

Period 5: 1844-1877

AP US History ■ Period 5

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What we will cover

- 1 Manifest Destiny and Expansion
- 2 Why Expansion Broke the Political System
- 3 Secession and the Civil War
- 4 Reconstruction
- 5 The Failure of Reconstruction
- 6 Comparison in Period 5

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Manifest Destiny and Expansion

Period 5: 1844-1877

↳ Manifest Destiny and Expansion

Manifest Destiny and Expansion

Period 5 runs from 1844 to 1877. It is the period in which the argument over slavery stops being political and becomes military.

Advocates justified annexation through **Manifest Destiny** 天定命运论 – the claim that the United States was destined, and superior enough, to spread across the continent.

Period 5: 1844-1877
↳ Manifest Destiny and Expansion

Expansion: what it added, and what it cost

the Mexican-American War 美墨战争	added enormous territory in the West, and with it the question of whether slavery would follow
the Homestead Act 宅地法	wartime legislation that gave settlers land, accelerating settlement of the plains
Mexican Americans 墨西哥裔美国人	people already living on the annexed land – their property and legal rights were repeatedly disputed
American Indians	government interaction produced displacement and violence as settlement advanced
the resources	natural and mineral wealth drew migrants and capital, and set the pattern of Western economies

Every acre added reopened the slavery question, which is why expansion and sectional crisis are one story rather than two.

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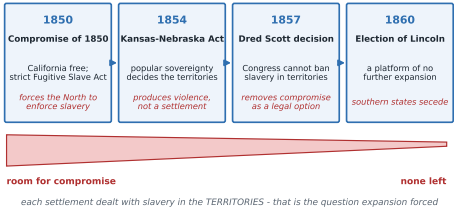
Why Expansion Broke the Political System

Each settlement failed, and left less room for the next

The **Compromise of 1850** 1850 年妥协案 admitted California as free and included a strict **Fugitive Slave Act** 逃奴法, which enraged the North by requiring its citizens to participate in enforcement.

Popular sovereignty 人民主权原则 - letting territorial settlers decide - produced violence in Kansas rather than a settlement.

Each settlement failed, and left less room for the, in detail



Each compromise dealt with slavery in the territories, and each collapse left less room for the next one

Why Expansion Broke the Political System

Acquiring land forced a question that could not be avoided: **would slavery expand into the new territories?** Every attempt to answer it produced a temporary settlement that then failed.

- The **Compromise of 1850** 1850 年妥协案 admitted California as free and included a strict **Fugitive Slave Act** 逃奴法, which enraged the North by requiring its citizens to participate in enforcement.
- **Popular sovereignty** 人民主权原则 - letting territorial settlers decide - produced violence in Kansas rather than a settlement.
- The **Dred Scott decision** 德雷德·斯科特案 held that Congress could not ban slavery in the territories, removing compromise as a legal option.

Why Expansion Broke the Political System, continued

Ideological and economic differences produced **diverging responses** 分歧的回应 to slavery, from abolitionism to proslavery arguments defending it as a positive good.

By the 1850s slavery dominated political discussion, destroying the existing party system and producing the new **Republican Party** 共和党.

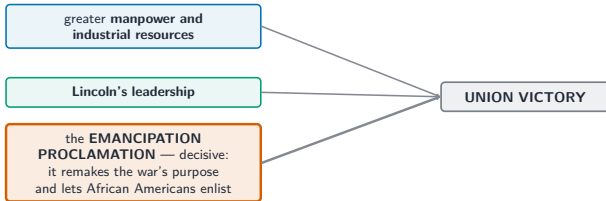
3 Secession and the Civil War

Secession and the Civil War

The **election of 1860** 1860 年大选 brought **Abraham Lincoln** 林肯 to power on a platform of preventing slavery's expansion. Southern states responded by **seceding** 脱离联邦, and the war followed.

African Americans' service and the actions of enslaved people who freed themselves by reaching Union lines shaped the outcome as well.

Capacity to win, against what winning meant



Resources explain the **capacity** to win; emancipation changed **what winning meant** – and a causation answer has to say which kind of cause it is using

Why the Union could outlast the Confederacy

Greater manpower and industrial resources	The Union had greater manpower and industrial resources : more people, more factories, more railroad miles.
Natural and mineral resources	And more natural and mineral resources – iron, coal, food – so it could replace what it lost.
What that did not decide	Advantages take time to tell. Confederate strategy only had to make the war too costly to continue.
What was stripped away	By 1865 the Confederacy's capacity was stripped away : its ports blockaded, its railroads broken, its currency worthless.

