

Sectional Disagreements Over Import Tariffs

Sectionalism

As different areas of a country develop there is often a tendency for each area to pay attention only to their needs while neglecting those of other areas. This tendency is known as **sectionalism**.

The First Important Tariffs

Import tariff = a government tax placed on products that are brought into the country.

Import tariffs were not popular with people in the South **because when they bought things from Britain they had to pay not only the cost, but also the import tariff as well.**

Manufacturing grew in the North

In 1807 the US stopped trading with Britain. After the war of 1812 the trading started again and Britain had many goods to offer. The problem for the US companies that had grown during this time was that Britain had a great supply of goods built up. They so much that they were able to sell products to the US at a lower cost than the American companies could sell them. The result was that many American factories went out of business.

Protective Tariffs

To help the American industry protective tariffs were introduced. **Protective tariffs were taxes on items brought into the US that had the end result of making imported items more expensive than those that were made by the US factories. This boosted the sales of the items produced by the US factories and helped them stay in business.**

The Northern factory owners demonstrated sectionalism by **not caring about the factory owners in the South. These factory owners were paying higher prices for their goods as a result of the import tariff. Since factory owners in the North did not normally import their goods this tariff did not effect them.**

The Tariff of Abominations

Southerners named the Tariff of 1828 the "Tariff of Abominations" **because the end result for them was that they had to pay more money for British goods.**

Nullification. John C. Calhoun

Unconstitutional = the action taking place does not adhere to the Constitution of the United States.

States' rights = the concept that the federal government's power actually did not belong to them but was only borrowed from the states.

Three solutions attempted by South Carolina are:

- 1. Revoke the import tariffs from 1828 and 1832.**
- 2. They discontinued collecting the import tariff.**
- 3. They threatened to stop being part of the United States.**

A compromise solution

President Andrew Jackson solved the Nullification Crisis by lowering the import tariff and then using the military to make sure that everyone, including South Carolina, paid it. This was a compromise on both sides since the North and West had wanted a higher tariff and the South did not want one at all. The end result was that the situation was solved peacefully.

Sectional Disagreements Over Slavery

The issue of slavery in the Constitutional Convention

Balance of power = when both sides of an issue hold equal ability.

The Missouri Compromise

Henry Clay was a senator from Kentucky who proposed the Missouri Compromise.

The northern senators did not want Missouri to become a state because it was a state that believed in slavery. If it were allowed to join the United States it would have meant that there were more states that had slaves than did not.

The Missouri Compromise established a rule for the land in the Louisiana Purchase in which an imaginary line would be drawn up the middle. On one side of this line slavery would be legal and on the other side it would not.

The admission of Texas

Florida was allowed to join the U. S. as a state because Iowa was also allowed to at the same time. Since Florida was a slave state and Iowa was a free state the balance of power remained the same.

The Compromise of 1850

Three important parts of the Compromise of 1850 were:

- 1. California became part of the U. S. as a free state.**
- 2. The land that had been gained from Mexico during the Mexican War was split into two pieces, New Mexico Territory and Utah Territory and each was allowed to decide for themselves whether they would allow slavery or not.**
- 3. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 was passed which made the Southerners happy because their runaway slaves now had to be returned to them by law.**

Popular sovereignty was the idea of territories being able to vote whether or not they were going to allow slavery.

The fugitive slave law strengthened laws that already existed. These laws stated that officials had to return slaves to their owners if they ran away.

Public Polarization Over Slavery Makes Compromise More Difficult

Polarization

When the people disagree about something so firmly that a compromise is out of the question it is called public polarization.

Two causes of public polarization over slavery were:

- 1. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.**
- 2. The activities of the abolitionists.**

Enforcing the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 Upset Many Northerners

Congress passed a new Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 to **keep the people in the South who had slaves happy.**

According to the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 all a white person had to do to send an African American into slavery **was swear that the African American had been a slave at one time.**

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 was the biggest problem leading to public polarization that resulted from the compromise of 1850.

Activities of Abolitionists

The abolitionists **were people who thought that slavery was wrong and wanted it stopped immediately all through the United States.**

Abolitionists increased their political activity.

