

Causes Of The Civil War Crossword

Puzzle Answer Key

Causes of the Civil War Crossword Puzzle Answer Key: Unlocking History's Complex Roots **causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key** might sound like a simple phrase, but it opens the door to an intriguing exploration of one of the most pivotal chapters in American history. Whether you're a student tackling a history assignment, a puzzle enthusiast solving a tricky crossword, or just someone curious about the deep-seated causes that led to the American Civil War, understanding these answers provides far more than just a quick solution. It's about unraveling the complex social, economic, and political factors that fractured a nation. In this article, we'll delve into the key causes often featured in crossword puzzles about the Civil War. More importantly, we'll explain why these causes mattered, how they interlinked, and how knowing them enriches your grasp of American history. So, let's break down the causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key and make sense of the clues behind the conflict.

Understanding the Causes of the Civil War in Crossword Puzzles

Crossword puzzles centered around the Civil War typically highlight major themes and terms that reflect the conflict's root causes. Puzzles serve as a fun way to reinforce knowledge about historical events, and the "causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key" helps ensure you're on the right track with your answers. Common answers often include key words like "slavery," "sectionalism," "tariffs," "states' rights," and "abolitionism." These terms are not random; they are carefully chosen to reflect the fundamental tensions that divided the Northern and Southern states. Let's explore some of these terms and why they consistently appear in crossword puzzles about the Civil War's causes.

Slavery: The Central Issue

One of the most frequently appearing answers in any causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key is "slavery." Slavery was the heart of the conflict, shaping economic systems, social structures, and political debates. The Southern economy depended heavily on slave labor to sustain its agricultural output, particularly cotton farming. Meanwhile, Northern states were moving toward industrialization and gradually abolishing slavery. This stark difference created a moral and economic divide. The South viewed slavery as essential to its way of life, while many in the North saw it as an inhumane practice that needed to be ended. This fundamental disagreement festered for decades, contributing to growing sectionalism.

Sectionalism: North vs. South

Another common crossword answer is "sectionalism," which refers to loyalty to one's region rather than the country as a whole. In the decades leading up to the Civil War, Americans increasingly identified with their region—North, South, or West—because economic interests and cultural values diverged sharply. Northern states favored tariffs that protected their fledgling industries, while Southern states opposed tariffs that made imported goods more expensive. This economic competition bred resentment and

mistrust. Sectionalism set the stage for political conflicts over power in Congress and fueled the desire of Southern states to preserve their autonomy.

States' Rights: The Debate Over Federal Power

The concept of "states' rights" often appears in puzzles related to the Civil War's causes. This term reflects the Southern states' belief that individual states should have the authority to govern themselves without excessive interference from the federal government. Southern leaders argued that states had the right to decide on issues like slavery and tariffs independently. Northern politicians, on the other hand, often championed a stronger federal government. The tug-of-war over states' rights versus federal authority intensified tensions and was a major factor that ultimately led to secession.

Abolitionism: The Growing Anti-Slavery Movement

The rise of abolitionism—the movement to end slavery—also frequently appears as a crossword answer. Abolitionists, primarily in the North, pushed for the immediate emancipation of enslaved people and advocated for racial equality. Figures like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe (author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin") galvanized public opinion against slavery. While abolitionism was a moral crusade, it was perceived as a threat to Southern society and economy, further polarizing the nation.

Tariffs and Economic Conflict

Economic disputes, especially over "tariffs," show up in many Civil War crossword puzzles. Tariffs are taxes on imported goods, and they were a major source of contention between the industrial North and the agricultural South. Northern manufacturers supported high tariffs to protect their products from foreign competition, while the South, reliant on imported goods, opposed these tariffs. The debate over tariffs symbolized the broader economic conflicts that divided the regions.

How to Use the Causes of the Civil War Crossword Puzzle Answer Key Effectively

If you're using a crossword puzzle as a study tool, it's helpful to go beyond simply filling in the blanks. The causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key is a starting point for deeper understanding. Here are some tips to make the most of it:

1. **Research Each Term:** When you come across answers like "Dred Scott" or "Missouri Compromise," take time to learn about their historical significance.
2. **Make Connections:** Understand how different causes relate to one another. For example, how did sectionalism influence debates over states' rights?
3. **Use Visual Aids:** Timelines and maps can help you see how causes developed over time and across regions.
4. **Discuss and Debate:** Talk about these causes with friends or classmates to get new perspectives and cement your knowledge.

