

Topic of Discussion – *Sectionalism*

Chapter Information ~ Ch 11; 43sections; 23 pages

National and Regional Growth (1800-1844)

Section 1 ~ Early Industry and Invention	Pages 60-65
Section 2 ~ Plantations and Slavery Spread	Pages 66-75
Section 3 ~ Nationalism and Sectionalism	Pages 76-81

Key Ideas

The Economy of the North was vastly different from that found in the South.

The culture in the South differed compared to the North. Slavery became a key dividing political issue.

Ultimately the North v. the South was divided because of power control and money.

Talking Points

I Introduction

Sectionalism- a devotion to the interests of one geographic region over the interests of the country as a whole. The differences between the Northern and Southern states was one of the primary causes of the Civil War.

II Regionalism

1. As life in the colonies progressed, certain regions of America developed distinct characteristics and each had its own unique niche. The contrasts between the different regions were involving European ethnic groups, crops, religion, and control. The distinct regions were New England colonies, the southern colonies and the middle colonies.
1. The North-South differences: The colonies in North America differed in how they survived economically from the northern colonies to the southern colonies. This was mainly due to the climate differences, population, and the types of farming that the north and south had during the colonial era. The north was not completely dependent on farming especially because the farming land was so poor and rocky, so they had to find alternatives to flourish. These alternatives included things such as finding natural resources that did not require farming, such as fish, whales, certain types of trees and animal fur that could be traded for the food that they lacked to farm. In addition to all of this the north was known for all of its manufacturing which they would then sell and trade to Great Britain and to the south in exchange for the necessities that they did not have at the time. The south was the ex-

Questions to Think About

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The Embargo Act of 1809
The War of 1812
North v. South politics
The Civil War

Key Connections - 10 Major (Common) Themes

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2. Taking the land.
3. The individual versus the state.
4. The quest for equity - slavery and it's end, women's suffrage etc.
5. Sectionalism.
6. Immigration and Americanization.
7. The change in social class.
8. Technology developments and the environment.
9. Relations with other nations.
10. Historiography, how we know things.

Supporting Materials

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act opposite of the north in terms of how they went about surviving economically. The south farmed on rich farm land which they were fortunate enough to live off at the time, so basically they continued with the Native American ways by living off of the land. The south flourished in the farming aspect of economics by farming things such as indigo, tobacco, cotton, and rice which they could then sell to the north, or trade to the north in exchange for the manufacturing that the north was doing at the time. The climate was also a huge factor in the way that the two economies developed, and climate was an advantage for the south, but a disadvantage to the north. As far as religion that means the New England colonies were more Congregational and the south was more Anglican, and both Rhode Island and Maryland encouraged freedom of religion.

III Sectionalism

1. In the days leading up to the Civil War President Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying "A house divided against itself cannot stand." What did he mean by this? Clearly he was saying that the United States of America had to remain just that, united. In order to continue to exist as a nation we had to truly be unified. What Lincoln was reacting to were the many conflicts that were dividing this great nation. We call these divisions sectionalism.
2. After the War of 1812 there was actually an immediate industrial revolution (the factory system began in New England, the textile industry grew, and early unions were created). As the North developed its industry, the South became further strictly involved with the plantation system in which Cotton was King. The North and South were so opposite in their values and ways of life that sectionalism simply developed because they did not feel much com-

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mon ground anymore (as they had when they were colonists fighting for the same cause). The North valued industry, commerce, and federal rights, while the South focused on agriculture (of tobacco and cotton), a slower way of life (cult of honor) and states rights.

Commercial agriculture moved from the Northeast to the newly developing Northwest (deleting the former connection of agriculture between the north and the south). Internal transportation (the national road, steam powered shipping, Erie Canal) improved which isolated the south from the rest of the country (lines of transportation were mainly in the north).

