



AP United States History 2000 Student Samples

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Sectional ~~division~~ ~~have~~ ~~char~~ differences have characterized the relationship between the North and South since the formation of the United States ~~of American~~ colonies. Initially these differences ~~were~~ did not cause strife but by the 1820's animosity between the two regions could be seen as an emerging trend. As expansion, (moving into western territory) became a predominant ~~national~~ ~~and~~ issue, ~~different motives~~ the different ~~aims~~ ^{aims} of the ~~to~~ north and south ~~for~~ this migration led to heated argument. Although ~~moral arguments~~ played a small role ~~to~~ ~~the~~ south wished to expand slavery into the new territories, while the north ~~saw this as~~ ~~the~~ ~~extension~~ of slavery as a ~~political and economic~~ favor ~~to~~ the extension of slavery. Initially, the North's opposition ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~extension~~ of slavery ~~was~~ ~~primarily~~ ~~could~~ be attributed to ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~that~~ the extension of slavery ~~was~~ a political and economic threat, rather than a moral threat, as seen in the action of the Missouri Compromise. However, the ~~Compromise~~ ^{Compromise} of 1850 ~~shows~~ shows that in the middle of the century, the morality argument versus slavery became stronger than it had been ~~at~~ ~~the~~ Missouri Compromise was a political

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action that showed ~~the~~ the north's ~~opposition~~ of slavery was less of a moral issue and more of a political issue ~~around~~ at that time. In the early 1800's the North contained few abolitionists, and those who ~~were~~ did favor abolition were considered radicals. ~~In most part~~ Instead of being against slavery because of its immorality, most Northerners opposed slavery because it took jobs away from white people and it ~~gave~~ ~~it~~ increased southern representation and power in the ~~go~~ politics. These feelings were ^{especially} displayed around 1820, in regard to the Missouri Compromise.

The Missouri Compromise came as a resolution to the debate between the North and South, ~~about~~ whether Missouri could enter the union as a slave state, as it had proposed. When the northerners in Congress heard that Missouri wished to enter as a slave state they were outraged because this action ~~the~~ would upset the balance between slave states and free states. At the time there were eleven slave states and eleven free states. Instead of worrying about the morality of slavery the northerners worried about the effects ~~the~~ that

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the expansion of slavery, would have on their power. They feared that allowing Missouri to become a slave state would ~~become~~ make a precedent for future ~~state~~ slave states. More slavery meant more ~~state~~ ~~represent~~ southern political representation and less jobs for whites.

The controversy over slavery was at stalemate until Henry Clay proposed a compromise which satisfied both the north and south. The Missouri compromise allowed for Missouri to enter as a slave state and Maine to enter as a free state. ~~In a this~~ In addition ~~it~~ ~~it~~ declared that there would be no ~~slavery~~ further slavery above the $36^{\circ} 30'$ line in the Louisiana Territory. This satisfied Northerners ~~that~~ because ~~the~~ the compromise protected ~~northern~~ ~~representative~~ power the balance of northern and southern power.

The Compromise of 1850 showed a slight change in the ~~the~~ north's reasons for opposing slavery. The compromise resulted as a response to the arguments between the North and South over whether to allow the territory ceded from the Mexican War, be slave or free. →

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Henry Clay once again engineered a compromise that ~~was the first~~ passed through Congress. The Compromise of 1850 declared that ~~the~~ California would enter as a free state, while Utah and New Mexico would be decided slave or free through popular sovereignty. In addition, ~~a~~ a component addressing the North's slightly more moralistic opposition to the extension of slavery was addressed by ending ~~the~~ the slave trade in the nation's capital, Washington D.C. The final component of the compromise was a more stringent Fugitive Slave Law, which was formed to satisfy the South. The ~~it~~ new strength of the law allowed for ~~run-away~~ slaves that to be tried without a jury, by a judge who was payed more to return slaves to their masters than to free ~~the~~ run-away slaves. The ~~the~~ blatant breach of ~~the~~ the runaway slaves' rights finally struck a moral chord in the north. The North refused to adhere to the Fugitive Slave Law and instead created "personal liberty" laws, which prevented northern police from ~~the~~ incarcerating ~~the~~ runaway slaves. ~~This political action of the north showed the beginning of a~~ →

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~~change in opposition the nature of the opposition to slavery, instead:~~

The political action taken by the north in the formation of the "personal liberty laws" showed the beginning of a change in the nature of the opposition north's opposition to slavery. The fight against the extension of slavery was no longer based ~~on the~~ solely on the North's concern ~~for~~ of power and economics. However, even though the Compromise of 1850 added the issue of morality more strongly into the stew of oppositions versus slavery, it was still not the strongest argument, ~~it~~ and never would be.