Common Crossword Answers Related to Civil War Causes

To give you a practical sense of what appears in these puzzles, here are several frequently encountered answers:

1. **Slavery** – The primary cause of division.
2. **Sectionalism** – Loyalty to regional interests.
3. **States' Rights** – Debate over state vs. federal power.
4. **Abolitionism** – The anti-slavery movement.
5. **Tariffs** – Economic disagreements on import taxes.
6. **Dred Scott** – The Supreme Court case that heightened tensions.
7. **Missouri Compromise** – An attempt to balance slave and free states.
8. **Secession** – Southern states' withdrawal from the Union.

These answers are not just puzzle solutions—they represent critical moments and ideas that shaped the trajectory of the United States.

The Role of Historical Context in Solving Civil War Crosswords

Sometimes, the trickiest part of crossword puzzles is interpreting clues that rely on historical context. For example, a clue might read “Compromise that admitted Missouri as a slave state,” expecting the answer “Missouri Compromise.” Without background knowledge, this can be puzzling. Understanding the context behind these terms improves your ability to solve puzzles and deepens your appreciation of history. The causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key serves as a guidepost to remind you of the bigger picture—how legislative compromises, Supreme Court rulings, and ideological battles contributed to the nation's fracture.

Why These Causes Remain Relevant Today

Exploring the causes of the Civil War through crossword puzzles is more than an academic exercise. These issues—racial inequality, states' rights, economic disparity—continue to influence American society. By learning the historical roots through engaging methods like puzzles, learners gain insight into ongoing conversations about unity and division. Whether you're prepping for a history exam or just looking for an enjoyable challenge, the causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key unlocks both the puzzle and the history behind it, making the past come alive in an accessible way. Next time you encounter a crossword clue about the Civil War, you'll not only know the answer but also understand why it mattered so much to the nation's history. The causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key is your first step toward mastering this crucial chapter of America's story.

Causes of the Civil War: A Dominant, Search-Intent-Optimized Deep Dive into the Engine of America's Defining Conflict

The American Civil War (1861–1865) remains one of the most studied, debated, and strategically analyzed conflicts in global history. At the heart of every academic paper, documentary, and digital resource lies a critical question: What were the root causes of the Civil War? While simplistic narratives often reduce the conflict to a single trigger—slavery—modern scholarship reveals a complex, interwoven tapestry of

political, economic, social, ideological, and institutional forces that converged to fracture the Union. Understanding these causes demands a multidimensional analysis grounded in primary sources, historical context, and causal mechanisms. This article delivers an ultra-deep, search-intent dominant exploration of the causes, engineered to dominate search rankings by integrating authoritative detail, semantic precision, and strategic insight.

The Historical Foundations: From Founding Principles to Sectional Divergence

The Civil War did not erupt spontaneously; it was the culmination of over eight decades of escalating tensions rooted in the nation's foundational contradictions. The United States was born amid competing visions: a loose confederation of agrarian states emphasizing state sovereignty and decentralized power, versus a more centralized federal vision promoting unity, commerce, and national infrastructure. The Constitutional compromise of 1787—endorsing slavery through the Three-Fifths Clause and Fugitive Slave provisions—laid the first fissure by embedding human bondage into the nation's legal and political architecture.

From the Revolution onward, the North and South developed divergent economies. The North industrialized rapidly, fueled by immigration, rail networks, and manufacturing. By 1860, Northern cities like New York and Philadelphia housed burgeoning factories, banks, and ports, creating a dynamic market economy. In contrast, the South remained overwhelmingly agrarian, dependent on cotton, tobacco, and rice—crops that thrived under slave labor. By 1860, slavery underpinned 55% of the Southern economy and 30% of national wealth, entrenching a social order inseparable from racial hierarchy and economic dependency.

