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Throughout the course of early American history, slavery has always posed as a problem. Whether it was how to incorporate slaves in legislative representation or the question of which branches of government had the authority to outlaw slavery in a territory, slavery had been a recurring issue. From 1776 to 1850, the United States was increasing in both size and population. The country was gaining more territory as a result of previous victories from foreign war. The issue of slavery too, was increasing in importance. By the mid 1850's the issue of slavery was extremely important to the US state government. As a result of the growing intensity of the slavery issue, more and more Americans began to form opinions on the South's "peculiar institution". The arrival of the growing opposition to slavery from 1776 to 1850 was caused by the acquisition of new land as a result of war and the import of the revolution of the slavery institution that was spread via books and newspapers.

As a result of the American victory in the Revolutionary war, the United States acquired land all the way to the Mississippi River. The provisional government, established by the Articles of Confederation, dealt with the new territory via the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest

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Land ordinance of 1787. The Land ordinance of 1787 not only organized how new states would be admitted into the Union, but also addressed the issue of slavery. The Land ordinance outlawed slavery in the Northwest territory (DOC. A) and other states followed shortly after in the North. Since the Northern states outlawed slavery, the Northern Americans began to have an increased opposition to the South's slavery institution. Such opposition would ultimately intensify as more land would be admitted to the US.

During the Polk administration, the United States fought Mexico in the Mexican American war. The end result for the Americans in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was the Mexico cession territory. The acquisition of Mexico territory began posed a problem regarding the issue of slavery. The United States government did not know to handle how if slavery should or should not be allowed in the new territory, new territory. Some Northerners, such as David Wilmot, were opposed to the extension of slavery in the Mexican cession lands. He proposed the Wilmot Proviso (DOC. H) which would have the intention of banning slavery in the new territory. It, however, was never implemented. The Wilmot proviso represented the majority,

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of the feelings of the northerners during this time period and how the opposition to slavery was becoming more prevalent in US politics.

The United States government decided on a series of agreements known as the Compromise of 1850 to deal with the slaves issue in the Mexican cession territories. The fact that California, originally a territory of the Mexico cession, wanted to be admitted as a free state precipitated this event. As a result of a gold rush, California's population grew there and its citizens wanted admission to become a state. However, the admission of California as a free state would leave the US unbalanced with the amount of free and slave states. Consequently, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, and Henry Clay met and created the Compromise of 1850. The north would get the admission of California as a slave state, and Washington DC would not participate in the slave trade. The south got popular sovereignty in the Mexican cession and a stricter fugitive slave law. Neither side was extremely pleased with the results and the north especially was not happy specifically with the stricter fugitive slave law (DOC. I). Those who opposed slavery, (mainly of the north) began to oppose slavery even more with the implementation of the fugitive slave law. The

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Compromise of 1850 that came as a result of the new organization of federal created a more intensified opposition to slavery.

Abolitionists, as well as the acquisition of land, precipitated opposition to slavery. William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Beecher Stowe all pursued increased opposition to slavery both in the US and in slaves' case, Europe. William Lloyd Garrison discussed immediate abolition in his newspaper, *The Liberator*, where many Southerners opposed such radical abolition, but Northerners became more aware of its effects.

Although the publication of *The Liberator* turned some moderate Northerners off, Garrison successfully made the issue of slavery heard and more Northerners more opposed to it as a result. (DOC. E)

Frederick Douglass was a former slave and abolitionist who, like Garrison, revealed to the practices of slavery in his autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (DOC. G). He though called for a political solution to the establishment of slavery and demanded Garrison's "more righteousness." Even so, Douglass made the issue of slavery an important topic in both the political and social aspect of American life, and more people grew more opposed to it as a result. Harriet Beecher Stowe, perhaps, created the most opposition to slavery,

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in her book Uncle Tom's Cabin (DOC. 5) the book reflected the horrors of the slave trade and the occurrence of the break up of families as a result of it. The book sold many copies in both the US and Europe and as a effect, many American northerners opposed slavery. The book Stowe wrote greatly increased the opposition of slavery as well as Garrison's newspaper and Douglass's autobiography.

While many northerners were experiencing an increased opposition to slavery as a result of the eager acquisition of land and the opinions and stories written by abolitionists, the southerners were growing closer and closer to the institution of slavery. The northerners of opposition were rather closer to it because there was an increasing fear that the north will try harder and harder to outlaw slavery while it is true that there was a growing opposition to slavery in the north, there was not a growing opposition in the south.

The issue of slavery had occurred in America history for many years. The opposition to slavery came as a result of the acquisition of new land and the writings of abolitionists.

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At the dawn of the United States of America, Abigail Adams urged her husband to "remember the ladies." By this, she meant for John to not consider the new Freedoms of the US to be solely for white males. Mrs. Adams's letter to John foreshadowed the social reform movement that ~~she~~ would define the 1800s. At approximately the same time, the Founding Fathers were debating the formation of the Constitution. On the issue of slavery, the North was opposed, but willing to defer to the South's adamant defense of the institution. This ~~split~~ marked the point from which the North and South began to diverge. Both the popularity of social reform and the polarization of the North and South were foreshadowed in this vital period, ~~as~~ and these became the major factors in the growing opposition of slavery in the nineteenth century.

