

# Nationalism and Sectionalism

## One American's Story

The War of 1812 increased American nationalism. **Nationalism** is a feeling of pride, loyalty, and protectiveness toward your nation. Representative **Henry Clay** was a strong nationalist.

### PRIMARY SOURCE

“Every nation should anxiously endeavor to establish its absolute independence, and consequently be able to feed and clothe and defend itself. If it rely upon a foreign supply that may be cut off . . . it cannot be independent.”

—Henry Clay, *The Life and Speeches of Henry Clay*

After the war, President James Madison supported Clay's plan to strengthen the country and unify its regions.

## Nationalism Unites the Country

**KEY QUESTION** What factors helped to promote national unity?

Madison wanted America to prosper by itself, without foreign products.

**The American System** In 1815, Madison presented a plan to Congress for making America economically self-sufficient. The plan—which Clay promoted as the **American System**—had three main actions.

1. Establish a **protective tariff**, a tax on imported goods that protects a nation's businesses from foreign competition. Congress passed a tariff in 1816. It made European goods more expensive and encouraged Americans to buy cheaper, American-made products.
2. Establish a national bank that would promote a single currency, making trade easier. (Most regional banks issued their own money.) In 1816, Congress set up the second Bank of the United States.
3. Improve the country's transportation systems, which were important for the economy. Poor roads made transportation slow and costly.

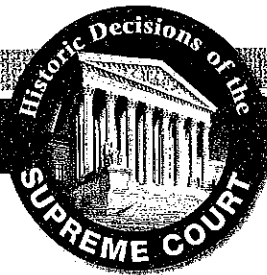


Henry Clay, U.S.  
Representative from  
Kentucky

**The Era of Good Feelings** As nationalist feeling spread, people shifted their loyalty away from state governments and toward the federal government. Democratic-Republican **James Monroe** won the presidency in 1816 with a large majority of electoral votes. The Federalist Party provided little opposition to Monroe and soon disappeared. Political differences gave way to what one Boston newspaper called the Era of Good Feelings.

During the Monroe administration, several landmark Supreme Court decisions promoted national unity by strengthening the federal government. For example, in *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819), the court ruled that a state could not tax a national bank. As Justice Marshall explained, "The power to tax involves the power to destroy."

*Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824) also strengthened the federal government. Two steamship operators fought over shipping rights on the Hudson River in New York and New Jersey. The Court ruled that interstate commerce could be regulated only by the federal government, not the state governments.



## **McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)**

**KEY ISSUE** federal supremacy vs. state powers  
**KEY PEOPLE** James McCulloch cashier, Bank of the United States (Maryland branch)