In 1828, the "tariff of abominations" was introduced (it was a very high tariff which affected the southern economy negatively) and led to strong protest from the south. It led to a nullification crisis in 1832, led by John C. Calhoun of South Carolina. Calhoun and his fellow southerners argued that states should have the right to nullify (cancel) a federal law. President Jackson responded by threatening to use federal troops, but this was unnecessary because Congressional leaders created the Compromise Tariff of 1833 which gradually reduced tariff rates. This crisis was temporarily prevented, however, the sectionalism of the issue (states vs. federal government) would continue.

IV There were many issues created the sectional conflict?

3. Slavery - first and foremost the most important difference between the north and south was slavery. For the most

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part most northerners really didn't care about slavery in the beginning but as time went on slavery, the existence of it as well as the extension of slavery into the western territories, became the central issue.

4. Representation - The north and south each wanted power to pass laws that would benefit their section. This meant that the more states that became "free" or "slave" meant more votes, both in the House, Senate and Electoral College, for that section. The issue of representation is played out as we expand westward and decisions must be made about each state.
5. Tariffs - The South resented all tariffs as they relied on British imports for more of their everyday goods. They also needed other nations to purchase cotton from their farms. As the north supported tariffs to protect their growing industries the south became increasingly angered. This tension eventually led to the passage of what South Carolina called "the Tariff of Abominations." The south then argued they had the right of nullification.
6. States' Rights - This issue is a direct outgrowth of the South's fear that the North would pass laws that would hurt its lifestyle. Some examples would be tariffs and laws to restrict or abolish slavery. The south again claimed they had the right of nullification.
7. Henry Clay once wrote: "I know of no South, no North, no East, no West to which I owe my allegiance. The Union is my country." Henry Clay was quite alarmed by the division faced by America. He worked hard to keep the Union together but as we shall see, he failed.

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8. As the new American nation moved into its seventh decade of existence it faced several crisis that threatened to tear down the very foundations on which it stood. Sectionalism plagued the land. Instead of looking at the nation as a whole, regional separatism took hold. Southerners, westerners and northerners began to identify themselves regionally and not as Americans. The regional differences that had served to build America now threatened to destroy it.
9. When Monroe articulated his vision of an "American System" he saw the parts of the nation working together as a whole. From colonial times there were differences in geography that gave rise to variations in culture and economy.
10. The northern regions of the nation tended to focus on trade, shipping and manufacturing. The southern regions of the nation tended to focus on agriculture and the mid-Atlantic region blended both. As the nation expanded westward new states like Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio were largely agricultural but yet still stuck to northern and southern ways of life. These geographic and economic differences spurred cultural differences as well. The merchants of the north were accustomed to a faster paced lifestyle while the plantation owners of the south played the role of the gentleman farmer. The leisurely lifestyle of the south did not extend, however, to the working farmhands and slaves that supported the plantation lifestyle of the southern aristocracy.
11. As the different regions began to define themselves, political issues came to the forefront. Wishing to support domestic manufacturing northern politicians endorsed a series of protective tariffs. The first tariff passed in 1816 was

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relatively mild but the second passed in 1828 was much more severe. Southern states called it the "Tariff of Abominations" and demanded the right of nullification. President Andrew Jackson endured a bitter conflict with his Vice President John C. Calhoun while the Webster-Hayne debates raged in the Senate. The split over the tariff and nullification was so fierce that it even led to a violent attack on Senator Charles Sumner on the floor of the senate. Eventually Congress passed, and the President signed, a bill called the Force Bill that authorized the use of the military to compel states to pay the tariff.

12. The bitterest battle of all however, was fought over the issue of slavery. Cotton was essential to the southern economy, as they used to say; "cotton is king!". To southerners slavery was essential in maintaining cheap production of cotton. As cotton production grew, so did slavery.
13. Southern states, fearing the north would eventually try to abolish their "peculiar institution," knew they needed to maintain control of the Senate. In order to do so, as the nation expanded west, the South needed to ensure that states entered the union as slave states. The north, on the other hand, wanted the opposite. When Missouri entered the Union in 1820 the nation attempted to settle the issue with the creation of the Missouri Compromise.
14. The compromise, however, would not last long. When California asked for admission as a free state in 1850 the Missouri Compromise would have bisected the state. The Compromise of 1850 allowed California to enter as a free state but only after allowing a popular vote on slavery in Nevada and New Mexico. If that did not signal the death knell for the Missouri Compromise then the Kansas-Nebraska Act surely did. The act allowed for a popular vote,

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known as "popular sovereignty" in the Kansas and Nebraska territories. A mini civil war broke out in Kansas as pro slave supporters clashed with "free soilers." By the time the Supreme Court issued its verdict in Dred Scott v Sandford any chance of compromise over slavery was over.

