

What Really Caused This?

Part I: VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT:

QUADRANT CARD:

WORD	SYNONYM
Conscription	
MEANINGFUL ASSOCIATION	ANTONYM

Part II: CONSCRIPTION ACT OF 1863:

“An act for enrolling and calling out the national Forces, and for other Purposes,” Congressional Record. 37th Cong. 3d Sess. Ch. 74, 75. 1863. March 3, 1863.

In 1863, the Union Army was in need for soldiers. The Army consisted of volunteers who signed up in 1861. As a result, their three-year commitment to the army was coming to an end. In addition, the number of volunteers had steadily dropped since the beginning of the war. As a result, the United States Government created the Conscription Act of 1863, which would force young men to fight for the Union Army if chosen.

YOUR TASK:

1. Read the excerpts from the Conscription Act of 1863.
2. Answer the questions provided in order to analyze the rules of the draft to see why some people might have thought the draft to be unfair.

2nd Paragraph:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all **able-bodied male citizens** of the United States, and persons of foreign birth who shall have declared on oath their intention to become citizens under and in pursuance of the laws thereof, between the ages of **twenty and forty-five years**, except as hereinafter excepted, are hereby declared to constitute the national forces, and shall be liable to perform military duty in the service of the United States when called out by the President for that purpose.*

1. Who is eligible for the draft?
2. Who is not eligible for the draft?

SEC. 13.

*And be it further enacted, That any person drafted and notified to appear as aforesaid, may, on or before the day fixed for his appearance, furnish an acceptable **substitute** to take his place in the draft; or he may pay to such person as the Secretary of War may authorize to receive it, such sum, not exceeding **three hundred dollars**, as the Secretary may determine, for the procurement of such **substitute**; which sum shall be fixed at a uniform rate by a general order made at the time of ordering a draft for any state or territory; and thereupon such person so furnishing the substitute, or paying the money, shall be discharged from further liability under that draft. And any person failing to report after due service of notice, as herein prescribed, without furnishing a substitute, or paying the required sum therefor, shall be deemed a deserter, and shall be arrested by the provost-marshal and sent to the nearest military post for trial by court-martial, unless, upon proper showing that he is not liable to do military duty, the board of enrolment shall relieve him from the draft.*

1. Scenario: It is 1863, and you are drafted into the Union Army. What are the two ways that you can get out of joining the army?
2. After reading the two paragraphs for the rules of the Conscription Act of 1863, create a description of the typical individual who would enter the army through the draft.
3. The Conscription Act of 1863 followed the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862. With these two laws occurring about the same time, *explain why the Conscription Act of 1863 would ignite racially motivated violence in Northern Cities like New York. Use specific evidence to support your answer.*