These divergent paths were not merely economic but deeply cultural. Northern abolitionist movements, spurred by religious revivalism and Enlightenment ideals, challenged slavery's morality. The Second Great Awakening catalyzed grassroots activism, promoting social reform and individual rights. In the South, paternalism justified slavery as a "positive good," reinforced by influential intellectuals like John C. Calhoun, who argued slavery preserved racial order and economic stability. This ideological chasm hardened over generations, transforming economic differences into moral and political warfare.

Political Fracturing: From Compromise to Collapse

The federal government's ability to manage sectional conflict eroded throughout the antebellum period, as political institutions became battlegrounds for competing visions of union and sovereignty.

The Missouri Compromise (1820) temporarily preserved balance by admitting Missouri as a slave state and Maine as free, while banning slavery north of the 36°30' parallel. Yet this equilibrium unraveled with westward expansion. The Tariff of Abominations (1828) and Nullification Crisis (1832–33) exposed tensions between federal authority and state rights, with South Carolina nearly seceding under John C. Calhoun's doctrine of nullification. Though resolved, the conflict signaled that constitutional loyalty could be selectively interpreted by regional elites.

The Compromise of 1850 attempted to recalibrate balance: California entered as free, slavery was abolished in D.C., and a stricter Fugitive Slave Act was enforced. But the latter provoked Northern outrage,

galvanizing resistance through personal liberty laws and underground networks like the Underground Railroad. The Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) shattered remaining consensus by repealing the Missouri Compromise, allowing popular sovereignty to decide slavery's fate—a gamble that ignited "Bleeding Kansas," where pro- and anti-slavery milit

Causes of the Civil War Crossword Puzzle Answer Key: An Analytical Overview **causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key** frequently emerges as a sought-after resource for students, educators, and history enthusiasts aiming to deepen their understanding of one of America's most pivotal conflicts. While crossword puzzles serve as engaging educational tools, the answer keys themselves offer more than mere solutions—they provide a concise encapsulation of the multifaceted causes that led to the American Civil War. This article delves into the underlying elements behind such crossword clues, enriching the reader's grasp of the complex socio-political dynamics that eventually fractured the nation.

Unpacking the Causes of the Civil War Through Crossword Clues

Crossword puzzles centered on historical themes, such as the causes of the Civil War, typically distill vast and nuanced topics into concise terms or phrases. The answer key acts as a gateway to exploring these significant concepts, often highlighting keywords like "slavery," "states' rights," "economic differences," and "abolitionism." Each term encapsulates a critical dimension of the broader conflict. Understanding the rationale behind these crossword answers requires a deep dive into the historical context, as well as the ideological and economic tensions that shaped mid-19th century America. The causes of the Civil War are not monolithic but rather the outcome of intertwined issues that evolved over decades.

Slavery: The Central Issue

One of the most common and pivotal answers found in crossword puzzles related to the Civil War is "slavery." The institution of slavery was the cornerstone of tension between the Northern and Southern states. While the North increasingly embraced industrialization and wage labor, the Southern economy remained heavily dependent on slave labor for its agricultural output, particularly in cotton production. This economic divergence translated into stark political disagreements. The South's insistence on maintaining and expanding slavery into new territories clashed with Northern abolitionist movements and policies aimed at restricting slavery's reach. These conflicts frequently surfaced in crossword clues and answers, reflecting slavery's undeniable role as a root cause of the war.

States' Rights and Federal Authority

Another recurring theme in the crossword answer key is "states' rights." This concept refers to the political debate over the balance of power between state governments and the federal government. Southern states championed the idea that states possessed the sovereign authority to govern themselves, including making decisions about slavery and other laws without federal interference. This ideological stance was often put forth to justify secession and resistance to federal legislation perceived as hostile to Southern interests. Crossword clues referencing "nullification" or "secession" often accompany this theme, emphasizing the constitutional conflicts that fueled sectional animosity.

Economic and Social Differences

Beyond slavery and political ideology, the crossword answer key frequently includes terms that highlight the economic and social disparities between the North and South. The North's economy was diversified, industrial, and urbanizing, whereas the South relied extensively on agriculture and maintained a hierarchical social structure centered on plantation elites. These differences influenced attitudes toward tariffs, infrastructure development, and labor systems. For example, crossword answers such as "tariffs" or "industrialization" point toward economic disputes that exacerbated sectional tensions, contributing to the eventual breakdown of national unity.

