

Crisis in the Extended Republic: The Compromise of 1850 & the End of the Second Party System

U.S. History to 1877

Slavery & Manifest Destiny

- ▶ Election of 1848
 - ▶ Democrat Lewis Cass of Michigan
 - ▶ "Squatter sovereignty"
 - ▶ Whigs: General Zachary Taylor of Louisiana
 - ▶ War hero, slaveowner
- ▶ Gold discovered in California, 1848
 - ▶ Hundreds of thousands of "Forty-Niners"
- ▶ Deadlock over California
 - ▶ The Wilmot Proviso
 - ▶ No slavery in any territory gained from Mexico
 - ▶ Senate defeats; lesson for the South

Compromise of 1850

- ▶ California: free state
- ▶ New Mexico & Utah territories: no mention of slavery
- ▶ Slave trade abolished in the District of Columbia
- ▶ Fugitive Slave Law

Politics and Outrage

- ▶ Something to please and outrage everyone
- ▶ Clay proposes, Calhoun opposes, Webster supports
- ▶ Congress fails to pass the Compromise
- ▶ Stephen Douglas gets it through
- ▶ Zachary Taylor's surprise opposition
- ▶ Millard Fillmore saves the Union

Political chaos

- ▶ Political antislavery
 - ▶ Liberty Party, 1840 and 1844
 - ▶ Free Soil Party, 1848
 - ▶ "Slave Power"
 - ▶ Undermining the Compromise of 1850
 - ▶ Personal liberty laws
- ▶ Election of 1852
 - ▶ Whig General Winfield Scott

- ▶ Democrat Franklin Pierce, proslavery Northerner
- ▶ Whigs disintegrate over Compromise of 1850

The Second Party System Collapses

- ▶ Slavery splits biggest Protestant churches
 - ▶ Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1844
 - ▶ Southern Baptist Convention, 1845
- ▶ Strongest national institutions now all divided
- ▶ Huge wave of immigration
 - ▶ Irish Catholics
 - ▶ German Catholics and Protestants
- ▶ Anti-immigrant feeling rises
 - ▶ Threat to American values and democracy?
 - ▶ Religion, alcohol, and the vote

Phenomenal Catholic Growth

- ▶ Number of churches up 885% 1820-50
 - ▶ Largest denomination by 1860
- ▶ Huge ethnic diversity and tensions
 - ▶ Discrimination strengthens Catholic identity
 - ▶ Tension between Germans & Irish & others

American or “Know-Nothing” Party

- ▶ The replacement for the Whigs?