

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Death of the 2nd Party System

**Focus Question: In the initial years after the Compromise of 1850, what issues divided the nation and signalled the beginning of the end of the Second Party System?**

Topic & Analysis Questions	Notes/Analysis
<p><b><u>Northern Responses to the Fugitive Slave Act</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How did many northerners respond to the Fugitive Slave Act? What arguments did they make against it?</li><li>2. How might this act change political opinions in the North?</li><li>3. How did many northerners respond to the Fugitive Slave Act? What arguments did they make against it?</li><li>4. How might this act change political opinions in the North?</li></ol>	
<p><b><u>Uncle Tom's Cabin</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What impact did <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> have in the North?</li><li>2. How would most southerners likely respond to <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>? How might it increase regional divisions?</li></ol>	
<p><b><u>Westward Expansion: Popular Sovereignty &amp; The Kansas-Nebraska Act</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Why did some northern Democrats oppose the Kansas-Nebraska Act?</li><li>2. How did passage of this act impact the Democratic Party, the party of Stephen Douglas, who authored the bill?</li><li>3. Popular sovereignty was supposed to be a solution to the slavery debate. Why did it instead cause increased debate? Why did many oppose this principle? (check out Lincoln's speech)</li><li>4. Why did southerners insist that the federal government protect the expansion of slavery? (check Rector's speech)</li></ol>	
<p><b><u>The Election of 1852</u></b></p>	

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1. Why do you think the Election of 1852 was another in which there were four, not two, political parties?
2. What do you notice when comparing the Whig and Democratic parties?
3. What alternatives did the Free Soil and Know Nothing parties attempt to offer?
4. The Whig Party largely disintegrated after 1852, and by 1856 it was replaced by the anti-slavery Republican Party. Why do you think this party realignment occurred? How would the Republican Party gain enough support to become a major party?

### The Northern Economy

1. How was the development of the northern economy linked to the Market Revolution of the first portion of the 1800s?
2. How did the northern economy differ from that of the South? Why might these differences cause tension?
3. What relationship emerged between the Midwest and the Northeast? How might these changes contribute to new political alignments and the rise of the Republican Party?
4. How would the changing relationship between the Midwest and Northeast contribute to sectional and political tensions between North and South?

### The Ostend Manifesto

1. Think about the timing of the leak of the Ostend Manifesto: in the midst of the Fugitive Slave Act and the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. What do you think northerners would think of it, even if they weren't abolitionists?
2. What would the fallout be for the Democratic Party? Why might the manifesto increase the splintering or breakup of the party?
3. How might Europeans, not just Spain, respond to news of the manifesto?

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### **Analysis**

1. How would you characterize the issues that increasingly divided the nation in the lead up to the Civil War?
  
2. How did a variety of issues contribute to political realignment and the end of the Second Party System?