

Unit 5: 1844-1877

Topic 5.2: Manifest Destiny

Learning Objective 1: Explain the causes of westward expansion from 1844-1877.

A. The desire for access to natural and mineral resources and the hope of many settlers for economic opportunities or religious refuge led to an increased migration to and settlement of the West.

B. Advocates of annexing western lands argued that Manifest Destiny and the superiority of American institutions compelled the U.S. to expand its borders westward.

C. Westward migration was boosted during hand after the Civil War by the passage of new legislation promoting western transportation and economic development.

D. U.S. interest in expanding trade led to economic, diplomatic, and cultural initiatives to create more ties with Asia.

Topic 5.3: The Mexican-American War

Learning Objective: Explain the causes and effects of the Mexican-American War.

A. The Mexican American War began because of the ideas of Manifest Destiny and the movement of Texas towards independence.

B. The U.S. added large territories in the West through victory in the Mexican-American War and diplomatic negotiations, raising questions about the status of slavery, American Indians, and Mexicans in the newly acquired lands.

Topic 5.4: The Compromise of 1850

Learning Objective 1: Explain the similarities and differences in how regional attitudes affected federal policy in the period after the Mexican-American War.

A. The courts and national leaders made a variety of attempts to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories, including the Compromise of 1850.

Topic 5.5: Sectional Conflict: Regional Differences

Learning Objective 1: Explain the effects of immigration from various parts of the world on American culture from 1844-1877.

A. Substantial numbers of international migrants continued to arrive in the U.S. from Europe and Asia, often settling in ethnic communities where they could preserve elements of their languages and customs.

B. A strongly anti-Catholic nativist movement arose that was aimed at limiting new immigrants' political power and cultural influence.

Learning Objective 2: Explain how regional differences related to slavery caused tension in the years leading up to the Civil War.

A. The North's expanding manufacturing economy relied on free labor in contrast to the Southern economy's dependence on slave labor.

B. Some Northerners did not object to slavery on principle but claimed that slavery would undermine the free labor market.

C. African American and white abolitionists mounted a highly visible campaign against slavery, presenting moral arguments against the institution, assisting slaves' escapes, and sometimes showing a willingness to use violence to achieve their goals.

D. Defenders of slavery based their arguments on racial doctrines, the view that slavery was a positive social good, and the belief that slavery and states' rights were protected by the Constitution.

Topic 5.6: Failure of Compromise

Learning Objective 1: Explain the political causes of the Civil War.

A. The courts and national leaders made a variety of attempts to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories, including the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Dred Scott decision, but these ultimately failed to reduce conflict.

B. The Second Party System ended when the issues of slavery and anti-immigrant nativism weakened loyalties to the two major parties and fostered the emergence of sectional parties.

Topic 5.7: Election of 1860 and Secession

Learning Objective 1: Describe the effects of Lincoln's election in 1860.

A. Lincoln's victory was accomplished without any Southern electoral votes. After a series of debates about secession, most slave states voted to secede from the Union.

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Topic 5.8: Military Conflict in the Civil War

Learning Objective 1: Explain the various factors that contributed to the Union victory in the Civil War.

A. Both the Union and Confederacy mobilized their economies and societies to wage the war even while facing considerable home front opposition.

B. Although the Confederacy showed military initiative and daring early in the war, the Union ultimately succeeded due to improvements in leadership and strategy, key victories, greater resources, and the wartime destruction of the South's infrastructure.

Topic 5.9: Government Policies During the Civil War

Learning Objective 1: Explain how Lincoln's leadership during the Civil War impacted American ideals over the course of the war.

A. Lincoln and most Union supporters began the Civil War to preserve the Union, but Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation reframed the purpose of the war.

B. Lincoln sought to reunify the country and used speeches such as the Gettysburg Address to portray the struggle against slavery as the fulfillment of America's founding democratic ideals.

Topic 5.10: Reconstruction

Learning Objective 1: Explain the effects of government policy during Reconstruction on society from 1865-1877.

A. Reconstruction altered relationships between the states and the federal government and led to debates over new definitions of citizenship.

B. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, while the 14th and 15th amendments granted African Americans citizenship, equal protection under the laws, and voting rights.

C. The women's rights movement was both emboldened and divided over the 14th and 15th amendments.

D. Efforts by radical and moderate Republicans to change the balance of power between Congress and the presidency and to reorder race relations in the defeated South yielded some short-term successes.

E. Reconstruction ultimately failed due to determined Southern resistance and the North's waning resolve.

Topic 5.11: Failure of Reconstruction

Learning Objective 1: Explain how and why Reconstruction resulted in continuity and change in regional and national understandings of what it meant to be an American.

A. Southern plantation owners continued to own the majority of the regions land even after Reconstruction. Former slaves sought land ownership but generally fell short as an exploitative and soil-intensive sharecropping system limited blacks' and poor whites' access to land.

B. Segregation, violence, Supreme Court decisions, and local political tactics progressively stripped away African American rights.