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| *Focus Question:*  *What stances economically, socially, and politically, did the N. and S. differ in?*  *Who fought against slavery in the North?*  *What did the Wilmot Proviso create; what did it aim to do?*  *What were some of the territories being pulled for in the late 1840s?*  *Who created the Compromise; what did it get for each side?* | **What were some of the key causes of the split between the North and South?**  North and South Take Different Paths   * Northern cities grew with the growth of industry. * Immigrants also added to the population. * Canals and railroads ran west, Midwest and Northeast developed trade relationship. * Few wealthy whites controlled South with slaves, most were poor.   Antislavery and Racism   * Slavery caused tension between the North and South. * Abolitionists argued on morality, though most northerners were not that bothered. * Even abolitionists, though, were considered racist by modern standards. * Many slaveholders openly excused themselves with racial superiority. * Also argued it introduced them to Christianity and provided food.   The Wilmot Proviso   * After the Missouri Compromise, much talk about slavery dissipated, concerns over South making Mexico more slave territory caused debates. * The Wilmot Proviso outlawed slavery in any territory the U.S. might acquire from the Mexican War. * Southerners claimed the law was unconstitutional, as the slaves were their “property.” * Southerners prevented it from passing in the Senate; led to the creation of the Free-Soil Party, a party dedicated “to stopping the expansion of slavery.”   Controversy over Territories   * In 1848, leaders were debating about slavery in the Mexican territories. * California would soon be eligible to be a state, with Gold Rush. * President Zachary Taylor, who opposed the expansion of slavery, proposed California skip territory status, applied to be a free state. * This would tip the balance of power in the Senate, “permanently tipping the balance of power.”   The Compromise of 1850   * Congress was divided over the issue of California’s statehood. * Senator Henry Clay led the push for a compromise over California’s statehood. * Clay’s plan stated that slave trade would be abolished in Washington, D.C, and California would be admitted free. * It also said for the South Congress would make no laws regarding the Mexican territory and it would help slaveholders by creating a more helpful law to get escaped slaves back. * Daniel Webster supported the compromise for the sake of the Union. * Sectional tensions continued to rise even after the Compromise of 1850 passed, however.   Summary  The North, having ever-increased outcries for the stoppage of slavery, quickly began to draw enemies from the South. While the South felt their rights were being infringed, the North believed the actions of many slaveholders were unconstitutional. The expansion of slavery in the captured Mexican territories and California also helped spur this debate on, ultimately leading to Henry Clay’s Compromise of 1850. |
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