

Chapter 18 Study Guide
Renewing the Sectional Struggle 1848-1854

AP US History

Theme: The sectional conflict over the expansion of slavery that erupted after the Mexican War was temporarily quieted by the Compromise of 1850, but Douglas's Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 exploded it again.

Theme: In the 1850s American expansionism in the West and the Caribbean was extremely controversial because it was tied to the slavery question.

Summary:

The acquisition of territory from Mexico created acute new dilemmas concerning the expansion of slavery, especially for the two major political parties, which had long tried to avoid the issue. The antislavery Free Soil party pushed the issue into the election of 1848. The application of gold-rich California for admission to the Union forced the controversy into the Senate, which engaged in stormy debates over slavery and the Union.

After the timely death of President Taylor, who had blocked a settlement, Congress resolved the crisis by passing the delicate Compromise of 1850. The compromise eased sectional tension for the moment, although the Fugitive Slave Law aroused opposition in the North.

As the Whig party died, the Democratic Pierce administration became the tool of proslavery expansionists. Controversies over Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Gadsden Purchase showed that expansionism was closely linked to the slavery issue.

The desire for a northern railroad route led Stephen Douglas to ram the Kansas-Nebraska Act through Congress in 1854. By repealing the Missouri Compromise and making new territory subject to "popular sovereignty" on slavery, this act aroused the fury of the North, sparked the rise of the Republican Party, and set the stage for the Civil War.

Identify and state the historical significance of each of the following:

Popular sovereignty	William H. Seward
Lewis Cass	Millard Fillmore
Zachary Taylor	"fire eaters"
Free Soil Party	Compromise of 1850
"Conscience" Whigs	Fugitive Slave Law of 1850
Martin Van Buren	"personal liberty laws"
California Gold Rush	Franklin Pierce
Underground Railroad	Winfield Scott
Harriet Tubman	Clayton-Bulwer Treaty
Henry Clay	Matthew C. Perry
Stephen A. Douglas	Ostend Manifesto
John C. Calhoun	Gadsden Purchase
Daniel Webster	Kansas-Nebraska Act
Seventh of March Speech	

Thought Provokers:

1. Outline the serious of events that led to the passage of the **Compromise of 1850**. Did it merely delay an inevitable Civil War? Did it merely appease both sides and actually contribute to the animosity?
2. Identify the motivations of Pierce and other expansionists. How was **expansionism** closely linked with the slavery issue?
3. Explain the short and long-term effects of Douglas's **Kansas-Nebraska** Scheme.

Identification *Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.*

- _____ 1. Hotheaded southern agitators who pushed southern interests and favored secession from the Union.
- _____ 2. The doctrine that the residents of a territory should decide the issue of slavery themselves, not by the federal government.
- _____ 3. The boundary line between slave and free states in the East, originally the southern border of Pennsylvania
- _____ 4. The informal network that conducted runaway slaves from the South to Canada
- _____ 5. Senator William Steward's doctrine that slavery should be excluded from the territories because it is contrary to God's moral law, which stands above the Constitution
- _____ 6. The provision of the compromise of 1850 that comforted southern slave-catchers and aroused the wrath of northern abolitionists
- _____ 7. Third-party entry in the election of 1848 that opposed slavery expansion and prepared the way for the Republican Party
- _____ 8. A series of agreements between North and South that temporarily dampened the slavery controversy and led to a short-lived "Era of Good Feelings"
- _____ 9. Political party that fell apart and disappeared after losing the election of 1852
- _____ 10. An agreement between Britain and America concerning any future Central American canal
- _____ 11. A top-secret dispatch, drawn up by American diplomats in Europe, which called for seizing Cuba from Spain
- _____ 12. Southwestern territory acquired by the Pierce administration to facilitate a southern transcontinental railroad
- _____ 13. The sectional agreement of 1820, repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- _____ 14. The political party that was deeply divided by Douglas's Kansas-Nebraska Act
- _____ 15. A new political party organized as a protest against the Kansas-Nebraska Act

Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- _____ A series of delicate agreements between the North and South temporarily smoothed over the slavery conflict
- _____ A Mexican War hero is elected president, as the issue of how a deal with slavery in the territory acquired from Mexico arouses national controversy
- _____ A spectacular growth of settlement in the far West creates demand for admission of a new free state and agitates the slavery controversy
- _____ Stephen A. Douglas's scheme to build a transcontinental railroad leads to repeal of the Missouri compromise, which reopens the slavery controversy and spurs the formation of a new party
- _____ The Pierce administration acquires a small Mexican territory to encourage a southern route for the transcontinental railroad

