

Period 5: 1844-1877

AP US History ■ Period 5

AP US History



What we will cover

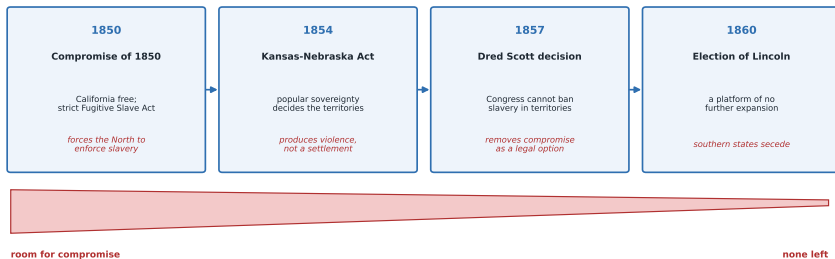
- 1 Manifest Destiny and Expansion
- 2 Why Expansion Broke the Political System
- 3 Secession and the Civil War
- 4 Reconstruction
- 5 The Failure of Reconstruction
- 6 Comparison in Period 5

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.

Why Expansion Broke the Political System



each settlement dealt with slavery in the TERRITORIES - that is the question expansion forced

the distinction this unit turns on

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.