The abolitionists increased their political activity **in the hopes that people would get upset enough over slavery that they would eventually make it illegal.**

Abolitionists increased their efforts to help African Americans escape slavery

The second solution to slavery that the abolitionists used **was to try to help the slaves escape whenever they could.**

John Brown **was a radical abolitionist who was so involved in the freeing of slaves that he even was involved in acts of violence toward those who held slaves.**

The Effect of the Increased Activity of the Abolitionists

Defensive **means that you feel that you may be assaulted and you are ready to fight back.**

Southerners felt defensive as a result of the increased activities of the abolitionists.

Abolitionist activities made compromise more difficult because **the Southerners felt that all Northerners were abolitionists. This made them feel very defensive indeed and they were reluctant to compromise for fear of losing all their slaves.**

The End of Compromise

The End of the Ability of Congress to Make Compromises on Slavery

3 factors that ended the ability of Congress to make compromises:

- 1. The concept of popular sovereignty.**
- 2. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854.**
- 3. The Dred Scott decision that was made by the Supreme Court in 1857.**

Popular sovereignty

Popular sovereignty = **the idea of territories being able to vote whether or not they were going to allow slavery.**

Popular sovereignty helped to bring about an end of the ability of Congress to make compromises on slavery **by giving the states control over whether they would be a slave state or a free state. This meant that Congress did not have power any more in matters of slavery.**

The Kansas-Nebraska Act

Stephen Douglas was a Democratic senator from Illinois who wanted very badly to get a railroad going from Illinois to California. However, this railroad could not be built until all the land that the railroad would cross had been organized into territories of the United States. Senator Douglas's answer to this was to organize all that land to be a single territory called Nebraska.

The southern senators **did not like this idea of a single territory called Nebraska at all. They did not like it because it would mean that the territory might end up being more free states and cause the balance of power to shift even more to the north.**

The Kansas-Nebraska Act replaced the Missouri Compromise and allowed slavery in places that had been free for 30 years. This act helped end the ability of Congress to make compromises on slavery **by showing Congress that the compromises they made in the past could not be continued.**

In 1854 abolitionists were urging people to move to Kansas **to help Kansas keep from becoming another slave holding state.**

The vote in Kansas Territory resulted in a change from anti-slavery to pro-slavery. This happened because people came from a nearby pro-slavery state and voted in Kansas. The anti-slavery people were very upset by this outcome and held their own elections that ended up with them having their own government.

In 1856 Kansas became known as "Bleeding Kansas" **because of over 200 violent deaths resulting from fights between abolitionists and slave owning people.**

The Dred Scott decision

The Dred Scott decision was a ruling by the Supreme Court that stated that African Americans did not have the right to access a federal court on their behalf because they could not become American citizens. This decision showed that America had little regard for the rights of African Americans that were held as slaves.

Political Parties Could Not Compromise on Slavery

The issue of slavery became so complicated that soon, both sides of the issue had people from all different viewpoints. The result was that nobody would take a stand on slavery for fear of offending someone else and causing business problems.

The Republican Party was formed and was successful

In 1854 people in the North were disappointed with the Kansas-Nebraska Act and started a new party called the Republican Party. Unlike the abolitionists, they did not care to end slavery completely, only to stop its spread.

In the election of 1856 the Republican Party was strong enough to have a candidate for president, John C. Fremont, who opposed the spread of slavery into the territories. The Democratic Party, however, still had taken no position regarding the issue of slavery.

During the election of 1856 the Republicans almost won the election even though nobody in the South supported them. This shows that the South was losing its influence.

Abraham Lincoln was one of the men to join the Republican party. In 1858 he became President.

Part of the reason that Lincoln won the President election was because his opponent, Stephen Douglas had been responsible for the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Republicans were angry with Douglas because they wanted to stop the spread of slavery and the Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed it to spread.

Abraham Lincoln felt that slavery in the South would eventually cease to exist.

The Democratic Party split into two parts--North and South

When the northern Democrats refused to agree with Southerners on the right to keep slaves the Southerners walked out of the Democratic part convention in 1860.

The election of 1860 ended all hope of any compromise between the North and the South. The South felt that, since a republican President had been elected without their votes, they had no power any longer in the federal government and some of the southern politicians began to plan to separate the South from the United States.