**Chapter 18 Focus Question**

Despite its apparent popularity in the South and in much of the North, the idea of “popular sovereignty” failed to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories by the end of 1854. What factors account for this failure?

**Chapter 18 Objective Questions**

1. Why did the politicians of both political parties during the 19th century avoid the slavery issue? They didn’t want to lose voters and split the parties in half and also split the country in half.
2. How did the victory over Mexico in the war affect the debate over slavery? Now they had to decide what to do with slavery in this area.
3. What was the point of the Wilmot Proviso? To not let slavery expand into territories that were gained from the War with Mexico.
4. What were important issues to the Free Soil party?
5. What was the point of the “popular sovereignty” position? Stated that the sovereign people of the territory, under the principles of the Constitution, should themselves determine the status of slavery.
6. Why did so many in the public like the idea of “popular sovereignty?” Based along the issue of democracy. This allowed the people of the region to decide the issue of slavery. This took it out of the hands of the federal government. Politicians like it because it seemed to be a compromise between free soilers’ bid to ban slavery in the territories and southern demands that Congress protect slavery in the territories.
7. How did Zachary Taylor win the election of 1848 over the “inventor of popular sovereignty” Lewis Cass? The bid of the Free-soil party, nominated Van Buren and taking votes away from Cass. They took a stance on the issue of slavery when the other parties wouldn’t pick a side.
8. What event out west denied the politicians the luxury of the time to avoid the slavery issue during the early Taylor administration? The discovery of gold in California and CA petitioning for statehood in 1850.
9. Why was it urgent to organize government in California in the gold rush period? Lawless land because of the rush of people to the area
10. Why was the south opposed to the admission of California as a state? They didn’t enter through territorial stage and they wrote a Constitution which didn’t permit slavery. It would throw off the balance of 15 slave & 15 free states. South was also running out of possible areas to expand slavery.
11. Who authored the Compromise of 1850 and what were its major provisions? North: California a free state, territory disputed between TX and NM surrendered to NM, abolition of slave trade in DC (didn’t end slavery there). South: rest of Mexican Cession had no restriction on slavery (pop. sovereignty), TX would get $10m compensation for loss of land, more strict fugitive slave laws
12. Who authorized to Compromise of 1850: Daniel Webster; John C. Calhoun; William Seward; Stephen A. Douglas; Zachary Taylor; Millard Fillmore? William Seward, Millard Fillmore actually authorized after Zachary Taylor died. He had been listening to the arguments in the Senate and believed in the compromise.
13. Who was Harriet Tubman and what organization did she support? Runaway slave who then led other fugitives out of the south on the Underground Railroad, she freed about 300 slaves, “Moses”
14. What was the most alarming provision of the Compromise of 1850 to the Northerners? Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, “Bloodhound Bill,” fleeing slaves couldn’t testify on their own behalf and were denied a jury trial. Federal commissioner would receive $5 if he freed the slave and $10 if he returned the slave. If you helped them escape then you were subject to heavy fines and jail sentences.
15. How did the northern states react to the Fugitive Slave Law? Some passed state laws that said they didn’t have to enforce the federal law. Massachusetts made a law which said it was a penal offense to enforce the new federal statue. “Personal liberty laws” which denied local jails to federal officials or otherwise hampered enforcement.
16. What impact did the Fugitive Slave Law have on the Whig party and how was the election of 1852 significant to the party? The Whigs were split over the issue of slavery. Whigs took Scott as a candidate but didn’t like his platform which endorsed the Fugitive Slave Law. Southerners doubted Scott’s loyalty to the Compromise of 1850 and especially the Fugitive Slave Law. Some in GA actually voted for Webster who had died 2 weeks earlier. Free Soil Party candidate John P. Hale, pulled votes away from
17. Who seized control of Nicaragua for the US during the 1850s? British tried to control all trade along the “Mosquito Coast” so US and New Grenada (Colombia) had Treaty in 1848 which guaranteed the American right of transit across the isthmus in return for Washington’s pledge to maintain the “perfect neutrality.” Built transcontinental railroad across the area (48 miles thru Panama jungle) Led to Teddy Roosevelt’s claim to the area for the canal. Clayton-Bulwer Treaty 1850 said neither the US or GB would take over region. William Walker made himself the president of Nicaragua in 1856 and legalized slavery. Pierce didn’t recognize him.
18. Who opened trade between Japan and the US in the 1850s?
19. What island became the primary focus of the southern Democrat’s attempt to revive manifest destiny in the 1850s? Cuba, we tried to offer Spain $100 million for it. They said they would rather see it sink in to the sea. Black Warrior was seized and some called for war. Crimean War (England, France, Russia would be occupied and couldn’t help Spanish).
20. What was the Ostend Manifesto and why was it foiled? Meeting in Belgium, between ministers in Spain, France and England to prepare offer to Spain. Document urged the administration offer $120M for Cuba and if they didn’t take it got to war. Offer leaked out and Northerners were outraged (after Fugitive Slave Laws). Then dropped issue for Cuba. Slavery checked the issue of expansion in the 1850s
21. What transportation development was proposed as the way of keeping the Pacific coast territories from breaking away from US control? Transcontinental Railroad, but it would be expensive.
22. What acquisition was made to facilitate the building of a southern route for the transcontinental railroad? Gadsden Purchase, along New Mexico territory (which was an organized territory). This was a better route than proposed in the North, easier to cross mountains.
23. Why did Stephen A. Douglas propose the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 and how did his proposal affect the previous Missouri Compromise of 1820? He wanted to get people to this area so that they could get the Transcontinental RR to go along a northern track and make Chicago the beginning of the RR and help his state Illinois. This would split Nebraska into 2 territories: Kansas and Nebraska. He believed KS would vote to be slavery and Nebraska would be free. This would throw out the long used Missouri Compromise (very respected).
24. What did Douglas think about public reaction to the Kansas-Nebraska Act and was he correct? He really didn’t care about the issue of slavery. He predicted a “hell of a storm.” Northerners called him Judas or a traitor. He had much popularity in Dem Party.