



HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of the* NEW YORK COURTS

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY: NEW YORK DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Essay Prompts

1. The New York Draft Riots

The draft riots originated as a protest against the enforcement of the Conscription Act but, as historians Cruz and Patterson state, *quickly escalated into a riot that erupted at the volatile nineteenth century crossroads of race, class, and economic competition*. Examine the political differences between the upstate and downstate constituencies and how these differences, together with the social factors prevailing in New York, led to the draft riots.

2. President Lincoln's Restriction on Civil Liberties During the Civil War

There is a saying that *In Time of War, the Laws are Silent*. Examine President Lincoln's restriction on civil liberties during the Civil War and discuss whether the maxim provide correct during that and subsequent wars in American history.

3. African American Soldiers in the Civil War

Frederick Douglass said *Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship*. Discuss the participation of African American soldiers in the Civil War and whether it led to full citizenship.

4. The Lieber Code and the Civil War Prison Camp at Elmira

President Lincoln's implementation of the *Lieber Code*, a set of uniform rules for the treatment of prisoners of war, was a milestone in the history of warfare. Compare the provisions of the *Lieber Code* to the conditions that prevailed at the Civil War prison camp at Elmira, New York, and examine the development of international law regulating the treatment of prisoners of war that culminated in the *Third Geneva Convention* of 1949.

5. The Changing Role of Women During the Civil War

Leaders in the women's suffrage movement stated that the Civil War *created a revolution in the woman herself*. Discuss this statement in the context of the Suffrage and Women's Rights movements.