

Civil War Scenarios

Scenario 1: May, 1861

Word from Nashville is that the state General Assembly has voted to secede and they have referred it to the people to accept. Now that Ft. Sumter has fallen and Lincoln has called all loyal states to raise troops to put down the rebellion, we are quite sure that the state will go with its Southern brethren.

What will you do?

- A. Fully support the Confederate cause and offer to contract with the newly formed Confederate government.
- B. Become a Confederate supporter if only because that seems to be the best for business.
- C. You are a Union man. You think this whole secession thing is a bad idea. And war is bad for business. But because the state is in a frenzy you'll stay quiet about your Union sentiments.
- D. Quit your business and move away.

Mark Your Answer Here: _____

Explain Your Answer Based on Your Business Perspective:

Scenario 2: September, 1861

The Confederate Army has invaded East Tennessee in order to put down a Unionist rebellion. They are actually occupying Knoxville and keeping a close eye on people rumored to be Unionists.

What is your opinion?

- A. Those East Tennessee Unionists are traitors to the South and deserve what they get from our brave boys in gray.
- B. You are a Unionist and believe you should lay low for a while and see how the war plays out. You'll sell to the Confederates even though you don't agree with their cause. After all, money is money.
- C. You'd rather your family starve than sell to rebel scum. Close your business and move away.
- D. East Tennessee doesn't affect my business so I don't really care what happens over there.

Mark Your Answer Here: _____

Give Your Reasoning:

Scenario 3: December, 1861

The Confederate government has placed a ban on exporting cotton to Europe and the North. They want to deprive Europe of cotton so they will enter into the war and begin negotiations for peace thus recognizing the new Confederate nation.

- A. This really hurts business but you can survive until the Confederate army wins the war. And you are patriotic to the South and decide that your business can suffer for the sake of the Confederate cause.
- B. You feel there has to be a way to get the cotton to Europe. You negotiate a secret deal with a Confederate customs agent to sneak your cotton to Europe. Confederate cause or no, you've got to make money.
- C. You're not in the cotton business and want those plantation owners to pay anyway so you are all for the ban.
- D. You just want to keep the goods moving to supply whichever side has money to pay for them.
- D. Other _____.

Mark Your Answer Here: _____

Give your reasoning:

Scenario 4: June, 1862

The Union Army now claims nearly every major city in Middle and West Tennessee including Memphis and Nashville. In order to conduct business they require business owners to take the oath of allegiance. This will mean you renounce the Confederacy, promise to abide by the Constitution of the United States, "faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves," and help the Union win the war.

A. You are glad to see those Confederate rebels get what they deserve and they must abide by the law or go out of business.

B. No way. You refuse to take an oath against your honor. You will stay true to the Confederacy to the end and flee from the Yankees. Even if it means they take all your possessions and ruin your business.

C. You will compromise and take the oath. After all, you need the money and you are not sure that the Confederacy will win. You do what you have to do.

D. You left your property and your business in the hands of others when you left Tennessee.

Mark Your Answer Here: _____

Give your reasoning:

Scenario 5: August, 1862

Less than a year after Tennessee seceded, things have taken a terrible turn for the Confederates in Tennessee. In February, the Confederate forts along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers fell to the Union army. A few days later, Nashville was in Union hands. The Yankees now occupy the Tennessee State Capitol building.

In West Tennessee, the Union army defeated the Confederates at Shiloh and are now in complete control of Tennessee rivers. In Nashville, there is no way to ship anything out.

To make matters worse, slaves are running away from their plantations. The Union army is allowing them to stay in huge camps called contraband camps.

Consider how the loss of slaves has impacted your business:

A. It has devastated business. Without slaves to work the fields you simply cannot produce any cotton. We can continue to work the ones we have and produce what we can.

B. The loss of slaves has made life more difficult but because you do not rely heavily on slave labor you are able to go on. The bigger problem is getting goods through the army lines and inflation of Confederate money.

C. The loss of slave labor and the ban on cotton exports to Europe have devastated your business. You give up.

Mark Your Answer Here: _____

Give your reasoning:

Scenario 6: Fall, 1864

Armies are moving in and out. Battles have killed many young men. Money is in short supply, and inflation is high. The army has confiscated most goods and supplies. You have the opportunity to leave. Do you stay or go?

- A. Your home and family are here and you have nowhere to go. The rest of the South is embroiled in war.
- B. You will stay where you are and negotiate with the Union army to sell your goods, provide services, or export your cotton.
- C. You will move your family to the North and hope to return after the war is over.

Mark Your Answer Here: _____

Give your reasoning:
