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THE CRISIS OF UNION

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

After you finish reading and studying this chapter, you should be able to

1. Explain the controversies that grew over the issue of slavery in the western lands acquired from Mexico.
2. List and explain the terms of the Compromise of 1850 and show to what extent those terms were fulfilled through 1861.
3. Account for the decline of the Whig party and the rise of the Republican party, and note the consequences of the change.
4. Explain the controversy over the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the resolution of that controversy.
5. Explain the meaning and importance of the Dred Scott decision.
6. Show how the election of 1860 demonstrated the breakup of political cohesion in the United States.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Slavery in the territories
 - A. Proposals sparked by Mexican War
 1. Wilmot Proviso
 2. Calhoun's resolutions
 3. Popular sovereignty
 - B. Oregon as free state
 - C. Election of 1848
 1. Whigs and Taylor

2. Free-soil coalition
 - a. Barnburners
 - b. Conscience Whigs
 - c. Liberty party
 - d. Martin Van Buren
3. Results
 - D. California
 1. Gold rush
 - a. Migration
 - b. Mining frontier
 2. Statehood
 - E. Compromise of 1850
 1. Initial positions
 - a. Clay's eight proposals
 - b. Calhoun's reply
 - c. Webster's plea for union
 - d. Seward and abolitionists
 - e. Omnibus bill
 2. Toward compromise
 - a. Fillmore becomes president
 - b. Douglas's strategy
 3. Terms of the compromise
 4. Antislavery reaction
 - a. Protests of Fugitive Slave Law
 - b. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
 - F. Election of 1852
 1. Candidates
 2. Results
- II. Foreign affairs
 - A. Ostend Manifesto
 - B. Diplomacy in the Pacific
 1. Opening in China
 2. Perry in Japan
- III. Kansas-Nebraska controversy
 - A. Transcontinental railroad
 1. Gadsden Purchase
 2. Douglas's Nebraska bill
 - a. Repeal of Missouri Compromise
 - b. Antislavery opposition
 - B. Emergence of Republican party
 1. End of Whig party
 2. Know-Nothing party
 3. New coalition party
 - C. Battle for Kansas

KEY ITEMS OF CHRONOLOGY

Wilnot Proviso introduced	1846
Gold discovered in California	1848
Free Soil party started	1848
Zachary Taylor elected president	1848
Death of Zachary Taylor	July 1850
Compromise of 1850	1850
Fugitive Slave Act	1850
<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	1852
Election of Franklin Pierce	1852
Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Japan	1853
Gadsden Purchase	1853
Ostend Manifesto	1854
Kansas-Nebraska Act	1854
Slave Anthony Burns apprehended	1854
Emergence of Republican party	1854
Caning of Charles Sumner	May 22, 1856
Pottawatomie Massacre	May 24, 1856
Election of James Buchanan	1856
<i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i>	1857
Financial panic	1857
Lincoln-Douglas debates	1858
John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry, Virginia	1859
Election of Lincoln	November 1860
Secession of South Carolina	December 20, 1860
Confederate States of America organized	February 1861
Jefferson Davis inaugurated president of Confederacy	February 18, 1861

TERMS TO MASTER

Listed below are some important people or terms with which you should be familiar after your study of this chapter. Identify each name or term.

1. Wilnot Proviso
2. Calhoun Resolutions
3. popular sovereignty
4. Free Soil party
5. "Cotton" Whigs
6. "Conscience" Whigs
7. gold rush
8. forty-miners
9. Compromise of 1850
10. Great Compromiser
11. Henry Clay
12. concurrent majority
13. Millard Fillmore
14. Stephen A. Douglas
15. Fugitive Slave Act of 1850
16. fire-eaters

1. Settlement
 2. Elections
 3. Clash of governments
 4. Pottawatomie Massacre
 5. Clash in Congress
- D. Election of 1856
1. Republican nominee
 2. Democratic candidate
 3. Sectional campaigns
 4. Election of Buchanan
- IV. Worsening sectional crisis under Buchanan
- A. The *Dred Scott* decision
1. The case
 2. Court's decision
 3. Calls for a federal slave code
- B. Movement for Kansas statehood
1. Governor Walker's efforts
 2. Defeat of Lecompton constitution
- C. Financial panic of 1857
1. Causes
 2. Sectional reactions
- D. Lincoln-Douglas contest
1. Candidates and their views
 2. Debates
 - a. The Freeport Doctrine
 - b. Lincoln's moral question
 3. Results
- E. John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry
- V. Election of 1860
- A. Democrats
1. Deadlocked convention
 2. Rump Democrats nominate Douglas
 3. Proslavers name Breckinridge
- B. Republicans nominate Lincoln
- C. Constitutional Union party
- D. The campaign
- E. Results
- VI. Secession
- A. Deep South acts
 - B. Buchanan's reactions
 - C. Federal property in seceded South
 - D. Last compromise attempts

17. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
18. Ostend Manifesto
19. Gadsden Purchase
20. transcontinental railroad
21. Kansas-Nebraska Act
22. "Appeal of Independent Democrats"
23. Anthony Burns
24. Republican party
25. "bleeding" Kansas
26. John Brown
27. Pottawatomie Massacre
28. Charles Sumner
29. James Buchanan
30. Dred Scott
31. Roger B. Taney
32. *obiter dictum*
33. Leecompton constitution
34. Panic of 1857
35. Lincoln-Douglas debates
36. Freeport Doctrine
37. Harper's Ferry, Virginia
38. John C. Breckinridge
39. Abraham Lincoln
40. John Bell
41. Ordinance of Secession
42. Jefferson Davis
43. Crittenden Compromise

VOCABULARY BUILDING

Listed below are some words or phrases used in this chapter. Look in the dictionary for the meaning of each term you do not know.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| omen | concurrent |
| politicize | aura |
| lurk | superfluous |
| dogma | lambaste |
| sovereignty | poignant |
| tacit | peremptorily |
| inviolable | atrocious |
| provisional | abstain |
| apolitical | ruffian |
| vexing | portfolio |
| cosmopolitan | renege |
| rampant | bulwark |
| polyglot | sinewy |
| annals | furtive |
| gaunt | bushwhack |

EXERCISES FOR UNDERSTANDING

When you have finished reading the chapter, answer each of the following questions. If you have difficulty, go back and reread the section of the chapter related to the question.

Multiple-Choice Questions

Select the letter of the choice that best completes the statement.

1. The Wilmot Proviso called for
 - A. popular sovereignty in all western territories.
 - B. extending the Missouri Compromise to California.
 - C. banning slavery from California.
 - D. prohibiting slavery in land gained from Mexico.
2. The Free Soil party was a coalition made up of
 - A. abolitionists, Know-Nothings, and western Democrats.
 - B. Cotton Whigs, Van Buren Democrats, and members of the Liberty party.
 - C. Van Buren Democrats, Conscience Whigs, and members of the Liberty party.
 - D. abolitionists, Cotton Whigs, and Van Buren Democrats.
3. The greatest mass migration in American history was
 - A. the settlement of Kansas.
 - B. passage on the Underground Railroad.
 - C. the California gold rush.
 - D. the Free Soilers' move to the Nebraska Territory.
4. In the debate over the Compromise of 1850, Henry Clay
 - A. spoke "not as a Massachusetts man, not as a Northern man, but as an American."
 - B. claimed "agitation of the subject of slavery would . . . end in disunion."
 - C. declared, "I can save the Union without shedding a drop of blood."
 - D. called for "peace, concord and harmony" instead of "passion, passion—party, party—and intemperance."
5. The Compromise of 1850
 - A. was one bill devised by Henry Clay.
 - B. was eight different proposals by Stephen A. Douglas.
 - C. admitted California as a free state.
 - D. included a provision to end the capture of fugitive slaves in the North.
6. In the Compromise of 1850, the one victory for the cause of slavery was the
 - A. Fugitive Slave Act.
 - B. protection of the slave trade in Washington, D.C.
 - C. admission of California as a state.
 - D. all of the above
7. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was a book that
 - A. presented a realistic picture of slavery in the South.
 - B. presented an antislavery image of southerners' treatment of their slaves.
 - C. was based on interviews with hundreds of former slaves.
 - D. ultimately had very little effect upon public opinion in the United States.

