

Poll: Not all agree about slavery's role in Civil War

By Samantha Ehlinger, Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON – A century and a half after the war ended, Americans still fundamentally disagree about slavery's role in the Civil War and what to teach schoolchildren about it, according to a new McClatchy-Marist Poll.

Fifty-four percent of respondents think slavery was the main reason for the Civil War. A sizable minority, 41 percent, do not think slavery was the main reason, the national survey found.

Echoing that divide, they also are split over what to teach children. A majority, 54 percent, believe schools should teach that slavery was the main reason for the war; 38 percent think they should not teach that.

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