners and southerners was profound. In the North, the novel's, changed the perspective of the population on the abolitionist movement and reintroduced it as a noble cause that everyone should wrap around it, moreover, the novel alternated the demeanor of northerners who were unsympathetic towards slavery or had doubts of the abolitionist cause. In addition to the novel itself, Stowe's story sparked a wave of literary reactions like plays, reviews, essays, additional works of antislavery literature and slave narrative works. The growing antislavery movement in the North came as a consequence of northern resistance towards the new fugitive slave law as well as the emotional reaction to uncle tom's cabinet story, paved the way to the rise to political prominence of the antislavery Republican Party also the election of a Republican Abraham Lincoln, to the presidency in 1860 (Leeman 2) .

2.5.5 The Social Reaction towards Uncle Tom's Cabin in the South:

The novel incensed an equally augmenting response in n the South counterpart. Despite the fact some states prohibited the owning and selling of the novel, Uncle Tom's cabin was widely read among southerners. The novel ignite a new expanding genre of proslavery literature that worked on polishing the image of s slavery and used all the literary means to portrait southern slaves as living better lives than northern industrial workers. Uncle Tom's cabin also stirred up fears of a possible slave revolution and resulted in spirited denunciations of Stowe for what many southerners described as lies, fabrications and a propaganda concerning the lives of slaves in plantations. Stowe published a book entitled A

Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin, to counterpart all the criticism and accusations. In that book she provided documentary evidence to back her claims in the novel, though a work of fiction was based on fact (Leeman 2).

2.5.6 The Literary Reaction of the South:

upon the release on Uncle Tom's Cabin, southern writers took upon themselves to issue an counterpart literary movement that defended the slavery and its practices through the publication of a number of Anti-Tom novel like: Mar Heisman's Aunt Phillis's Cabin, or southern life as it is (1852), Robert Criswell's Uncle Tom's Cabin contrasted with Buckingham Hall, The planter's home or a Fair view of both sides of the slavery question (1852), John W. Page's Uncle Robin in his Cabin in Virginia and Tom without one in (Boston 1853). These literary works highlight the conflict between slave owners and the abolitionists and falsifying the images of slavery in the south as depicted in Uncle Tom's Cabin (Claybough xvi).

In 1853, Stowe published A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin as a response to the southern criticisms. In that book she managed to prove the authenticity of her sources that Uncle Tom's cabin was built on, the book contained newspaper articles, documents, testimonies and court records in addition to numerous slave narratives.

In publishing The Key, Stowe aim was to respond to her critics who questioned the credibility of Uncle Tom's Cabin and to further peruse them to accept the book message and contribute in the abolition of slavery.

2.6 Literary Analysis of Uncle Tom's Cabin:

2.6.1 Plot Overviews of Uncle Tom's Cabin:

During a critical period, a Kentucky farmer named Arthur Shelby is drowning in debts. and risks to lose all of his properties, the farmer lived a prosperous life with his wife,

Emily Shelby who was a very kindhearted and affectionate woman, the couple had several slaves and treated them with respect, unfortunately, the crisis led Arthur to search for opportunities to raise money, so he had to sell two of his slaves to a slave trader named Mr. Haley, the slaves were Uncle Tom, a middle-aged man; who had a family, and Harry, the youngest son of Mrs. Shelby's maid Eliza, breaking the promise of his wife Emily to Eliza where she told her that her and her son won't ever be sold and separated ("Uncle Tom's Cabin: Plot Overview | Sparknotes").

Meanwhile, Eliza accidentally hears their dispute over the subject and decides to alert Uncle Tom and his wife, Aunt Chloe. Then she takes Harry and flees to the North searching for freedom, the poor fugitive was desperate to reach a safe place where she could peruse her life without any dangers. Haley chased her, but two other Shelby slaves managed to cover her while she escaped via crossing the half-frozen Ohio River, a strategic separating point between Kentucky and the North. Haley paid a slave hunter named Loker and his gang to bring Eliza and Harry back to Kentucky. Eliza and Harry manage to reach the Quaker settlement, seeing their delicate situation; the Quakers agree to help transport them to safety. There, they are joined at the settlement by George, her husband who did not see his family for a long time; the families reunite together and get prepared for a trip to their freedom within the Canadian territories ("Uncle Tom's Cabin: Plot Overview | Sparknotes").