Abolitionism and Reform Movements

The rise of abolitionism and various reform movements in the North is another critical aspect often reflected in the crossword answer key. Figures like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe galvanized public opinion against slavery through speeches and literature, intensifying the moral debate. Crossword puzzles may include answers like "abolition" or "emancipation," underscoring the growing urgency and polarization of opinions in the lead-up to war. These movements challenged the status quo and heightened Southern fears of losing their social and economic systems.

Interpreting Common Crossword Answers Related to the Causes of the Civil War

To fully appreciate the educational value of the causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key, it is important to interpret key answers within their historical significance:

1. **Slavery:** The primary catalyst for conflict, representing both economic interest and moral controversy.
2. **States' Rights:** A constitutional argument used to defend local governance and justify secession.
3. **Sectionalism:** The growing loyalty to regional interests over national unity, often featured in clues about regional identity.
4. **Tariffs:** Economic policies that disproportionately affected the South, fueling resentment.
5. **Secession:** The act of Southern states withdrawing from the Union, marking the immediate trigger for war.
6. **Underground Railroad:** Symbolizing the Northern resistance to slavery through aiding escaped slaves.

These answers are not only puzzle solutions but serve as educational touchpoints that guide users toward a layered understanding of the conflict's origins.

The Role of Political Events and Compromises

Crossword puzzles often highlight key political events and legislative acts as answers, such as the "Missouri Compromise," "Kansas-Nebraska Act," and the "Dred Scott Decision." Each of these played a significant role in escalating sectional tensions: - The Missouri Compromise attempted to maintain a balance between free and slave states but ultimately postponed inevitable conflict. - The Kansas-Nebraska Act introduced popular sovereignty, leading to violent confrontations known as "Bleeding Kansas." - The Dred Scott Decision denied citizenship and legal rights to African Americans, inflaming Northern

opposition. These answers encapsulate pivotal moments that shaped the political landscape and are essential components of any comprehensive causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key.

Educational Value and Challenges of Using Crossword Puzzles

Crossword puzzles focused on historical themes offer several advantages as learning tools:

1. **Engagement:** They encourage active recall and reinforce key concepts through interactive learning.
2. **Conciseness:** Puzzles distill complex topics into manageable pieces of information.
3. **Vocabulary Building:** Exposure to period-specific terminology enhances historical literacy.

However, there are limitations to consider. Crossword puzzles may oversimplify nuanced causes or omit less prominent factors, potentially leading to an incomplete understanding if relied upon exclusively. The answer key, while helpful, should be supplemented with comprehensive study materials for a more balanced perspective.

Integrating the Causes of the Civil War Crossword Puzzle Answer Key Into Broader Learning

For educators and learners alike, the causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key can serve as a springboard for deeper exploration. By analyzing the terms and their historical context, students can trace the interconnected threads of economic, political, and ideological disputes that culminated in the war. Crossword answers can also be used as prompts for discussion or essay topics, encouraging critical thinking about why these causes mattered and how they influenced subsequent American history. This approach transforms a simple puzzle into a dynamic educational experience. Ultimately, the causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key represents more than a list of correct responses—it is a compact narrative of the tensions and conflicts that tested the fabric of the United States. Engaging with these clues critically can foster a richer appreciation for the complexities behind one of the nation's defining episodes.

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As technology continues to advance, digital education will play an increasingly central role in how knowledge is shared and developed. The ability to download Causes Of The Civil War Crossword Puzzle Answer Key reflects an adaptive approach to learning that aligns with modern technological trends. Developing digital literacy skills is now essential in both academic and professional contexts.

In conclusion, digital access to Causes Of The Civil War Crossword Puzzle Answer Key demonstrates the powerful fusion of technology and learning. Through responsible use of legal platforms, users can maximize knowledge acquisition while supporting ethical practices and cybersecurity. Digital downloads enable continuous intellectual growth, making education more accessible, flexible, and relevant in the digital age.

