

the main points of the Compromise

the impact of the novel
Cabin.

the Kansas-Nebraska Act
the issue of slavery in the

the effect of the
Nebraska Act.

Writing Skill

Effects The important events of the
reaching effects around the nation.
Section 2, try to identify and under-
stand effects. Remember that two events
usually have a cause-and-effect link
they occur in sequence. Use signal
words to help you identify effects.

Key People

Teacher Stephen Douglas
John Brown

Why It Matters Many Americans hoped that Henry Clay's proposed compromise would quiet the controversy over slavery. However, after 1850, the growing divide only worsened.

Section Focus Question: What was the Compromise of 1850, and why did it fail?

The Compromise of 1850

In September 1850, Congress finally passed five bills based on Clay's proposals. This series of laws became known as the Compromise of 1850. President Zachary Taylor had opposed the Compromise. However, Taylor died in 1850. The new President, Millard Fillmore, supported the Compromise and signed it into law.

To Please the North The Compromise of 1850 was designed to end the crisis by giving both supporters and opponents of slavery part of what they wanted. To please the North, California was admitted to the Union as a free state. In addition, the Compromise banned the slave trade in the nation's capital. (However, Congress declared that it had no power to regulate the slave trade between slave states.)

To Please the South Under the terms of the Compromise, popular sovereignty would be used to decide the question of slavery in the rest of the Mexican Cession. People in the states created from that territory would vote whether to be a free state or a slave state when they requested admission to the Union. Also, in return for agreeing to outlaw the slave trade in Washington, D.C., southerners got a tough new fugitive slave law.

African American
had never been enslaved.

In city after city, residents ban-
Slave Law. When two white Ge-
fugitives, Bostonians threatened
did not leave the city right away.
runaway and sent him to safety.
were arrested, local juries refused

John C. Calhoun had hoped to
force northerners to admit that sla-
erty. Instead, every time the law
northerners that slavery was evil.

Checkpoint How did the Com-
admission of Cal-



A Harsh Accusation

“Sir, the Nebraska Bill was in every respect a swindle. It was a swindle by the South of the North. . . . All efforts were now given to the dismal work of forcing slavery on free soil.”

—Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, before being assaulted on the Senate floor, 1856

Newspapers reported Sumner's caning of a southern congressman.

Compromises Fail

What Matters Many Americans hoped that Henry Clay's proposed compromise would quiet the controversy over slavery. However, after 1850, the growing divide only widened.

Section Focus Question: What was the Compromise of 1850, and why did it fail?

Compromise of 1850 In September 1850, Congress finally passed five bills that accepted Clay's proposals. This series of laws became known as the Compromise of 1850. President Zachary Taylor had died in 1850. The new president, Millard Fillmore, signed the Compromise.

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 allowed special government officials to arrest any person accused of being a runaway slave. Suspects had no right to a trial to prove that they had been falsely accused. All that was required to deprive them of their freedom was for a slaveholder or any white witness to swear that the suspect was the slaveholder's property. In addition, the law required northern citizens to help capture accused runaways if authorities requested assistance.

Outrage in the North The Fugitive Slave Act became the most controversial part of the Compromise of 1850. Many northerners swore that they would resist the hated new law.

Northerners were outraged to see people accused of being fugitive slaves deprived of their freedom. An Indiana man was torn from his wife and children and given to an owner who claimed the man had escaped 19 years earlier. A wealthy African American tailor was carried back to South Carolina after living in New York for years. His friends quickly raised enough money to buy his freedom. But most who were shipped south remained there. Thousands of northern African Americans fled to the safety of Canada, including many who had never been enslaved.

In city after city, residents banded together to resist the Fugitive Slave Law. When two white Georgians arrived in Boston to seize fugitives, Bostonians threatened the slave catchers with harm if they did not leave the city right away. Another group rescued an accused runaway and sent him to safety in Canada. When the mob leaders were arrested, local juries refused to convict them.

John C. Calhoun had hoped that the Fugitive Slave Law would force northerners to admit that slaveholders had rights to their property. Instead, every time the law was enforced, it convinced more northerners that slavery was evil.

Checkpoint How did the Compromise of 1850 deal with the admission of California to the Union?

Vocabulary
deprive (dee-PRYV) to take away something from someone, often without their consent or intent

Returned to
Guarded by federal soldiers, fugitives Anthony Burns, Thomas Sims, and others were held in Boston and returned to enslavement. Below is a portrait of a southern slave.
Thinking: Draw
What details do you see in the portrait of Bostonians to the north and Sims?