

MISSOURI COMPROMISE OF 1820

E.Q. Why was Congress so concerned with maintaining a balance between free and slave states?

Westward expansion helped the nation and strengthened it in many ways. But it also led to issues between north and south due to the extension of slavery.

(West. Exp. Strengthened nation/led to probs with No and So and slavery)

U.S. in 1819

11 free states/ 11 slave states

Since 1817, Missouri (MO) wanted to come in as a slave state. (1817, MO applies 2 b a slave state)

Northerners were opposed. They said the addition of slave state would upset the balance in the Senate (votes). Thus, the South or slave states would be more powerful. (Northerners against, "slave state upset balance in Sen.=South more power)

The issue was discussed in Congress. (issue in CONG.)

In the meantime, Maine had also applied to be admitted as a state. Maine was a free state. (Maine applies to be free state)

Henry Clay, the great negotiator, came up with a plan THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE.

Missouri Compromise:

- The Missouri Compromise said that Maine would be admitted as a free state and Missouri would be admitted as a slave state. This would keep the balance in the Senate. (Missouri slave/ Maine free/ balance in Senate/solved)
- It also said that the Louisiana Territory north of the southern border of Missouri would free of slavery. (Also, LA Terr. No of So border, free, no slavery)
- It also gave southern slave owners a clear right to pursue escaped fugitives into "free" regions and return them to slavery. (Also, slave owners right to get their runaway slaves from free areas)

Future issues:

- The compromise revealed how much sectionalism would tear our country apart.
- Southern leaders were not happy that the compromise gave Congress the power to make laws regarding slavery. (it's not in the Constitution, so it becomes a state right, their argument).
- Northerners were upset that it allowed slavery to expand into another state (Missouri).