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The United States had been heading toward a great conflict since the inception of the United States, for the country was a fusion of two very different regions: The South was patriarchal, slave-based, cotton-dependent and deferential, while the North was mostly free, industrial, democratic and heterogeneous. But the great conflict that inflicted a deep wedge between them and ultimately led to the Civil War was the question about the expansion of slavery in the territories. Northerners believed that slavery was inherently evil and the blight should not spread to new land. Also economically free labor meant more competition which was in tune with the industrializing North. The South, meanwhile, wanted to expand her cotton fields and perpetuate the institution of slavery. The stage was set for what would be the biggest war in the United (?) States.

This problem about the expansion of slavery first manifested itself in 1820. Its call was like "a firebell in the night," as the aging Jefferson remarked. At the time, the Union was balanced ~~16 to 16~~ ~~16 to 16~~ ~~16 to 16~~ equally with respect to slave and free states. Then Missouri asked for admission as a slave state. The Congress exploded! ~~As~~ The House raged with eloquent and fierce debates about whether to

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→ Many also felt that the Founding Father had wished to ultimately abolish slavery.

→ Those who opposed slavery felt that there was no morality in slavery and its continuation would be very undemocratic. This include Missouri as a slave state or not. This deeply dividing conflict was finally resolved by the "Great Compromiser" himself, Henry Clay. Clay decided the Missouri would enter as a slave state and Maine, which would be carved out of Massachusetts Territory, would enter as a free state. A line was also established at $36^{\circ}30'$ above which all land would be free. The Missouri Compromise, as it was called, settled the dispute for then but left unanswered many questions that had been raised upon government's right to ~~to~~ decide the status of slavery.

The debate about the expansion of slavery quieted over the next two decades but exploded after the Mexican-American War and would not go away. As time passed, the opposition against slavery only grew stronger. In 1831, Garrison published his *Liberator* which demanded immediate abolition. Most northerners were not that radical but wanted to cease unchecked growth of slavery. They began to grow afraid of the corrupt "State ^{southern} power" that was ~~big~~ in the Congress. The Whig party was not enough to contain all their interests. First the Liberty party and the Free-Soiler Party emerged to represent abolitionist viewpoints. The final demise of the Whig party came with the Kansas-Nebraska Act. In that Act, Stephen Douglas of Illinois

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proposed Popular Sovereignty in the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, directly violating the Missouri Compromise. When Congress voted on the bill, Whigs voted on sectional lines and not on party affiliation. The Whigs fell apart. Although it represented a victory for the South, in effect, it also mandated the emergence of a party more strongly committed to the ~~containment~~ containment of slavery. The Republican party in 1854 came to fulfill that role.

Thus as discussed above, the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act represented great strides toward the Civil War and hardened the Free-Souther's resolution to prevent the expansion of slavery and perhaps even abolish it.

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③ ~~Reason~~ In the Mexican War although many northerners wanted to stop the spread of slavery because they saw it as evil, the most significant action taken was for other reasons. The Wilmot Proviso was taken on to legislation regarding the Mexican War. It stated that any territory acquired from Mexico in the war would enter the U.S. as a free state. Although many northerners supported the notion because they felt slavery was immoral and they wanted at the very least to contain the South's "peculiar institution", that was not actually why it was written. It was written because Wilmot was ~~not~~ racist. He simply didn't want African Americans in the territory. He basically just dreamed of a lily white society, he would probably have been a big supporter of the back to Africa movement. Anyways, the Wilmot Proviso did not work out and the Compromise of 1850 was drawn up.

The compromise of 1850 was created by Clay in an effort to keep on the good side of both abolitionists and slave owners and ease the mounting tension of sectionalism. The compromise of 1850 was really a series of three compromises. One, the U.S. assumed Texas's debt and in exchange the U.S. decided Texas's border (Texas initially wanted to be larger so it could get more representatives). Two, Texas entered the United States as a slave state, and California was admitted as a free state. Three, the Fugitive Slave Law was created with incentives for people to return runaway slaves and the slave trade was stopped in Washington D.C. Although this

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did have some moral backing, ~~it~~ it was more of a politically motivated action. Clay had aspirations for a future in politics, ~~and~~ possibly even running for president and he knew he could not achieve such a prominent career without pleasing both ~~the~~ the north and the south. He thought of himself as a great compromiser and saw that as his key to political prominence.