Meanwhile, Uncle Tom is separated from his family and Mr. George Shelby's young son who was a close friend to him, as Haley drags him towards a boat on the Mississippi to be transported to a slave market. On the boat Tom meets a little white girl named Eva, within just a short period the two becomes good friends, a short period passes and Eva falls in the river risking to drawn to death, Uncle Tom dives and saves her from this marking experience, as a sign of gratitude, Augustine St. Clare, the father of the little Angelic girl gratefully agrees to buy Tom from Haley. Tom travels with the St. Clare's to their home in New Orleans,

where he will leave a peaceful life with the St. Clare household, bounding a strong relationship with Eva due to their Christian common principles ("Uncle Tom's Cabin: Plot Overview | Sparknotes").

Up North, George and Eliza continue their struggle against the motivated slave hunters. When Loker found them, a struggle between him and George occurred, shots were fired leading to the injury of the hunter, the other slave hunters retreat. Eliza felt compassion for the wounded man, she asked her husband George, and the Quakers to bring Loker to the next settlement, where he can be healed. Meanwhile, St. Clare meets with his cousin Ophelia, who opposes slavery as an act but holds severe prejudice against Blacks, St. Clare, by contrast, is a slave owner but does not harbor any negative treatment against them, he decides to help Ophelia overcome her racism when he bought Topsy, a young black girl who was abused by her past master and arranges for Ophelia to interact with her. ("Uncle Tom's Cabin: Plot Overview | Sparknotes").

Two years have passed since Tom moved with the St. Clare, the bonds between the family were never as strong as now, Ophelia learns to love slaves, Topsy regained trust in white masters kindness, and Uncle Tom was holding his affection towards Eva, suddenly, the little girl is very sick and dies from the illness, St. Clare decides to free Tom from servitude but is killed accidentally while trying to settle a large Brawl before he can proceed with his good intention.

St. Clare's cruel wife, Marie, did not honor her husband's decision and sells Tom to a cruel plantation owner named Simon Legree. Tom is transferred to Louisiana to work in the plantations, there, he meets an oppressed woman named Emmeline, the powerless woman was bought by Legree to serve as a sexual puppet replacing his previous sex slave Cassy who was abused multiple times before being separated from her only daughter by force. The dark

days of Tom began when he refused to whip a fellow Black man as ordered from their devilish owner, as a punishment, the good Christian gets a severe beating. ("Uncle Tom's Cabin: Plot Overview | Sparknotes").

From the other side of the story, George Eliza, and Harry had managed to cross Lake Erie into the Canadian borders to finally obtain their freedom, helped by Tom Loker who changed his perception of slaves after being healed from deadly wounds. In Louisiana, Legree continues his torments on Tom, the "cruel master objectively targeted to brake the Christian faith of the poor man who was visited by two visions that haunted him daily, the First was the perception of the Christ wear as the second picture had been reflecting the portrait of his dear Eva with the use of brutal treatments and degradations, Legree persisted until almost succeeding in his mission, as a last act of wisdom, Tom encourages Cassy to escape. She does so, taking Emmeline with her after she devises a ruse in which she and Emmeline pretend to be ghosts. Tom has been held responsible for their escape but refuses to tell Legree where Cassy and Emmeline have gone, Legree's overseers tortured him ruthlessly, When Tom is near death. George Shelby arrives with money in hand to buy Tom's freedom, but he is too late. He can only watch as Tom dies a martyr's death while he embraced his faith and generously forgiving his tormentor and his overseers. ("Uncle Tom's Cabin: Plot Overview | Sparknotes").

While being in a boat toward freedom, Cassy and Emmeline meet George Harris's sister and travel with her to Canada, Cassy than realizes that Eliza is her long-lost daughter, the freshly reunited family headed toward France before deciding to settle in Liberia, an African refuge to all the American Ex slaves. George Shelby returns to the Kentucky farm, he managed to abolish all of his slaves to honor the sacrifice of Tom, looking with an empty eye towards his old cabin before perusing his life on the tracks of the martyr, appealing to strengthen the Christian faith. ("UncleTom'sCabin: Plot Overview | Sparknotes").

2.6.2 Characters Analysis on Uncle Tom's Cabin:

2.6.2.1 Uncle Tom:

the protagonist of the novel, an oppressed slave who serves as a model hosting the spiritual virtues of the Christianity, the loving husband and father passively resists throughout the events of the story all kind of persecution and misery, hoping to get finally rewarded in the afterlife by god who rewards all of the tormented souls, the character lived in the southern part of Louisiana around several slaves under the mercy of a cruel landlord who persisted in torturing and degrading the pacifist who will eventually die a martyrs death while trying to protect two escaping slave women from the death plantation (Bloom20).

