

Student Responses**Sample 3A**

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Mandatory	Circle one
1	2 or 3

During the 1840s the US was extending beyond its traditional east coast borders and embracing the idea of Manifest Destiny: that it was their God-given right to expand from sea to shining sea. Thus this time period saw the acquisition of lots of new land both by peaceful & violent means, and the usage of this new land sparked a hot topic of debate. At the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848, the US received the Mexican Cession, which constituted much of the modern day American SW, however this victory celebration was soon short lived when the US plummeted into an era of intense sectionalism. ~~Whisker~~ Throughout this period the Northern and Southern regions of the US remained fundamentally different and opposed to each other. However, the debate over what to do with the new land acquired from Mexico sparked intense political turmoil, marked a period of heightened animosity between the regions, and was the pre of the most important events leading the nation into the Civil War. Thus, the end of the Mexican-American war forever changed the course of American history.

First, the acquisition of the Mexican Cession sparked heated political debate over how to handle slavery & the addition of these new

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territories and states into the union. The ~~compromised~~ Missouri Compromise had been put in place in 1820 saying slavery couldn't extend past a certain point along an imaginary line parallel dividing the nation. ~~Westward~~ This first flare up of sectionalism settled back down until around 1848. When the US got all the new territory from Mexico, it didn't take action right away on whether how to handle the admittance of the new territories. This proclamation proved to be an issue when gold was found in California and the California gold rush of 1849. CA was soon populated enough to become a state, and would be a free one, but this infuriated southerners because it would upset the balance of free vs. slave states. This sparked intense political debate over how to remedy the situation and Henry Clay proposed the Compromise of 1850. This admitted CA in as a free state along w/ another slave state to keep the balance, called for a stricter fugitive slave act, and ended the slave trade in DC. This may have temporarily postponed the civil war, but as more states applied to be added to the union, problems kept arising - which can be seen in the issue over Kansas & Nebraska.

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and the presence of slavery in the states coming to a head with Bleeding Kansas. Congress was just as want and incapable of compromise too and the coming of Charles Sumner epitomizes the political tensions that the issue of the expansion of slavery created. Thus, starting with the acquisition of the Mexican cession and only growing with time & increased population in the territories, the issue of slavery created a divide like amongst political leaders like no one before.

Secondly, after 1848, the Northern and Southern regions became more and more opposed to each other. Before this, the regions had become so different just due to the nature of their respective economies. The North was exponentially more industrial than the South, especially after the pre-antebellum era Market Revolution. The South was much less developed and ~~dependent~~ agricultural, which depended on slave labor, was the cornerstone of their society. Therefore, the South saw an attack/opposition to slavery as a direct threat & act of aggression towards them. This increased ~~and~~ internal animosity reached new heights with John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry. John and his followers destroyed everything in their paths and caused massive division & malice. This was a turning point in the nod to the Civil War because now

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The South felt as though the northerners' only goal was to destroy them, when in actuality, this had not just an example of radicalism. Nevertheless, the animosities continued to build, all stemming from the issue of the expansion of the institution of slavery, which had been sparked in 1848.

(disregard) Despite extreme changes in the political and social climate of the US during this time, many aspects of the issue of slavery stayed the same. Slavery had been an institution in Africa since before the Revolutionary War and remained to be so until the end of the Civil War. In addition, during this time of sectionalism, the differences developed between the North and the South decades before became even more enduring as neither side wanted to concede to the other. During Reconstruction, there were attempts made to "industrialize the South" but even today, the South remains fundamentally different from the North in its landscape, values and way of life. This despite all that it instilled a remarkable amount of change in African society, the divisions slavery created between the North and the South remained entrenched in the hearts of the people for years to come.

While certain aspects of Southern vs Northern life remained unchanged after the

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Sectionalist period, there was an overwhelming amount of things changed. As the era of Manifest Destiny wound down and the US was awarded the Mexican Cession, the country was at a crossroads, and had to decide how to handle the issue of slavery, one of the most divisive issues in history. Following the Civil War, the nation was never the same again, but the S vs N. issues still persisted throughout Reconstruction and beyond. This is much like the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, while America went through a divisive tumultuous and African-Americans received a great amount of advancements and improvement in their standings in society, issues of racism continue to persist today, especially with police handling in regard with the issue of police brutality. As the saying goes, the more things seem to change, the more they stay the same.