Abstract

Different interpretations of history have allowed 21st century academics to make different conclusions about the consequences of historical actions. The causes of 1874 War between the powerful Craponia and the weaker Floopovia are numerous and varied. The losses suffered by Craponia resulted in a period of regional tension and to this day, one still hears about, "The Great Squirrel War". In order to have a fuller understanding of this topic, this essay will examine the question, To what extent were the trade embargo on the export of Craponian squirrels the main cause of the 1874 war between Craponia and Floopovia?

To answer the question, four well-recognized causes of the war are examined: the naval threat, political maneuvering, religious tension and the squirrel trade embargo. Secondary sources were used to investigate the economic importance of the squirrel trade to the economy of Craponia. Data taken from the archives of the Craponian and Floopovian governments were available through the internet. The research covers the period from 1830, when trade between the two countries was at its peak, to 1874 when the war started.

A careful evaluation of the proposed causes of the war shows that while the naval threat by Floopovia and the political maneuvering of the Craponian leaders were important contributing factors to the war, it was the Floopovian embargo on the export of squirrels from Craponia that was the main cause of the war. The loss of export revenues was catastrophic to the economy, and the government was forced to declare war. A limitation of the research is that it is not possible to state whether or not the other two factors would have led to the war had there not been trade embargo.

(283 words)

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