2.6.2.2 George and Eliza:

a married slave couple who lived and served in different households their life permanently changed when their son was threatened to be sailed by Eliza's master after passing by a financial crisis, the women decide to flee to the north to protect him from his persecutors, there she is joined by her beloved husband George and decide to establish a home in the free lands of Canada before moving to Liberia, a new ex-slave land established to protect their human rights (Bloom 20).

2.6.2.3 Evangeline St. Clare— "Little Eva":

representing the innocence and purity in the series of events, Eva is a slave owner's daughter and Tom's close friend, just like him, she was a sincere believer, her strong Christian background created an ideal safe circle in the St. Claire's family who treated all their slaves with compassion and respect, the poor little girl died after a terrible illness and left a deep sorrow in the hearts of all the individuals who knew her (Bloom 20).

2.6.2.4 Augustine St. Clair :

acontradictory character, Augustine shapes a spontaneous image of the paradox some of the American slave-owners possess, from one perspective he rejects slavery due to its injustice towards Black people, from the other hand, he feels comfortable with the idea of having control on his subjects, although treating them with the most generous and kind-hearted approaches, unfortunately, his lack of self-confidence ruined his memory as he dies settling a Brawl before he could keep his promise, emancipating Tom before he met his cruel destiny(Bloom 20).

2.6.2.5 Ophelia St. Clare:

Augustine's cousin, he brought her from Vermont to keep an overwhelming presence in his house, the educated women role was serving as a role model to little Eva, but the exact opposed happened when Ophelia noticed at what extant the little girl was kind to everyone around her and her father's slaves ,in particular, a quality that Ophelia did not acquire until being asked by Augustine to take in charge educating a young slave girl named Topsy before building a very special relationship with her (Bloom 21).

2.6.2.6 Marie St. Clare:

Augustine's wife and mother of his child Eva, she is described as a dark figure in the novel, her racism and egocentrism towards the slaves and the household was a deciding element in Tom's misery when she sold him to Legree. (Bloom21).

2.6.2.7 Topsy:

an abused little child who lived in terrible conditions without any love or aspect of human nature, she was bought by Augustine as a tentative to erase the sever disgust Ophelia had for Negro's, Topsy was considered as a kind and innocent girl who got along with all the characters of the novel, particularly with the Eva with whom she shared a close relationship

ship as a natural attraction related with their common features, she manages to become a part of the family in addition to obtaining the love of Ophelia after spending some time with her (Bloom 21).

2.6.2.8 Simon Legree:

the cruel plantation owner, He and his overseers had been the authors of Tom's misery an agony since he has been sold by the wife of Augustine after his death, this corrupted character served as a reflecting mirror of the sexual atrocities the submissive black women endured during that dark period of the American history, eventually he sentences Tom to death after a severe beating when he did not want to inform him where his two slaves ran (Bloom 21).

2.6.2.9 Cassy:

Is the slave mistress of Simon Legree, after serving him for several years, the devilish master sends her to work in the plantation when he replaced her with a new slave girl called Emmeline, the character had witnessed a tragic downfall in her life, she lived a happy life with a kind white slave owner with her daughter, before being abandoned to the cruel institution of slavery and separated from her child by force, she had a special relationship with the protagonist Tom who helped her and Emmeline escape from their captivity, she meets Eliza while on a boat towards freedom, eventually ,she realizes that she was her long lost precious daughter (Bloom 22).

2.6.3 Settings of Uncle Toms' Cabin:

The events of Uncle Tom's cabin took place in the American south in the Shelby plantation in Kentucky the home of Uncle Tom's cabin and his family. Also, the story depicted the leap of Eliza and George to the north passing through Ohio and the Ohio River all the way to Canada. However, during their flee, they encountered the fugitive slave act in

the north which requires northerners to give back escaped slaves to their owners.

Furthermore, in the story Canada and the northern path was considered as a quest to safety and freedom. On the other hand, Uncle Tom's journey took him to New Orleans where he lived in the St. Clare plantation however Tom's luck led him to the Deep South into Simon Legree's plantation when he was treated in inhuman ways. (Uncle Tom's Cabin Setting). The contrast of the south and the north can be observed through the geographical journeys of Eliza and Uncle Tom. The northern journey rewarded Eliza with freedom while Uncle Tom's destiny led him to the Deep South where he was lynched and tortured to death.

2.6.4 Symbols and Imagery in Uncle Tom's Cabin:

2.6.4.1 Cabin:

Uncle Tom's Cabin symbolizes the comfort and the space where the enslaved people find relief and feel the freedom more than they feel in Shelby's Farm. The Cabin was a place of love, grace and joy. « It will always be the memorial of Uncle Tom who had great ethics throughout the sacrifices he made to gain freedom to enslaved people » said George ("Uncle Tom's Cabin | Study Guide").