Material advantage explains the outcome, not the length. Both halves of that sentence are needed for a causation question.

4 Reconstruction

Reconstruction

The constitutional achievement is the **Reconstruction Amendments** 重建修正案:

- The **13th Amendment** 第十三修正案 abolished slavery.
- The **14th Amendment** 第十四修正案 granted citizenship and equal protection.
- The **15th Amendment** 第十五修正案 prohibited denial of the vote on grounds of race.

Reconstruction, continued

The **women's rights movement** was both **emboldened and divided** 既受鼓舞又出现分裂 by the 14th and 15th Amendments, because they extended rights on the basis of race while introducing the word "male" into the Constitution.

Reconstruction, and why it failed

Radical and moderate Republicans 激进派与温和派共和党人	worked to change the balance of power between Congress and the presidency , and the status of freedpeople
the amendments	the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth – none was ever repealed
segregation 种族隔离	separated the races in law and in practice
violence 暴力	organised terror suppressed Black voting and officeholding
Supreme Court decisions 最高法院判决	read the amendments narrowly, hollowing them out
local political tactics	poll taxes, literacy tests and grandfather clauses did the rest

The rights survived on paper and were destroyed in practice – which is exactly why the same amendments could be revived in the 1950s and 1960s.

Period 5: 1844-1877 ↳ Reconstruction		Period 5: 1844-1877 ↳ Reconstruction														
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The Failure of Reconstruction

Reconstruction's gains were reversed, and the exam expects the mechanisms, not just the outcome.

Southern plantation owners **continued to own most of the region's land** 仍拥有该地区大部分土地 even after emancipation, so formerly enslaved people entered arrangements such as **sharecropping** 分成租佃 that produced dependence and debt rather than economic independence.

Reconstruction, to scale

Timeline of Reconstruction:

- 1865: 13th — slavery abolished
- 1868: 14th — citizenship, equal protection
- 1870: 15th — the vote, regardless of race
- 1877: federal troops withdrawn from the South
- 1896: Plessy — "separate but equal"

Five years of **guarantees**, thirty of **dismantling**. The failure is the long half of this line, and that is where the marks are

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Comparison in Period 5

Period 5: 1844-1877 ↳ Comparison in Period 5 Comparison in Period 5 The period's reasoning skill is comparison. Useful comparisons: the North and South before the war; the aims of Reconstruction against its outcomes; and the status of African Americans in 1865 against 1877.	Period 5: 1844-1877 ↳ Comparison in Period 5 Worked example – holding change and reversal together 2023 long essay: “Evaluate the extent to which the definitions of United States citizenship changed from 1865 to 1920.” ■ Scoring: “Definitions of citizenship changed substantially between 1865 and 1920, as the 14th and 15th Amendments established birthright citizenship and barred racial barriers to voting – yet segregation, violence and Supreme Court decisions made those definitions far less meaningful in practice by 1900.” ■ For a period that both expanded and reversed rights, hold the legal change and the practical one together. An essay that names only the amendments has answered a different question from the one asked.
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Period 5: 1844-1877 ↳ Comparison in Period 5 Exam tips ■ Expansion is the cause of the sectional crisis. Every compromise from 1850 onwards is an attempt to answer whether slavery could expand. ■ Name the mechanism, not the mood. “Tensions rose” earns nothing; the Fugitive Slave Act, Dred Scott, and Bleeding Kansas do. ■ Give the Emancipation Proclamation its strategic role: it redefined the war’s purpose and enabled Black enlistment. ■ Learn the three Reconstruction Amendments by what each one does; questions often turn on the difference between them. ■ For Reconstruction’s failure, name sharecropping, segregation, violence, and Court decisions – the four mechanisms. ■ On comparison prompts, develop both sides. An answer that treats one side in a clause has answered half the question.	7 Recap
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Period 5: 1844-1877 ↳ Recap Period 5 – key takeaways 1 Cause expansion: can slavery move west? 2 Mechanisms Fugitive Slave Act, Dred Scott, Bleeding Kansas 3 Emancipation redefined the war; enabled Black enlistment 4 Reconstruction sharecropping, segregation, violence, the Court	Period 5: 1844-1877 ↳ Recap Check yourself 1 What is the cause of the sectional crisis? 2 Name two mechanisms, not “tensions rose”. 3 What did the Emancipation Proclamation do strategically? 4 Name two reasons Reconstruction failed. Answers: whether slavery could expand ■ e.g. Dred Scott, Bleeding Kansas ■ redefined the war / Black enlistment ■ sharecropping, violence, courts, segregation
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