



AP[®] US History (Operational) 2004 Sample Student Responses

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From 1820 to 1861 America was divided as the north and south held opposing beliefs as to how the country should be run. Perhaps the greatest issue was whether or not ~~states had power~~ ~~of the govern~~ decisions should be made by states or a national government. During this time of sectional tension, there was much political compromising being done in hope to ease the tension, ~~the~~ Even though the compromising ~~measures~~ seemed brilliant and effective, ultimately it was not effective enough to prevent the country from going to war ~~with~~ against each other.

The north and south disagreed on basically every issue from a tariff ^{and} ~~the~~ banking, to ~~the~~ industrial or agrarian. However, slavery was the predominant issue ~~during the mid 1800s~~ during the mid 1800s. The ^{north} ~~south~~ argued against the extension of slavery while the south argued that slavery was essential to the prosperity of the entire nation. The south used the ninth and tenth amendments to defend that an issue unaddressed in the Constitution (slavery) and a power not given to the government to decide on (slavery) was given to the state ^{a power} to decide on. However, northerners believed slavery was immoral and detrimental to the American society. When new territory was gained, there was always a debate whether or not the territory or state would be free or slave. Under the Missouri Compromise, ~~the~~

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political leaders agreed that Missouri could come in as a slave state while Maine would come in as a free slave state to keep a balance in the nation. In addition this compromise determined that the 36-30 line would separate ~~the~~ the admission of states where states above the line would be free and states below could be slave. However, even though this seemed successful, it was overturned by the Kansas-Nebraska Act when it was proposed to open the territory to popular sovereignty. The Compromise of 1850 was another attempt to ease sectional tension when California and Texas were going to come into the union. Political leaders agreed to declare California free, Texas slave, ^{and} the rest of territory under popular sovereignty. In addition, the south agreed to end slave trade in the Washington DC while the north agreed to a more enforced Fugitive Slave Law. However, the north ~~the~~ added to the sectional tension when they created Liberty Laws which would not enforce the Fugitive Slave Law.

Therefore, although there was a great effort to settle sectional disputes, compromise during the mid 1800s was not effective enough to prevent the Civil War.

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With the acquiring of new lands in the West through exploration, the ~~to~~ debate ^{over} of slavery was rehashed, for the first time since the constitution, in the US govt. Most northerners, opposed to the expansion of slavery, did not mind slavery where it had been present for many years; however, there was a growing number of abolitionists. ~~In the south, farmers~~ ^{plantation} owners thrived off of their slaves. ~~At~~ Although a majority of whites in the South did not own slaves, ^{most people} ~~the large~~ encouraged slavery for different reasons. Plantation owners felt slavery was the only way to make profit from their crops. Smaller farmers, Yeoman farmers, without slaves, ~~felt~~ saw the slaves as lower than them. ^{This increased} ~~There was a~~ ~~sett~~ their feeling of worth. With the many different views on slavery, compromise was needed frequently for the ~~&~~ reduction of tensions in the period ~~of~~ 1820 to 1861; ^{however, the issue of} ~~slavery was not concluded by compromise but by war.~~

In 1820, the Missouri Compromise eased tensions temporarily. With Maine admitted ~~and~~ as a free state and Missouri admitted as a slave state, the number of free versus ~~the~~ slave states in the union remained equal. Thus, the number ~~senate~~ seats for and against slavery remained equal. This ^{compromise also included} ~~resolution~~ ~~was~~ ~~also~~ a section which stated that all ~~land~~ ^{the} ~~states~~ ^{the bottom} above ~~Missouri~~ boundary of Missouri, the 36th parallel, would remain free. At first this compromise seemed fair; however, southerners resented this restriction on slavery. The Supreme Court would later declare the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional b/c it said that slaves were property and the govt cannot deny citizens of their property; therefore

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The Missouri Compromise proved a failure in the long term. Another compromise ideology was the idea of Popular Sovereignty. This compromise was ~~deve~~ supported by Cass in his presidential campaign. Popular Sovereignty developed a system in which the citizens of a prospective state would vote ~~see~~ if their state would allow slavery. Popular Sovereignty proved a failure in Bleeding Kansas, as people stuffed ballots and the ~~electio~~ votes were corrupt. ~~In the~~ As Kansas was going to become a state, Northerners ~~be~~ developed the Emigration Aid Association which funded peoples' travels to settle in Kansas and vote against slavery. The South also sent people into Kansas to "stuff the ballot boxes." When the south won the vote and organized the Lecompton Constitution, ^{anti-slavery} ~~northern~~ citizens developed their own govt. The two govts collided in Pottawatomie Creek Massacre, when John Brown killed slave owners. Popular Sovereignty was thus a failure because there was no way to control the elections ~~before~~ ~~after~~ in the wide lands of this region.