The cabin was used once again as a critical symbol of unification, this happened at the end when George freed the slaves and told them to admire this cabin and remember the great sacrifices that Uncle Tom made for the sake of their freedom ("Uncle Tom's Cabin Symbolism, Imagery, Allegory").

2.6.4.2 The Bible:

Uncle Tom always carries his beloved bible with him. The bible was worn from constant usage while his favorite passages were marked for easy access. Despite his bad literacy, Uncle Tom loved reading verses from it and loved explaining its messages better than any other

educated man. Each time he gets asked for advice, he uses the wisdom of his trustworthy bible to answer.

When Uncle Tom lost his bible when he got beaten by Legree, he went mad and asked everywhere about it. At its absences, tom went into desperation as he lost his source of comfort and all of a sudden, those verses that he recites had no meaning for him. He soon found the way back to his faith when Legree mocked him for losing his religious passion toward his lost bible ("Uncle Tom's Cabin | Study Guide ").

2.6.4.3 The North and the South:

In her book Uncle Tom's Cabin, Herriot dealt with the duality of both the south and the north in a very controversial manner .she highlighted the contrast between the vast differences between the southern households, she also questioned the purity of the north and accused them of being complicit with the slavery in the north. On the other hand, Stowe shown that the southern households differ in their treatment of slavers. Herriot saw the north as a part of the problem due to its close ties with the south which made the north benefits from the revenue of the slaves working in the southern plantations ("Uncle Tom's Cabin | Study Guide").

2.6.4.4 River:

The river of Jordan symbolizes freedom and it represents the way to " promised land" for the Jews who set free from oppression. Eliza and harry crossed the river of Ohio that separates the North from the South seeking a liberation from slavery. The river was beside Toms' Cabin, the place where all slaves worked hard and even were chained in a cruel way but they waited eagerly to meet the families. Eliza embodies the real desire of the will of gaining freedom although she suffered the cruelty of slavery as the scene where the ice floes

in the entire width of river when she was crossing it and when it cut her feet to shreds. ("Uncle Tom's Cabin | Study Guide").

Stowe kept reminding us that Eliza will not be safe and her trip was not easy even in the north as she suffered as soon as she arrived to Ohio, Slavery in the North is treated with the same way in the south. Moreover, the fugitive slave will make things more complicated as happened for Eliza, because whenever seen or found by anyone there, it will be inquired to return back to the south. We can realize that Eliza leap tells us that even the run into the north is not safe and is useless for slaves who seek help from the northern people. Eliza deserved to live as free as any independent woman, wife or mother. Therefore, the fight to gain freedom and the tragic trip of Eliza symbolizes the futility of slaves ("Uncle Tom's Cabin Symbolism, Imagery, Allegory").

2.6.4.5 Eliza's Leap:

When Eliza leaps across the treacherous, icy Ohio River, she is literally leaping from the south side of the river to the north side, from slavery to freedom. You really couldn't devise a more powerful (or more obvious) image of the slaves' desire for emancipation and the risks they're willing to take to achieve it. Of course, Eliza doesn't leap across the river in a single bound. She scrambles across jagged, loose, dangerous ice floes for the entire width of the river, cutting her feet to shreds, finding superhuman strength and agility in her intense desire to protect her child, Eliza's trip to freedom may happen across cakes of ice, but it certainly isn't a cakewalk. Every time we think she's escaped, it turns out she has further to go, and that the journey involves more suffering than we could have imagined. ("Uncle Tom's Cabin Symbolism, Imagery, Allegory").

2.7 Major Underlying Messages in Uncle Tom's Cabin:

Although Uncle Tom's cabin contains one major theme of slavery and racism, we can observe many other themes scattered around the novel.

2.7.1 Evil Institution of Slavery:

The passage of Uncle Tom's cabin was written as a reaction to the fugitive acts which banned Americans from helping runaway slaves. The novel attacks this law and its accomplices while campaigning to the immediate liberate of the slaves and demanded equal freedoms to all people .Stowe used the characters, settings and plot to sway the reader of the monstrosity of slavery and how it doesn't comply with the morals of Christianity furthermore Stowe assured that slavery don't have a slave in the modern societies.