### **The Case**

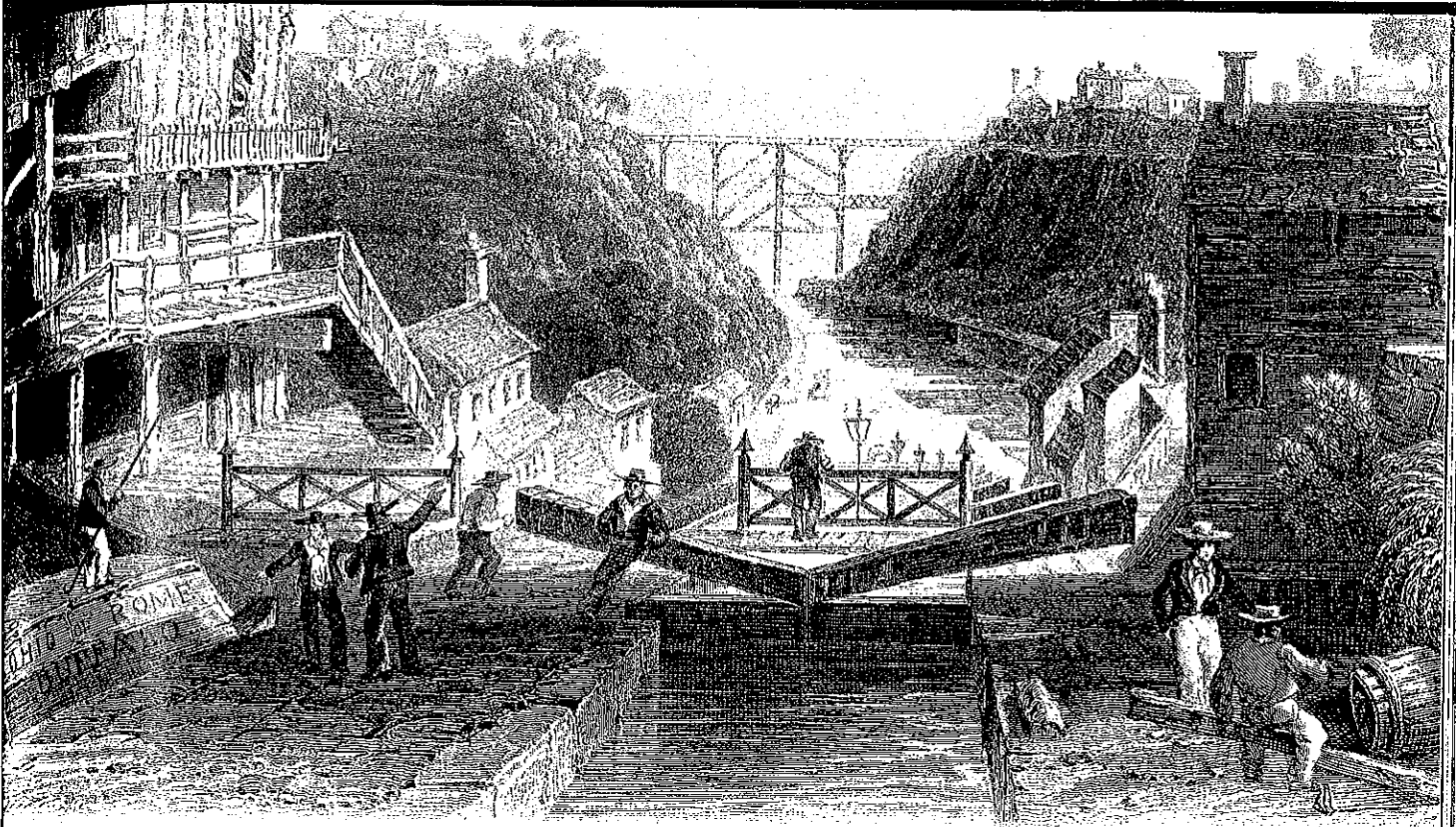
The Second Bank of the United States was established by the U.S. Congress in 1816. The state of Maryland tried to put the bank out of business: it set a high tax on currency issued by the bank. When James McCulloch, the cashier at the Maryland branch, refused to pay the tax, Maryland sued him and the bank.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of McCulloch and the Bank of the United States. It ruled that Congress had the right to establish the bank.

The court also ruled that the states do not have the right to tax the federal government. If the tax were allowed, it would give Maryland power over the federal government. In the ruling, John Marshall wrote that the framers of the Constitution did not intend to make the federal government subject to state powers. He cited the Supremacy Clause (Art. 6, Sec. 2): "This Constitution, and the laws of the United States . . . shall be the supreme law of the land."

### **CRITICAL THINKING**

- 1. Draw Conclusions** Why did John Marshall say that the power to tax "involves the power to destroy"?
- 2. WHAT IF?** What do you think might have happened if *McCulloch v. Maryland* had been decided in Maryland's favor?



The Erie Canal

**Transportation Links Cites** In 1806, Congress had funded a road from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia. By 1841, the National Road, the country's main east-west route, extended to Vandalia, Illinois.

