

## Terms and People

- **popular sovereignty** – policy having people in the territory or state vote directly on issues rather than having elected officials decide
- **secede** – to withdraw
- **fugitives** – enslaved people who have run away

## Terms and People

- **John C. Calhoun** – South Carolina senator who opposed the Missouri Compromise
- **Daniel Webster** – Massachusetts senator who called for an end to the bitter sectionalism
- **Henry Clay** – Kentucky senator who worked on the Missouri Compromise

# Conflict over Slavery before 1850



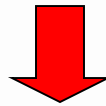
## **Objectives**

- Explain why conflict arose over the issue of slavery in the territories after the Mexican-American War.
- Identify the goal of the Free-Soil Party.
- Describe the compromise Henry Clay proposed to settle the issues that divided the North and the South.



## **How did the question of admission of new states to the Union fuel the debate over slavery and states' rights?**

The Missouri Compromise of 1820 temporarily quieted the differences between the North and South.



However, new territory added as a result of America's victory in the Mexican-American War renewed the conflict.

From 1820 to 1848, the balance of power between North and South held: 15 free states and 15 slave states.

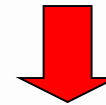
The tie was in danger of breaking because of new territory gained in the Mexican-American War.



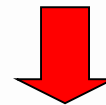
Even before the Mexican-American War had ended, politicians argued over what to do.

### The Wilmot Proviso

Representative David Wilmot from Pennsylvania proposed a ban on slavery in all Mexican Cession territories.



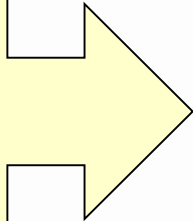
The bill passed in the House but not in the Senate.



Still, it angered Southerners, who viewed the bill as an attack on slavery by the North.

Northerners were upset as well. In the 1848 election, many Democrats and Whigs were disappointed with their party's stand on slavery.

Antislavery  
Democrats and  
Whigs formed a  
new political  
party.



Free-Soil Party  
The party called for  
the territory from  
the Mexican-  
American War to be  
"free soil."

The Free-Soil Party chose Martin Van Buren as its candidate.



Critics called Free-Soil Party members "barnburners."



They accused them of burning the barn (the Democratic Party) to get rid of proslavery "rats."

Democratic candidate Lewis Cass of Michigan suggested a solution that he hoped everyone would like.



**popular  
sovereignty**

He wanted to let the people in each state or territory decide whether to allow slavery.

## Presidential Election of 1848

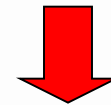
Party	Candidate	Policy
Democratic Party	Senator Lewis Cass	popular sovereignty
Free-Soil Party	Martin Van Buren	slavery banned
Whig Party	General Zachary Taylor	no stated policy

The Free-Soil Party took votes away from Senator Cass. This helped **Taylor win the election.**

Because of President Taylor's lack of a policy concerning slavery, the tension between the North and South only increased. The two sides next clashed over California.



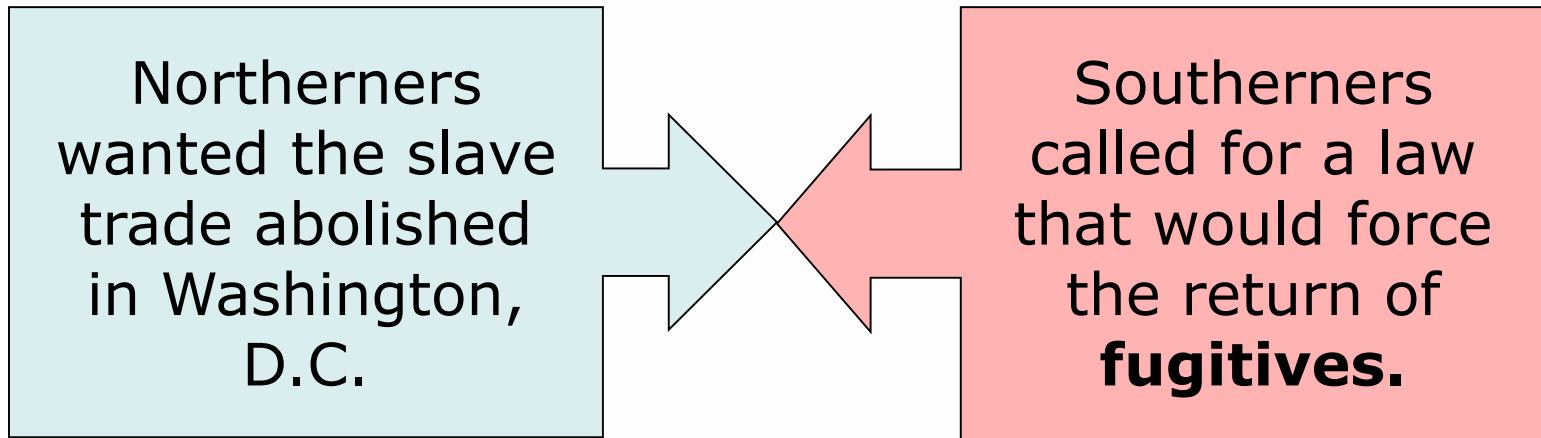
Northerners argued that California should be a free state because most of its territory lay north of the Missouri Compromise.