Matching People, Places and Events

Match the person, place or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

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|-----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Lewis Cass | A. American naval commander who opened Japan to the West in 1854 |
| ___ 2. Zachary Taylor | B. Democratic presidential candidate in 1848, original proponent of the idea of “popular sovereignty” |
| ___ 3. California | C. Weak Democratic president whose pro-southern cabinet pushed aggressive expansionist schemes |
| ___ 4. District of Columbia | D. Famous “conductor” on the Underground Railroad who rescued more than three hundred slaves from bondage |
| ___ 5. Harriet Tubman | E. Illinois political who helped smooth over sectional conflict in 1850 but then reignited it in 1854. |
| ___ 6. Daniel Webster | F. Central American nation desired by proslavery expansionists in the 1850s |
| ___ 7. William Seward | G. Military hero of the Mexican War who became the Whig’s last presidential candidate in 1854 |
| ___ 8. Utah and New Mexico | H. Whig president who nearly destroyed the Compromise of 1850 before he died in office |
| ___ 9. Franklin Pierce | I. Rich Spanish colony coveted by American proslavery expansionists in the 1850s |
| ___ 10. Winfield Scott | J. Place where northerners tried but failed to get the federal government to abolish slavery but where the slave trade was ended by the Compromise of 1850 |
| ___ 11. Nicaragua | K. Organized as territories under Douglas’s controversial law of 1854 that left their decision on slavery up to popular sovereignty |
| ___ 12. Matthew Perry | L. New York senator who argued that the expansion of slavery was forbidden by a “higher law” |
| ___ 13. Cuba | M. Organized as territories under the Compromise of 1850, with their decision on slavery left up to popular sovereignty |
| ___ 14. Kansas and Nebraska | N. Northern spokesman whose support for the Compromise of 1850 warned him the hatred of abolitionists |
| ___ 15. Stephen A. Douglas | O. Acquired from Mexico in 1848 and admitted as a free state in 1850 without ever having been a territory |

Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause

- ____ 1. The evasion of the slavery issue by Whigs and Democrats in 1848
- ____ 2. The California gold rush
- ____ 3. The Underground Railroad
- ____ 4. The Free Soil Party
- ____ 5. The Compromise of 1850
- ____ 6. The Fugitive Slave Law
- ____ 7. The Pierce administration's schemes to acquire Cuba
- ____ 8. The Gadsden Purchase
- ____ 9. Stephen Douglas's indifference to slavery and desire for a northern railroad route
- ____ 10. The Kansas-Nebraska Act

Effect

- A.** Prepared the way for the antislavery Republican Party
- B.** Fell apart after the leaking of the Ostend Manifesto
- C.** Caused a tremendous northern protest and the birth of the Republican Party
- D.** Made the issue of slavery in the Mexican Cession areas more urgent
- E.** Created a short-lived national mood of optimism and reconciliation
- F.** Heightened competition between southern and northern railroad promoters over the choice of a transcontinental route
- G.** Led to the formation of new antislavery party, the Free-Soilers
- H.** Aroused active northern resistance to legal enforcement and promoted attempts at nullification in Massachusetts
- I.** Led to the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, without regard for the consequences
- J.** Aroused southern demands for an effective fugitive-slave law

Answers:

Identification:

- 1. fire-eaters
- 2. popular sovereignty
- 3. Mason-Dixon line
- 4. Underground Railroad
- 5. higher law
- 6. Fugitive Slave Law
- 7. Free Soil Party
- 8. Compromise of 1850
- 9. Whigs
- 10. Clayton-Bulwer Treaty
- 11. Ostend Manifesto
- 12. Gadsden Purchase
- 13. Missouri Compromise
- 14. Democratic Party
- 15. Republican Party

Matching People, Places,

Events:

- 1. B
- 2. H
- 3. O
- 4. J
- 5. D
- 6. N
- 7. L
- 8. M
- 9. C
- 10. G
- 11. F
- 12. A
- 13. I
- 14. K
- 15. A

Putting Things in Order

3, 1, 2, 5, 4

Matching Cause and Effect

- 1. G
- 2. D
- 3. J
- 4. A
- 5. E
- 6. H
- 7. B
- 8. F
- 9. I
- 10. C