Water transportation improved with the building of canals. The period from 1790 to 1855 is often called the Age of Canals. Completed in 1825, the massive **Erie Canal** created a water route between New York City and Buffalo, New York. The Erie Canal allowed farm products from the Great Lakes region to flow east, and people and manufactured goods from the East to flow west. Trade stimulated by the canal helped New York City to become the nation's largest city. Between 1820 and 1830, its population nearly doubled.

Improvements in railroads led to a decline in canal use. In 1830, about 23 miles of train track existed. By 1850, the number had climbed to 9,000.

**▲ SUMMARIZE** Describe the factors that helped to promote national unity.

## Sectional Tensions Increase

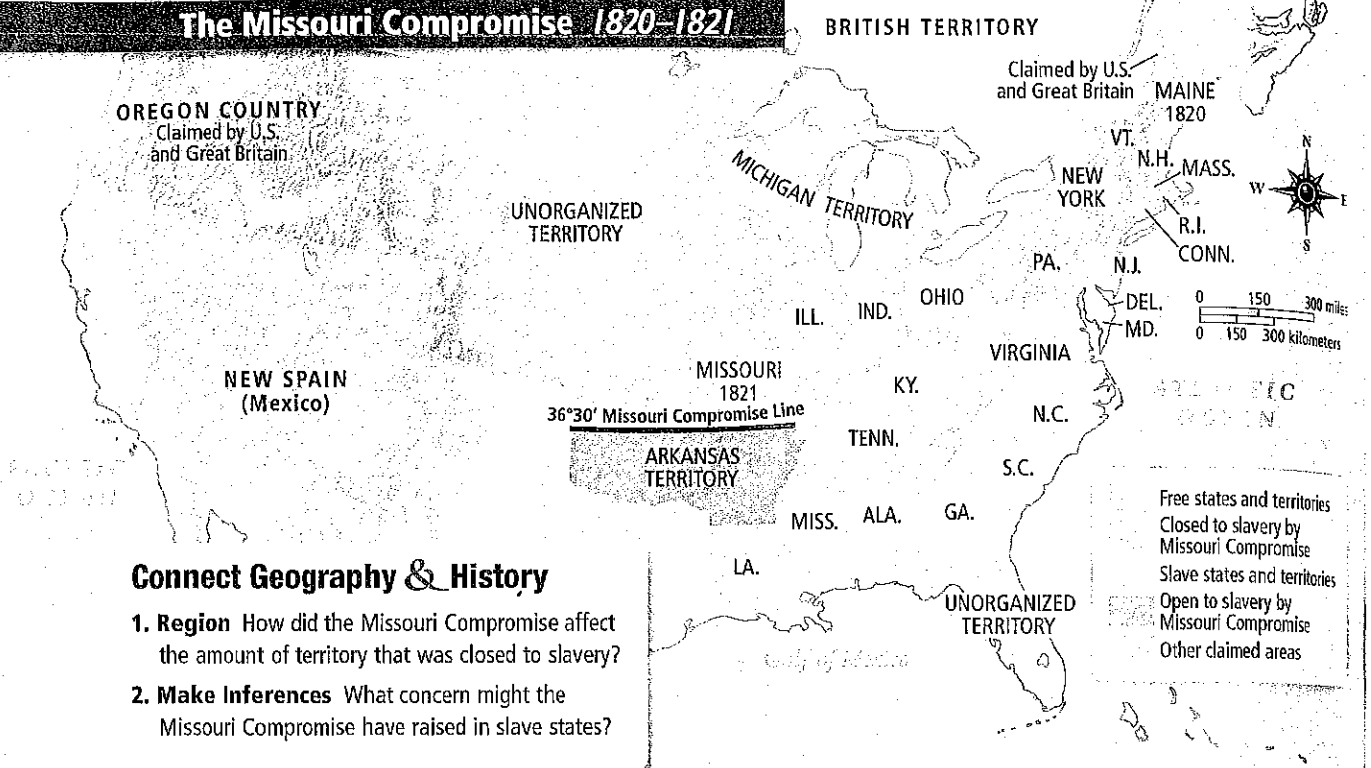
**▼ KEY QUESTION** What factors increased sectional tension?