Though the Northern states allowed slavery to remain unaddressed in the Constitution, all of them quickly abolished it in their own states. According to Doc B, ~~Massachusetts~~ Massachusetts found slavery to ~~conflict~~ conflict with the ideals upon which America was founded. However, the North's unwelcoming soil made farming an unimportant industry in the northern states, which made the early eradication of slavery in the North (Doc A) relatively easy. After the North's emancipation, northerners began to see slavery differently. On the other hand,

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the South continued to rely on slavery as the primary workforce for its robust economy of cash crops.

Though tobacco was the main cash crop in the South in the late 1700s and early 1800s, Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin streamlined cotton production by slaves, further increasing the South's reliance on slavery. At about the same time, Whitney invented the concept of interchangeable parts, which made the North's growing industrialization far more efficient. Finally, the Fugitive Slave Act, while ~~empowered~~ slave catchers in the North, saw great opposition in the North. In Boston, posters were ~~erected~~ disseminated warning blacks to avoid police and slave catchers (Doc. I). This growing polarization combined with social reform in the 1800s to cause widespread opposition to slavery by northerners.

The social reform movement in the 1800s was fueled primarily by middle-class women. Women like Angelina Grimké urged other women to use their domestic influence to push social reform, whether it was women's suffrage, ~~prohibition~~, or in Grimké's case, ~~abolition~~ (Doc. F). Grimké ~~and her~~ Women were not the only advocates of social reform, though. William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the anti-slavery weekly "The Liberator", was a ~~slave~~ voice for "immediate ~~gradual~~ emancipation".

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without compensation". As Doc E says, Garrison founded Anti-Slavery Societies throughout the North that both helped individual African Americans, ~~and~~ Freedmen, and runaways, as well as pushed for abolition in the South. Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave and friend of Garrison's, wrote the highly compelling "Narrative of the Life of an American Slave", which shed an unforgiving light on the cruelties of slavery and impressed readers with the sophisticated manner with which Douglass wrote the story, because most people (even Northerners) did not think a slave or even black person could write so well (Doc G). Probably the most convincing abolitionist voice, though, was that of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Her Uncle Tom's Cabin was ~~a~~ a vivid story of slavery that ignited many people's opposition to slavery. The book was so popular that it was ~~translated~~ ^{translated} to German, as well as other languages (Doc J). The popularity of social reform led other people, like David Wilmot, to advocate abolition because it would help white laborers whose work was undermined by the wageless workforce of slavery (Doc H). The social reform movement's growing popularity was accompanied by rising anti-slavery tensions in America, which eventually broke with South Carolina's secession.

Though the anti-slavery sentiments were

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Explosive and effective in the mid 1800s, the seed for them was planted with the Declaration of Independence, which declared that ~~men~~ "all men are created equal." Though it took a long time for such a statement to be extended to 'blacks ~~and women~~', it eventually was, due to the growing differences between the North and South and the popular social reform movement of the 1800s.

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Slavery, also known as the Peculiar Institution, had been a blight of American Society until the Thirteenth Amendment passed. Support and opposition to slavery were as clear as night and day; the South supported, and the North opposed. Opposition started small but evolved into something much greater until it finally toppled the institution of slavery altogether.

Much opposition came from religious convictions. William Lloyd Garrison, as stated in Document F, believed he was an agent of God's justice and that he was upholding "the truths of Divine Revelation." In an attempt to appeal to religious women, Angelina Grimké wrote in Document F about "the image of God in human shambles..."

Another great influence of opposition was the sympathy for the Negroes. Often blacks such as Gloucester in Document C would tell of the atrocities they had suffered and plead for funds to purchase either his own freedom, or, like in Gloucester's case, the freedom of his family. The prospect of slave families alone was often used to gain sympathy for the slaves. Frederick Douglass is another man who in his narrative, speaks of the morbid reality of being a man in bondage, claiming in Document G that he had all but abandoned his humanity and sense of self to become what

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he called a brute. Uncle Tom's Cabin was another source for sympathy, generating feelings of resentment toward slave owners. This book alone caused such an uproar that president Abraham Lincoln, when meeting Stowe, referred to her as the woman that started the war.

Often a sense of moral decay would affect the non-slave owners, causing an ethical conflict of conscience regarding the morality of slavery.

Garrison in Document E calls slavery "the most execrable system... the deadliest curse... the foulest stain..." and wishes for "the triumph of Justice, Liberty, and Humanity." The court case in document f) discusses the rights of mankind and the ideals of the American constitution—that men are created equal—and claims these ideals "reprobrious to the idea of being born slaves."

Some abolition was caused by a dislike of slaves. Wilmot in Document H pleads for the rights of whites in wishing that the free territory remain free land because he thought slavery, a disgrace to free labor.

Often Northerners hated blacks as much as the Southerners but wanted slavery abolished so that the slaves would cease their Northern migration in pursuit of liberty.