8. The Gadsden Purchase of 1853 was related to the
- fulfillment of popular sovereignty.
 - creation of a transcontinental railroad.
 - Free Soil presidential ambitions of Henry Gadsden.
 - annexation of Texas.
9. In proposing the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Stephen Douglas was most concerned about
- railroads.
 - protecting slavery in the territories.
 - barring slavery from the territories.
 - gaining popularity in the South.
10. The first political party to take an official stand against slavery was the
- Democratic party.
 - Free Soil party.
 - Liberty party.
 - Republican party.
11. In the first six months of 1857, Buchanan dealt with
- Dred Scott*, the Lecompton constitution, and an economic panic.
 - John Brown's raid, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and the Ostend Manifesto.
 - Pottawatomie massacre, *Dred Scott*, and the Lecompton constitution.
 - the Ostend Manifesto, the secession of the Deep South, and John Brown's raid.
12. The *Dred Scott* decision of the United States Supreme Court involved
- a slave who had been taken to live in Kansas.
 - a slave suing for his freedom because his master had taken him into free territory.
 - a former slave who sued for his wife's freedom on the grounds that she had been married to a free black.
 - a slave who had been freed by his master who challenged the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.
13. In response to Lincoln's questions, Stephen Douglas's Freeport Doctrine
- attacked popular sovereignty in the territories.
 - argued that slavery could exist only where local police supported it.
 - endorsed slavery in Kansas and Nebraska but not in Illinois.
 - claimed the *Dred Scott* decision should be overturned by a constitutional amendment.
14. Of the candidates in the 1860 presidential election, the one who tried to run a national campaign was:
- Bell.
 - Breckinridge.
 - Douglas.

D. Lincoln.

15. The Crittenden Compromise sought to
- keep the southern border states in the Union.
 - bar the expansion of slavery into the territories.
 - guarantee slavery where it existed.
 - prevent the inauguration of Lincoln.

True-False Questions

Indicate whether each statement is true or false.

- Popular sovereignty left the fate of slavery up to the people in each territory.
- Mining towns in California were unusually dangerous and violent.
- The question of statehood for California was explosive because of the potential for slavery in the fields of California.
- President Fillmore's death during the debate over the Compromise of 1850 probably did affect the outcome.
- In the debate over the Compromise of 1850, Congress considered Webster's concept of the "concurrent majority."
- Although fewer than 200 slaves were returned to bondage in the first six years of the Fugitive Slave Act, it nonetheless widened and deepened the antislavery sentiment in the North.
- The Ostend Manifesto was an offer to buy Cuba from Spain.
- The Republican party was committed to opposing any extension of slavery into the territories of the United States.
- In the Pottawatomie Massacre, John Brown led a raid against proslavery settlers in Kansas.
- After his speech on "The Crime against Kansas," Senator Charles Sumner was beaten by Stephen Douglas.
- In the *Dred Scott* decision, the Supreme Court ruled a law unconstitutional for only the second time.
- As a result of the controversy over the Lecompton constitution, Kansas entered the Union as a slave state, even though no slaves lived there.
- The Freeport Doctrine was Douglas's attempt to reconcile popular sovereignty and the *Dred Scott* decision.
- John Brown was executed after he was captured at Harper's Ferry.
- In the election of 1860, Lincoln received only 39 percent of the popular vote.

Essay Questions

1. Why was slavery in the western territories such a powerful issue in the 1850s? How did it affect politics in the period?
2. Which presidential election—1848, 1852, or 1856—was the most significant in leading to the Civil War? Why?
3. In 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected as the candidate of the Republican party. Explain the origins and growth of the Republican party.
4. Summarize the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Dred Scott* case. What were the significance and the implications of the points made in the decision?
5. Compare and contrast the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act.
6. Why did efforts in the 1840s and 1850s to compromise sectional differences fail?
7. Describe the issues between proslavery and antislavery forces in Kansas. How was the Lecompton constitution a fraud? What was the outcome of the controversy for Kansas?
8. Describe the efforts to avert war in the months following the election of 1860 and indicate how you think war could have been averted.
9. Which figure from the 1850s do you admire most: John Brown, Henry Clay, Stephen Douglas, Charles Sumner, or Abraham Lincoln? Explain your choice.

ANSWERS TO MULTIPLE-CHOICE AND TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS**Multiple-Choice Questions**

1-D, 2-C, 3-C, 4-D, 5-C, 6-A, 7-B, 8-B, 9-A, 10-B, 11-A, 12-B, 13-B, 14-C, 15-C

True-False Questions

1-T, 2-T, 3-F, 4-F, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-T, 10-F, 11-T, 12-F, 13-T, 14-T, 15-T

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THE WAR OF THE UNION

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES*After you finish reading and studying this chapter, you should be able to*

1. Explain how the outbreak of fighting occurred.
2. Analyze the advantages that each side had in the war.
3. Describe the problems associated with raising an army for both the North and the South.
4. Trace the major strategic and military developments of the Civil War.
5. Explain the political problems of the governments in both the North and the South.
6. Account for the emancipation of the slaves and describe its impact.
7. Describe Confederate diplomatic aspirations.
8. Explain how each side financed the war and the economic effects of the war on the North.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. The coming of war
 - A. Before war
 1. Outcome uncertain
 2. Lincoln's inaugural
 - B. Fort Sumter
 1. Resupply of fort
 2. South's response