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APUSH

Period 4

11/2/20

Chapter 13 Test

1. Westward Migration

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Throughout the early United States’ history, westward migration was accelerating. The American people idolized moving west, forming the Manifest Destiny. They envisioned an American empire with democracy and freedom spreading across the globe. Americans actively sought out to migrate westward at any opportunity. The Mexican government saw this opportunity to grow its unsettled north and gave incentives to immigration to Americans. However, as Americans flooded into the Mexican Territory, tensions grew over issues of slavery and oppression by the government. The Americans in Mexico lead a rebellion, which was battered again and again by Mexican forces, but eventually managed to defeat the Mexicans at the battle of San Jacinto, and petitioned the United States to annex the newly-made republic in Texas. Another destination for American migrants was the West coast. Starting 1840, hundreds of thousands traveled across the Oregon Trail in hopes to take advantage of new economic opportunity. These American migrants did as their ancestors did and took a leap of faith to start a new life westward.

1. Territorial Expansion

Before this westward migration, however, the United States had to acquire the territory. The Democrats, the party of the frontier, won the 1844 election and James Polk became president. He won on the promise of expanding America westward by settling disputes over the Oregon territory and annexing Texas. He quickly worked trying to fix the Oregon border, and after a brief rising of tensions with Britain and Canada, brought compromises over Oregon, securing land for the settlement of Americans. He then turned to the Southwest. Polk had annexed Texas in 1845, but this resulted in Mexico severing diplomatic ties, and new border disputes rising. As Polk and Americans begin to desire California and the southwest from Mexico, he began the Mexican War in 1846. This war was a decisive victory for the Americans, who were aided with revolution in California. Mexico had no choice but to concede California and the Southwest in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848, opening Western territories for willing American settlers.

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1. Sectionalism Grows

The 1850s and 1840s were times of unprecedented divisions in the United States. As reform movements grew in strength and anti-slavery advocates were voted into Congress, attempts to limit the spread of slavery grew. The Wilmot Proviso was the first law to attempt to prohibit slavery in new territories in 1846. Unsuccessful, it inspired movements to ban slavery in DC. It also began a fierce opposition from the South. By 1850, tensions were extremely high, and Clay attempted to diffuse some with his Omnibus Bill to admit California as a state, allow slavery in territories, ban slavery in DC, and create a Fugitive Slave Law. This bill was broken up into sections and passed. The Free- Soil Ideology of the North demonized the South as aristocratic and accusing them of removing freedom and removing power from poorer whites. The Southerners turned around to accuse the North of orchestrating slave uprisings and destroy capitalist in their “Slave Power Conspiracy”. These divisions all brought America closer and closer to war.

1. Chaos in 1850

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During growing divisions in America, the will of both sides to see the other bend strengthened. The Democrats passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act in hopes of creating one free state and one slave with each state voting for its desire. This law destroyed the Whig Party, who despised its repeal of the Missouri Compromise and created the Republican Party. The voting in Kansas was extremely chaotic, with people from both sides flooding in to vote for their cause. These sides clashed and killed in what was later called Bleedin Kansas. The violence did not even stop in the streets. An argument between Congressmen Charles Sumner and Andrew Butler led to Sumner in a coma. All this divisions and violence across America resulted in an ineffective government, which couldn’t solve issues in Kansas or slavery. John Brown, an outspoken abolitionist, raised tension to breaking points when he attacked a fortress in Virginia. So, when Lincoln was elected, the South was quick to break apart from the union.