IV The Missouri Compromise

1. With the War of 1812 won, Americans could concentrate on solving what was a growing internal problem: what to do about slavery.
2. The first ships containing African slaves had arrived on American shores in 1619, and the slave trade had picked up in the 18th Century. The expansion of cotton and other types of farming in the South required more and more labor, and more and more plantation owners turned to slaves to fill their workloads.
3. By the turn of the 19th Century, outrage was growing over slavery, primarily in the Northern states. And as more and more territories were applying to become states, the decision of whether those states could allow slavery was becoming a very important issue.
4. One by one, states joined the Union. From 1816 to 1819, two Northern and two Southern states joined the Union. The two Northern states, Illinois and Indiana, did not allow slavery; the two Southern states, Alabama and Mississippi, did.
5. The slavery issue was rapidly driving the country into two separate camps, and Congress wasn't doing anything to

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stop the polarization. Both sides made threats over continued settlement of the Louisiana Territory, and neither side was willing to give the other even a temporary advantage.

6. When Missouri applied to become a state, in 1819, the Union had 22 states, 11 allowing slavery and 11 outlawing it. Missouri wanted to become a slave state. Anti-slavery leaders were afraid that allowing another slave state would upset what was then a delicate balance between slave states and free states.
7. Slavery had been an issue ever since the adoption of the Constitution, which agreed to count African-American slaves as three-fifths of a person for population purposes, sending the message that they were inferior to European-Americans. And even though George Washington freed his slaves (Yes, he did have them at one time!), not too many other Southerners followed suit. The plantations that dotted the South depended heavily on slave labor for their livelihood, and slave owners weren't about to give up a practice that saved them a lot of money.
8. Slavery really had two fronts, then. One was economic: Slave owners counted slaves as saved revenue, meaning that they would have had to pay for that labor otherwise. The other front was moral: Many people believed that it was wrong and against the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution that one person could own another.
9. Abolitionists wanted slavery outlawed everywhere, and they were willing to resort to violence to get what they wanted. Many slave owners and even non-slave-owning Southerners were willing to fight to keep what they thought was their right to own slaves if they chose. The country, only five years removed from a victory (again)

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over Great Britain, was close to going to war with itself.

10. So how did Congress solve this growing problem? By compromising. Because both sides were on opposite sides of the issue, both sides couldn't be satisfied by the same outcome. So Congress gave both sides something: Each side got a new state.
11. Maine applied for statehood about the same time, and both were eventually admitted to the Union, Maine as a free state and Missouri as a slave state.

V The Missouri Compromise, as it was called, found its greatest champion in Henry Clay, who was at that time the Speaker of the House. A War Hawk from his days advocating war with Great Britain, he tried desperately to keep the North and South from fighting over the slavery issue. Largely because of Clay's efforts, the Missouri Compromise went into effect.

1. Here are some details of the Compromise:
2. Missouri was admitted as a slave state
3. Maine was admitted as a free state
4. Slavery was forbidden north of the 36 degree latitude mark, the southern boundary of Missouri.
5. People in the North were encouraged to return runaway slaves to their masters.

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6. Slavery was not prohibited anywhere, not even in the free territories.

The Missouri Compromise solved the immediate problem but didn't solve the slavery issue as a whole. As many people on both sides were sure, that would take a war.