While nationalism grew, sectionalism threatened to tear the nation apart.

**Sectional Interests** Sectionalism is loyalty to the interests of a region or section of the country. By the early 1800s, economic changes had created divisions. The South relied on a plantation economy that used slavery. The Northeast focused on manufacturing and trade. In the West, settlers wanted cheap land. The interests of these sections were often in conflict.

Sectionalism became a major issue when Missouri applied for statehood in 1817. People in Missouri wanted to allow slavery in their state. At the time, the United States consisted of 11 slave states and 11 free states. Adding Missouri as a slave state would upset the balance of power in Congress.

## The Missouri Compromise 1820–1821



### Connect Geography & History

- 1. Region** How did the Missouri Compromise affect the amount of territory that was closed to slavery?
- 2. Make Inferences** What concern might the Missouri Compromise have raised in slave states?

**The Missouri Compromise** Representatives in Congress argued over admitting the new state of Missouri as a slave state or a free state. Southerners claimed that the Constitution did not give Congress the power to ban slavery. They worried that if free states formed a majority in Congress, they would ban slavery altogether. Warned Representative Thomas Cobb of Georgia:

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“If you persist, the Union will be dissolved. You have kindled a fire which . . . seas of blood can only extinguish.”

—Thomas Cobb, quoted in *Henry Clay: Statesman for the Union*

Meanwhile, Maine, which had been part of Massachusetts, also wanted statehood. Henry Clay suggested that Missouri be admitted as a slave state and Maine as a free state. Congress passed this plan, known as the **Missouri Compromise**, in 1820. It kept the balance of power in the Senate between the slave states and free states. It also called for slavery to be banned north of the parallel 36° 30', Missouri's southern border.

Amid these tensions, the Mason-Dixon Line, which formed the Maryland-Pennsylvania border, took on symbolic importance. The term “Mason-Dixon Line” came to be used for the division between slave states and free states, as well as the division between the North and the South.

**SYNTHESIZE** Describe the factors that increased sectional tension.

# National Boundaries and Foreign Affairs

**KEY QUESTION** How were U.S. borders made more secure?

Nationalist feeling made Americans want to define the nation's borders. To do this, U.S. leaders had to reach agreements with Britain and Spain.

**Settling Boundary Issues** Two agreements improved relations between the United States and Britain. The Rush-Bagot Agreement (1817) limited each side's naval forces on the Great Lakes. In the Convention of 1818, the two countries set the 49th parallel as the U.S.-Canadian border as far west as the Rocky Mountains.

But U.S. relations with Spain were tense. The two nations disagreed on the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase and the ownership of West Florida. Meanwhile, pirates and runaway slaves used Spanish-held East Florida as a refuge. In addition, the Seminoles of East Florida raided white settlements in Georgia to reclaim lost lands.

## CONNECT to the Essential Question

**What forces and events affected national unity and growth?**

### STRENGTHENING FORCES

The Industrial Revolution fuels economic growth.

The American System encourages economic self-sufficiency.

Supreme Court decisions strengthen the federal government.

Improvements in transportation and communication link cities and regions.

The United States expands and defines its borders.

