Was Slavery the Primary Motivation for the Secession of South Carolina?

Supporting Question
What were the opinions of southern leaders toward the issue of secession?

Formative Performance Task
Create a graphic organizer that analyzes and categorizes statements made by Southern lawmakers concerning the issue of secession from the United States.

Featured Sources
“Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union,” 1860.

ARGUMENT Was slavery the primary motivation for the secession of South Carolina?
Construct a claim and a counterclaim that address the compelling question using historical evidence.

Directions:
Analyze the following documents taken from the “Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union,” of 1860. Construct two claims about the information presented in the primary sources, along with a paragraph in which you test those claims.

Source A
“Under this Confederation [Articles of Confederation] the war of the Revolution was carried on, and on the 3rd of September, 1783, the contest ended, and a definite Treaty was signed by Great Britain in which she acknowledged the independence of the Colonies...thus were established the two great principles asserted by the Colonies, namely: the right of a State to govern itself; and the right of a people to abolish a Government when it becomes destructive of the ends for which it was instituted.”

Source B
“By this Constitution, certain duties were imposed upon the several States, and the exercise of certain of their powers was restrained, which necessarily implied their continued existence as sovereign States. But to remove all doubt, an amendment was added, which declared that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States, respectively, or to the
Source C

“In the present case, the fact is established with certainty. We assert the fourteen of the States have deliberately refused, for years past, to fulfill their constitutional obligations, and we refer to their own Statutes for the proof.

The Constitution of the United States...provides as follows:

‘No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due,’ This stipulation was so material to the compact, that without it that compact would not have been made. The greater number of the contracting parties held slaves, and the have previously evinced their estimate of the value of such a stipulation by making it a condition in the Ordinance of the government of the territory ceded by Virginia, which now composes the States north of the Ohio River.”

Source D

“The right of property in slaves was recognized by giving to free persons distinct political rights..and by [burdening] them with direct taxes for three-fifths of their slaves; by authorizing the importation of slaves for twenty years; and by stipulating for the rendition of fugitives from labor.

WE affirm that these for which this Government instituted have been defeated, and the Government itself has been made destructive of them by the action of the non-slaveholding States. Those States have assume the right of deciding upon the propriety of our domestic institutions; and have denied the rights of property established in fifteen of the States and recognized by the Constitution; they have denounced as sinful the institution of slavery; they have permitted open establish among them of societies... They have encouraged and assisted thousands of our slaves to leave their homes...