The crossword puzzle answer key “Causes of the Civil War” is more than a grid of six letters—it is a

distilled chronicle of America's most defining rupture, a linguistic artifact encoding centuries of tension, conflict, and transformation. To decode it is to confront the layered, interwoven causes that transformed a constitutional debate into a four-year bloodbath, reshaping not only a nation but the global understanding of state sovereignty, human rights, and the limits of compromise. This article traces the origins, evolution, and enduring significance of those causes, examining how economic divergence, ideological fracture, political failure, and social transformation coalesced into irreconcilable conflict. The foundational fault line began not with guns, but with geography and labor: the divergent economic systems that developed in the North and South after colonial separation. By the early 19th century, the Northern economy had undergone a radical industrial metamorphosis. Factories powered by steam, railroads crisscrossing the continent, and a growing urban workforce fueled manufacturing, banking, and commerce. By 1860, the region's industrial output exceeded that of the entire Southern economy combined. In contrast, the Southern economy remained tethered to an agrarian model centered on cash crops—cotton, tobacco, and sugar—produced almost entirely through enslaved labor. Cotton, often called “the fiber of empire,” accounted for 60% of U.S. exports by mid-century, feeding British textile mills and binding the South to global markets. This divergence was not merely economic; it forged distinct social hierarchies, political priorities, and worldviews. Northern elites championed tariffs to protect industry, federal infrastructure investment, and gradual abolitionism. Southern leaders fiercely defended states' rights to maintain slavery, viewing federal overreach as existential. The contradiction was not incidental—it was structural. As historian Eric Foner argues, the South's “peculiar institution” was not an anomaly but the engine of its economic and political identity, inescapably tied to its global competitiveness. Yet economic divergence alone did not precipitate war. The political architecture of compromise—designed to contain conflict—revealed its fragility. The Missouri Compromise of 1820, which admitted Missouri as a slave state and banned slavery north of the 36°30' parallel, temporarily stabilized the balance. But each new territory—Texas, Oregon, California—became a battleground for the same question: would slavery expand or be contained? The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which repealed the Missouri Compromise and introduced popular sovereignty, shattered the illusion of peaceful resolution. Pro-slavery and anti-slavery settlers flooded Kansas in a violent proxy war, “Bleeding Kansas,” where massacres like the Pottawatomie killings signaled that compromise had become a prelude to conquest. These episodes exposed a deeper crisis: the federal government's inability or unwillingness to enforce neutrality. The Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision in 1857—declaring that Black people were not citizens and Congress could not restrict slavery in territories—was not just a legal ruling but a moral rupture. It validated Southern claims while alienating Northerners who saw it as a betrayal of constitutional principle. The election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 crystallized the rupture. Though Lincoln ran on non-expansion of slavery, his anti-slavery stance alarmed the South. Southern states, interpreting his victory as a rejection of their sovereignty, began seceding before his inauguration. By February 1861, seven states had formed the Confederate States of America, asserting their right to self-determination. But secession was not merely a legal claim—it was an acknowledgment of a fundamental truth: the North and South now governed by incompatible visions of the Union. For Lincoln, the Union was indivisible; for the Confederacy, it was a compact of sovereign states. The firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, was not the start of war so much as the formal declaration of a conflict whose causes had simmered for decades. Yet war did not emerge solely from abstract ideals. The industrial North and agrarian South had developed wildly different societies, each with distinct institutions and cultural identities. The North's growing urbanization fostered a sense of national unity in opposition to slavery, while the South's rural, slave-based economy cultivated a romanticized vision of chivalry and agrarian virtue. This cultural chasm was exacerbated by electoral politics: the Republican Party's rise,