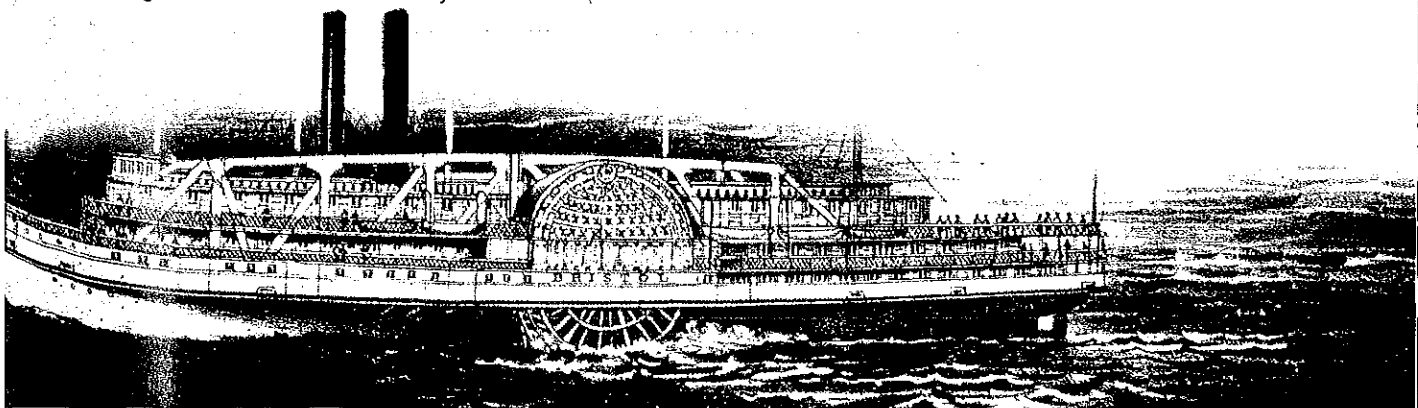
### WEAKENING FORCES

New industry and inventions lead to reliance on manufacturing in the North, and increased dependence on cotton and slavery in the South.

Regional differences divide the nation among Northerners, Southerners, and Westerners.

Although the Missouri Compromise keeps the balance of free and slave states, the issue of slavery continues to divide the nation.

**CRITICAL THINKING Compare and Contrast** In what ways did economic changes both strengthen and threaten national unity?



In 1817, U.S. General Andrew Jackson followed the Seminoles into Spanish territory and then claimed the Floridas for the United States. Monroe ordered Jackson to withdraw but gave Spain a choice. It could either police the Floridas or turn them over to the United States. In the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819, Spain handed Florida to the United States and gave up claims to the Oregon Country.

### Connect to the World


#### Latin American Independence

Venezuelan general Simón Bolívar was popularly known as the "George Washington of Latin America." When the Monroe Doctrine was issued, Bolívar was the new president of Peru and already had led Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia to independence.

**The Monroe Doctrine** The nation felt threatened not only by sectionalism, but by other events in the Americas. In Latin America, several countries had successfully fought for independence from Spain and Portugal. Some European monarchies planned to help Spain and Portugal regain their colonies. U.S. leaders feared that this could put their own government in danger.

Russian colonies in the Pacific Northwest also concerned Americans. The Russians entered Alaska in 1784. By 1812, their trading posts reached almost to San Francisco.

In December 1823, Monroe issued a statement that became known as the **Monroe Doctrine**. (See Reading Primary Sources, page 385.) Monroe said that the Americas were closed to further colonization. He also warned that European efforts to reestablish colonies would be considered "dangerous to our peace and safety." Finally, he promised that the United States would stay out of European affairs. The Monroe Doctrine showed that the United States saw itself as a world power and protector of Latin America.

 **PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS** Describe how U.S. borders were made more secure.

## 3

### Section Assessment



#### ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to Interactive Review @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)

#### TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of
  - Henry Clay
  - American System
  - James Monroe
  - Erie Canal
  - Missouri Compromise
  - Monroe Doctrine

#### USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Main Ideas and Details** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of this section.



#### KEY IDEAS

3. What were the three parts of the American System?
4. What was the main message of the Monroe Doctrine?

#### CRITICAL THINKING

5. **Summarize** How did the question of admitting Missouri to the Union divide the nation?
6. **Compare/Contrast** Think about the diagram you made of factors that contributed to American national unity in the early 1800s. Which of these factors are still important for national unity?
7. **Writing Editorial** Write an editorial giving your opinion of either the Missouri Compromise or the Monroe Doctrine. State how you believe it will affect the nation.