Southerners feared losing power.

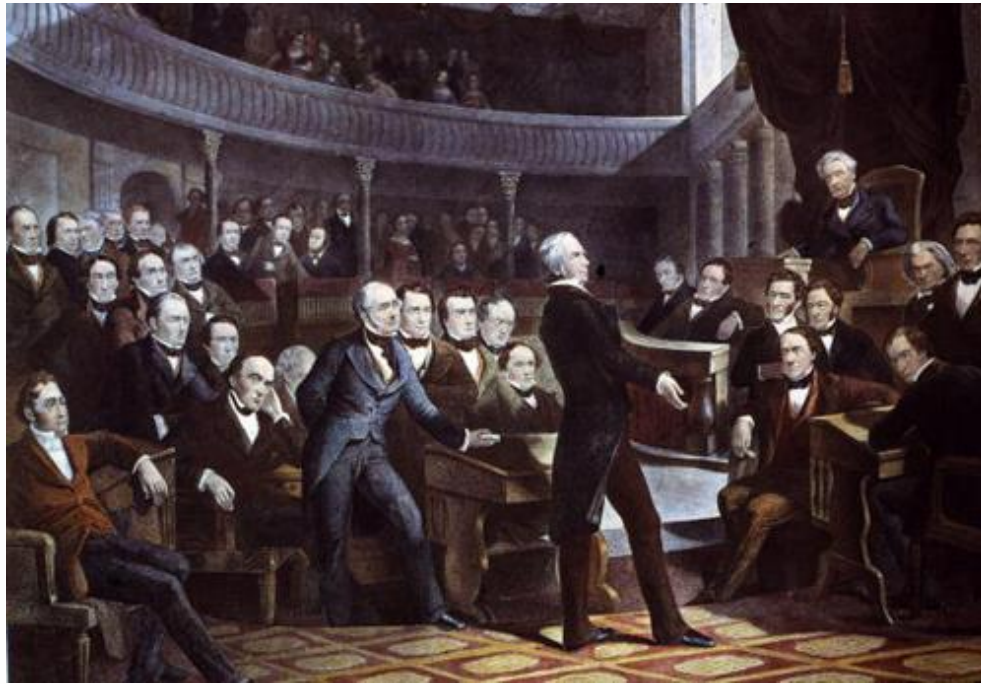
They threatened to **secede** from the nation if California was made a free state.

North and South also disagreed over other issues related to slavery.



Months passed, and no solution was reached.

In 1850, Senator **Henry Clay** of Kentucky made a series of proposals to resolve this conflict.



The Senate's discussion of Clay's proposals produced one of the greatest debates in American history.



**John C. Calhoun** spoke against the compromise, and **Daniel Webster** spoke for it.



<b>John C. Calhoun</b>	<b>Daniel Webster</b>
The United States needed to amend the Constitution. Otherwise, the South should secede.	The United States should end sectionalism and adopt the compromise.

**With the territories acquired by the Mexican-American war, the nation could no longer overlook the slavery issue.**

At first, Clay's compromise seemed to work for both sides.

However, the compromise soon fell apart.



# Quiz

1. withdraw
2. idea that people in a territory or state vote directly on issues
3. Runaway slave
4. person who proposed a compromise in 1850 to deal with the crisis over slavery
5. senator from the South who was against compromise on slavery
6. Massachusetts senator who argued for compromise in order to preserve the Union
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ Party did not want the land gained in the Mexican-American War to allow slavery.
8. The question of the admission of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Union as a free state led to the Compromise of 1850.
9. How did General Zachary Taylor win the election of 1848 when he wouldn't even give his views on slavery?

- a. Fugitive
- b. Daniel Webster
- c. David Wilmot
- d. Henry Clay
- e. Secede
- f. enslaved person
- g. Territory
- h. popular sovereignty
- i. John C. Calhoun

## **5 facts about each**

John C. Calhoun

Daniel Webster

Henry Clay