Slavery was again attempted to be compromised in the Crittenden Compromise — the last attempt for peace before the Civil War. ~~The~~ Senator John Crittenden proposed a redevelopment of the Missouri Compromise line ~~as~~ as the South ^{begin to} seceded ~~with his compromise's history~~ With the history of the ^{Missouri} ~~Missouri~~ Compromise line, the ~~compromise~~ ^{Crittenden} Compromise did not have much chance of success; however, it was the last attempt of the North to

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prevent war with the South. The equal number of free and slave states had been destroyed with the entrance of California as a free state, and popular sovereignty had been established for the other territories of the west. The South felt that slavery should be able to expand anywhere. With the election of Lincoln, the South rejected the Crittenden Compromise and the Civil War began.

The Slavery in America proved a major section conflict. Compromises could not be made successful due to the many conflicting views on slavery. Although many compromises were ~~made~~ ^{developed}, such as the Missouri Compromise, ~~and~~ the Compromise of 1850, and the Crittenden Compromise, slavery was ultimately decided upon by the Civil War — an inevitable war between the sections.

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The issue of slavery was perhaps the most hotly debated topic in the United States throughout the nineteenth century. Especially after Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin, the cultivation of cotton - highly dependent on slave labor - dominated the Southern economy. In the earlier half of the 19th century, most Southerners viewed slavery as a 'necessary evil,' while most Northerners simply opposed the further spread of slavery. The period from 1820 to 1861, however, ~~included~~ included a handful of national compromises that reflected shifting viewpoints on both sides. These compromises - of 1820, 1833, and 1850 - attempted to help the two sides reconcile their increasingly extreme views, but ultimately made negligible progress in the ~~settling~~ settling of the slavery issue.

The Missouri Compromise of 1820 was precipitated by the proposed Tallmadge Amendment, which would allow no further entrance of slaves into Missouri Territory. The southern states desired Missouri's entrance into the Union as a slave state, but the North objected on the grounds that this would upset the balance of slave states and free states in the legislative branch. A solution amenable to both parties was proposed by Henry Clay - the 'Great Compromise.' Under the compromise, Missouri would enter the United States as a slave state, but the balance would be preserved by Maine's admission as a free state. The further expansion of slavery would be prohibited above Missouri's southern boundary at 36° 30'. Though this compromise quieted the uproar of the moment, no real solution had been reached on the issue of slavery and conflict would continue.

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Slavery was not the prevalent issue in the Nullification Crisis following the passage of 1828's 'Tariff of Abominations' but its influence colored southern reactions. The South was angered by the tariff's passage because they believed it favored industry (the North) over agriculture (the South). The southern states asserted that they had a right to nullify this decree, and they were supported by John C. Calhoun's anonymously published ~~South~~ South Carolina Exposition. The underlying fear feeling southern uproar was that if the government were stronger than the states, it would eventually outlaw the slavery that shaped the Southern way of life. Again, Henry Clay stepped in. With his Compromise Tariff of 1833, tariff rates would gradually be lowered over a period of ten years. By 1842, they would have returned to the more moderate level set by the tariff of 1816. Clay's ~~was~~ gift for compromise again made him the hero of the day, but again - only on the surface had conflict been settled. Still nothing had been decided as to the legality and expansion of slavery and still the sectional rift deepened.

After ~~the~~ ^{an American} victory in the Mexican War, ~~the~~ new question sprang ~~out~~ into being. Should slavery be allowed in ~~the~~ ^{the} newly gained territories of the Mexican Cession? The 21st Amendment ~~of~~ dictated that none of the newly gained territories would allow slavery, but this proviso failed to be voted into law. The gifted hand of Henry Clay then shaped the Compromise of 1850. Under this legislation, California would enter the United States as a free state, and the slave trade would be ended in Washington, D.C.

