

Pre-reading

1. The Whigs and Democrats dealt with the slavery issue during the 1830's and 1840's really by letting it slide. No party would take a firm stand against it because it would be political suicide because of Southern votes. Both parties knew that slavery was necessary to maintain the economy so they let it go on. Many politicians viewed the issue as a necessary evil. It would probably eliminated itself after a while.
1. Popular sovereignty is where the people of an area get to decide the status of slavery in the territory they live in. The Madisonian democratic aspect it lacks is a voice for the minority. Madison wanted to be sure that not only was the voice of the majority served but also the minority voice was heard.
2. Slavery was technically threatened because it was possible for a state to vote away slavery but that would be highly unlikely. People would be voting to get rid of their investments. It would be more likely that slavery would grow because an undecided or free state could become a slave state. That scenario would be much more likely.
3. It could be said that the compromise of 1850 won the civil war for the north. This is because some parts of the compromise infuriated the North towards the South. The fugitive slave law really made the north mad because it infringed on their states rights. It also took away the rights of some of the free blacks in the north. They could be convicted of running away and sent to the south. The compromise also held off war for 10 years and allowed to north to grow more powerful and industrious. It also allowed for anti-slavery movements to take shape and for southern hatred to evolve.
1. The Ostend Manifest was different from any other American acquisition of territory because it was an ultimatum. The US said that either Spain sells Cuba for 120 million dollars or we'll take it. Most other gains were just purchases or we got them as part of a treaty after a war. This was the first time we threatened violence just for land. It was really at the height of Manifest Destiny and our expansionist feelings in the US.
2. If the Kansas-Nebraska act hadn't been passed, I think the sectional issues would have arose again because the south would have realized that slaver didn't have any other place to expand. This would be happening while anti-slavery movements were growing. This act didn't really help them but it made them think it did and that was the point.
3. The sectional conflict became more than just about slavery. Eventually, it turned into a big conflict of political parties. The north now had the republicans who seem to have arisen overnight. They quickly became a major party in the north while being despised in the south. The sectional conflict also became a major power struggle in many places; politics, commerce, and industry were all parts of the sectionalist power struggle.