1. In the years leading up to the Missouri Compromise of 1820, tensions began to rise between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions within the U.S. Congress and across the country. They reached a boiling point after Missouri's 1819 request for admission to the Union as a slave state, which threatened to upset the delicate balance between slave states and free states. To keep the peace, Congress orchestrated a two-part compromise, granting Missouri's request but also admitting Maine as a free state. It also passed an amendment that drew an imaginary line across the former Louisiana Territory, establishing a boundary between free and slave regions that remained the law of the land until it was negated by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854.
2. The Missouri Compromise was an effort by Congress to defuse the sectional and political rivalries triggered by the request of Missouri late in 1819 for admission as a state in which slavery would be permitted. At the time, the United States contained twenty-two states, evenly divided between slave and free. Admission of Missouri as a slave state would upset that balance; it would also set a precedent for congressional acquiescence in the expansion of slavery. Earlier in 1819, when Missouri was being organized as a territory, Representative James Tallmadge of New York had proposed an amendment that would ultimately have ended slavery there; this effort was defeated, as was a similar effort by Representative John Taylor of New York regarding Arkansas Territory.

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3. The extraordinarily bitter debate over Missouri's application for admission ran from December 1819 to March 1820. Northerners, led by Senator Rufus King of New York, argued that Congress had the power to prohibit slavery in a new state. Southerners like Senator William Pinkney of Maryland held that new states had the same freedom of action as the original thirteen and were thus free to choose slavery if they wished. After the Senate and the House passed different bills and deadlock threatened, a compromise bill was worked out with the following provisions: (1) Missouri was admitted as a slave state and Maine (formerly part of Massachusetts) as free, and (2) except for Missouri, slavery was to be excluded from the Louisiana Purchase lands north of latitude 36°30'.
4. The Missouri Compromise was criticized by many southerners because it established the principle that Congress could make laws regarding slavery; northerners, on the other hand, condemned it for acquiescing in the expansion of slavery (though only south of the compromise line). Nevertheless, the act helped hold the Union together for more than thirty years. It was repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which established popular sovereignty (local choice) regarding slavery in Kansas and Nebraska, though both were north of the compromise line. Three years later, the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, on the ground that Congress was prohibited by the Fifth Amendment from depriving individuals of private property without due process of law.

V Effects of the Compromise

1. The Missouri Compromise was very important at the time of its passage. It saved the United States from dealing with the divisive issue of slavery at a time of economic difficulties brought on by the Panic of 1819. The slave states

Questions to Think About

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Supporting Materials

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The Fragile Fabric of the Union by Schoen

Topic of Discussion – *Sectionalism*

Chapter Information ~ Ch 11; 43sections; 23 pages

National and Regional Growth (1800-1844)

Section 1 ~ Early Industry and Invention	Pages 60-65
Section 2 ~ Plantations and Slavery Spread	Pages 66-75
Section 3 ~ Nationalism and Sectionalism	Pages 76-81

Key Ideas

The Economy of the North was vastly different from that found in the South.

The culture in the South differed compared to the North
Slavery became a key dividing political issue

Ultimately the North v. the South was divided because of power control and money.

Related Topics

Regionalism
The Embargo Act of 1809
The War of 1812
North v. South politics
The Civil War

Key Connections - 10 Major (Common) Themes

1. How cultures change through the blending of different ethnic groups.
2. Taking the land.
3. The individual versus the state.
4. The quest for equity - slavery and it's end, women's suffrage etc.
5. Sectionalism.
6. Immigration and Americanization.
7. The change in social class.
8. Technology developments and the environment.
9. Relations with other nations.
10. Historiography, how we know things.

Talking Points

and southerners were in favor of the compromise because it did not forbid prospective states that were not in the Louisiana Purchase from becoming slave states. Northerners were also pleased with the law because slavery would be contained in the southern part of the nation. Further, the balance between free and slave states remained the same as before the compromise.

2. However, as would become obvious throughout the coming decades, the issues of slavery and sectionalism would not go away. Thomas Jefferson at age 77 was still alive at the time of the compromise and could see the coming storm averted only for a short time. He stated in a letter to William Short in 1820 that the "Missouri question aroused and filled me with alarm...I have been among the most sanguine in believing that our Union would be of long duration. I now doubt it much."

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