

TUESDAY: SECTIONALISM INTRO: Read the information on sectionalism below. As you read highlight or underling the main ideas of the following items: Sectionalism, the three separate sections of the U.S., and The Missouri Compromise.

Growing Sectionalism

Sectionalism—differences in the goals and interests of different parts of the country. Such differences had existed since colonial times. Now, it seemed, they were growing sharper. In fact, they soon brought an end to the Era of Good Feelings.

In the early 1800s, three distinct sections developed in the United States—the North, the South, and the West. The North included New England and the Mid-Atlantic states. The South covered what is now the Southeast. The West included the area between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. Geography, economics, and history all contributed to sectional differences and differing ways of life in the United States. As the differences grew deeper, however, people began to wonder whether sectionalism might divide the nation.

Each section of the country had a strong voice in Congress in the early 1800s. Henry Clay of Kentucky represented the West. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina spoke for Southern interests. Daniel Webster of Massachusetts protected the interests of New England. Each leader, although nationalist, remained concerned with protecting the interests of his own section of the country.

Missouri Statehood

In 1819 the Missouri Territory asked Congress for admission as a state. Most Missouri settlers had come from Kentucky and Tennessee, which allowed slavery. They believed slavery ought to be legal in Missouri. Representative James Tallmadge proposed that Missouri gradually abolish slavery in order to be admitted to the Union. The House passed this plan, but the Senate blocked it.

At the time, the population in the North was slightly larger than in the slave states of the South. Consequently, the North had 105 members in the House of Representatives compared to the South's 81 members. Representation in the Senate was balanced, with 11 slave states and 11 free states. The addition of Missouri as a free state would put the South in the minority in both houses of Congress.

The Missouri Compromise

Debates in Congress heated to the boiling point. Fearing a split in the Union, Henry Clay suggested the Missouri Compromise. Clay proposed that Maine, in the Northeast, enter the Union as a free state. Missouri could then enter as a slave state. This would keep an even balance of power in the Senate—12 free states and 12 slave states.

The Missouri Compromise also addressed the question of slavery in the rest of the Louisiana Purchase territory. The compromise drew a line west from the southern boundary of Missouri—at 36°30' N latitude. The compromise blocked slavery north of the line but permitted it south of the line.

The Missouri Compromise promised a temporary solution to sectional conflict. It did nothing to solve the basic problem, however. Americans who moved west took their different ways of life with them. Southerners wanted to take an economy based on slavery to their new homes. Northerners believed in labor by free people and wanted to establish that in the West. It was a disagreement that seemed to have no peaceful solution.

Missouri Compromise

- 1820 agreement on territories entering the Union
- East-west line drawn through the Louisiana Purchase
- Missouri open to slavery but Maine free to keep balance of free & slave states



Compromise of 1850

- California enters as a Free state; Texas is a slave state
- Stronger fugitive slave law to be enforced
- Slave trade banned in Washington, DC



Kansas - Nebraska Act

- **Popular sovereignty** will decide if Kansas and Nebraska are free or slave states
- **Bloody Kansas** – riots across the state during voting
- **Republican Party** forms from Whigs and Free Soil Democrats to oppose slavery