In the beginning of the novel, Herriot Beecher Stowe addressed slavery in a peaceful setting where slaves were treated nicely by Mr. Shelby and St. Clare. Stowe used this imagery to expose the suffering of slavery even in best of conditions. As we see when Shelby was struggling financially and was pushed to sell Uncle Tom's which led to the separation of his family, also when Marie prevented the ST Clare slaves from grieving the death of Eva....at the end of Uncle Tom's Cabin the settings takes us to SimonLegree's plantation where the readers can experience the true horrific face of slavery. In this plantation, slaves like Uncle Tom suffered from physical and sexual abuse, lynching and murder. the switch between the peaceful and barbaric settings demonstrate the complex style of Stowe in demonstrating the horror of slavery, she first revealed the true colors of the so called nice slavery debunking the claims of the pro slavery movement , then she proceeded to demonstrate the real horror and the evil of slavery ("Uncle Tom's Cabin: Themes | SparkNotes").

2.7.2 The Contradiction between Christianity and Slavery:

Because Christianity and slavery are completely opposing ideas, Stowe, through Uncle Tom's Cabin, depicted this concept clearly and tried to make it very clear by requesting from readers to see it from a Christian point of view because she was sure that Christianity in real cannot accept slavery. "Stowe carefully constructed the story to be laden with religious symbolism in an effort to bring light to one thing she felt should end slavery".

Through many examples in the Novel such as the one of Quark and by illustrating from the bible, Stowe was able to make it clear that plenty of people decide not to follow law but God's will when it comes to Slavery and that is shown in their attempts to help slaves run away. Stowe has also succeeded in illustrating the opposite concepts of slavery and Christianity through examples.

2.7.3 The Women Empowerment:

As a supporter of the feminist movement, Beecher Stowe portray the female characters in Uncle Tom's Cabin as pure, pious, submissive and domestic which contradicts with modern understanding the concept of women empowerment. However, Stowe believes that these exclusive roles of the women are irreplaceable by men which gave them a greater influence on society and led them to be more empowered. In the novel Herriot placed the female characters in many critical situations and emphasized their actions in determining the fate of others.

In Uncle Tom's Cabin women were shown intelligent and strong in equality to men whom contradict the fact that in that time women still inferior to men. Many female characters are present in the novel; they have shown to be one of the most powerful forces in society. Although the Novel was created before Women's right movement, it helped illustrating their crucial role in the community (Paz 12).

What can be seen then, is that the writer tends to treat not only slavery but the role of Women as well. One of the significant female characters in the Novel is Eliza through whom a reader can see a strong determined female, mother who tries to protect her family with all her power. Another female aspect is the ability of Mary to change her husband's political opinion about slavery and pushes him to help Elizabeth. Therefore, the position of the woman lead in the novel is emphasized by the writer.

Conclusion:

Uncle tom's cabin is an undisputed American literary wonder, regarded a source of inspiration in present and past model of high status writing on slave narrative, this bestseller novel had in stored an unbelievable effect among American minds, Stowe's representation of slavery as a maleficent practice in addition to the harm it left on oppressed afro American families had faced an uncountable number of critics and appreciation, the creative author had successfully managed to create a rare female intervention that challenged a stereotypical order in the societies of the 19th century where the women were nothing more than humble housekeepers with an academically limited background.

The aim of the gathered resources within this chapter is demonstrating the researchers light shading on the literary components of the novel from a reader's analysis, based on the studies of the writer's intentions and purposes concerning slavery in America, it also indicates a general overview concerning the impact of the masterpiece on both sides of the pre coming civil war from different written reactions produced by both anti-slavery and pro slavery parts.

General conclusion

Slavery since its early stages, had always been represented as the headline of the United States economical identity, this immoral institution had engendered an infinite range of misery and suffering to the oppressed African Americans living under its harsh circumstances, however after the uncountable interventions led by the fellow Christian citizens, who produced both political and literary reactions against that kind of injustice, a certain division occurred within the country who was now split between the anti-slavery North against the pro slavery South.

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe was an American best seller written in the 19th century, the literary masterpiece had successfully served as a reflective mirror to its author's retrospective and point of view concerning the inhuman acts present on the national US territory in that dark period of time.

In this investigation, the researcher is digging through the historical background behind the story and its relation with the declaration of the American civil War between a manufacturing North against a slave relaying south.

The research is also focusing on the importance Stowe's novel had in spreading a liberal concept of thinking called the abolitionist movement, through her detailed slave narrative, the writer was depicting the journeys of the enslaved individuals who were tortured both physically and mentally by their cruel masters moreover, the study emphasizes on the underlying messages of Stow's best seller, the writer had produced an indirect appeal to the restoration of the Christian values regarding slavery to end its spread, in addition the work highlights an outstanding feminist challenging to the stereotypical image of women in that century.

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