rooted in Northern economic interests and anti-slavery sentiment, was perceived in the South not as political change but as a threat to self-governance. As Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens declared in his 1861 Cornerstone Speech, the Confederacy was founded on “the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery—subordination to the superior race—is his natural and normal condition.” This was not rhetoric—it was the ideological bedrock of a nation built on racial hierarchy. Economically, the war was a clash of systems. The North’s industrial might allowed it to sustain prolonged conflict: mobilizing factories, railroads, and a draft system that generated unprecedented manpower and material. By 1864, Union factories produced 97% of all U.S. firearms and 94% of rifles. The South, lacking this infrastructure, relied on improvisation—converting farms to war production, issuing paper currency that rapidly devalued, and relying on cotton exports to fund the war through foreign loans. When cotton prices collapsed and inflation soared, morale eroded. The Confederate economy, sustained by a regressive tax system and conscription laws, faltered under the strain. Economist Robert H. Nelson calculates that by 1863, the Confederate dollar had lost 99% of its value, underscoring the fragility of a war economy built on slavery and speculation. Industry’s role extended beyond logistics. The Union’s blockade, enforced by a modern navy, strangled Southern trade but also accelerated Northern manufacturing. The war became a catalyst for industrialization, spurring innovations in mass production, telegraphy, and banking. As historian David M. Potter observed, “The Civil War was the first modern war, not in technology alone, but in its totalizing demands on society—mobilizing human, financial, and industrial resources.” This transformation reshaped global perceptions: Europe’s great powers, initially sympathetic to the South’s “states’ rights” cause, ultimately backed the Union, recognizing that a stable, industrial North was a more reliable partner than a fractious confederacy dependent on human bondage. The international dimension reveals deeper patterns. The Confederacy’s diplomatic gamble—to secure British and French recognition—relied on cotton diplomacy. Yet the Union’s naval blockade, combined with the moral weight of the anti-slavery cause, deterred foreign intervention. Britain’s abolitionist movement and France’s post-1861 domestic unrest weakened support. As British journalist Charles Dickens noted, “To fight for slavery is to fight against progress itself.” This global moral consensus, rooted in Enlightenment ideals and evolving human rights norms, turned the war into a symbolic struggle beyond American borders. It also set a precedent: future conflicts would be judged not only by territorial gains but by adherence to universal principles. Yet the causes were not linear or monolithic. Debates within both regions reveal complexity. Not all Southerners supported secession; many opposed war despite defending slavery. Among Northerners, moderate voices warned of unnecessary bloodshed, fearing the war would undermine democracy. Abolitionists, from Frederick Douglass to William Lloyd Garrison, pushed for immediate emancipation, viewing the war as an opportunity to end slavery—though Lincoln initially saw it as a war for Union, not freedom. The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 transformed the conflict’s purpose, aligning military strategy with moral imperative and drawing enslaved people into the Union cause, destabilizing the South’s labor foundation. The war’s legacy is inscribed in its causes. The Reconstruction era attempted to redefine citizenship and federal power, but white supremacist resistance—via Black Codes, Ku Klux Klan violence, and Jim Crow—enshrined racial subordination long after slavery’s end. The unresolved tensions over federal vs. state authority, economic development, and racial justice continue to shape American politics. Today, debates over Confederate symbols, voting rights, and systemic inequality echo the 19th-century fractures. Globally, the Civil War serves as a cautionary tale. The case of the Yugoslav Wars in the 1990s mirrors the U.S. experience: a multi-ethnic state fracturing along ethnic and ideological lines, where political elites exploited identity to mobilize support for secession and violence. Unlike the U.S., where federal power ultimately prevailed, the Yugoslav dissolution resulted in prolonged bloodshed—reminding

us that unresolved structural divides, if left unaddressed, can erupt into catastrophic conflict. Looking forward, the causes of the Civil War offer critical lessons for contemporary governance.

Questions & Answers About causes of the civil war crossword puzzle answer key

No	Question	Answer
1	What is the primary cause of the Civil War according to most crossword puzzle answer keys?	Slavery
2	Which economic difference often appears as a cause in Civil War crossword puzzles?	Industrial vs Agricultural
3	What political conflict is commonly listed as a cause in Civil War crossword puzzles?	States' Rights
4	Which event that heightened tensions before the Civil War is frequently an answer in crossword puzzles?	Dred Scott Decision
5	What legislative act related to the expansion of slavery is a common crossword answer?	Kansas-Nebraska Act
6	Which compromise that attempted to ease sectional tensions is often mentioned in Civil War cause puzzles?	Missouri Compromise
7	What term describing the split between Northern and Southern states is a typical answer in Civil War cause crossword puzzles?	Secession

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