

Chapter 4

From Territory to Early Statehood, 1798-1860

Chapter Preview

PEOPLE

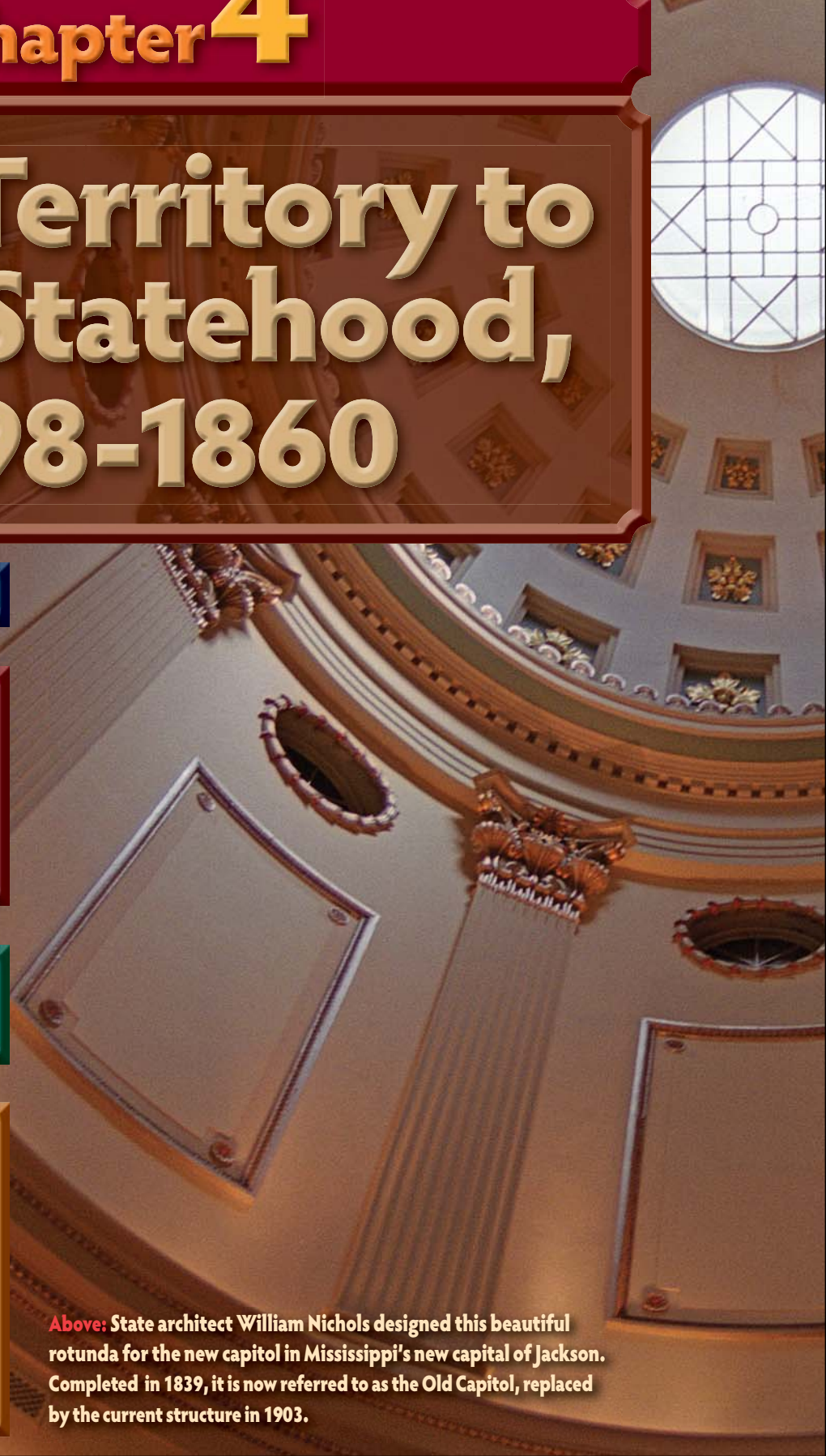
Thomas Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, William C. C. Claiborne, James Madison, Tecumseh, Andrew Jackson, Pushmataha, Louis Le Fleur, William Nichols, John A. Quitman, William L. Sharkey, Henry Clay, Henry Stuart Foote, John Brown, Robert E. Lee, Aaron Burr, James Wilkinson

PLACES

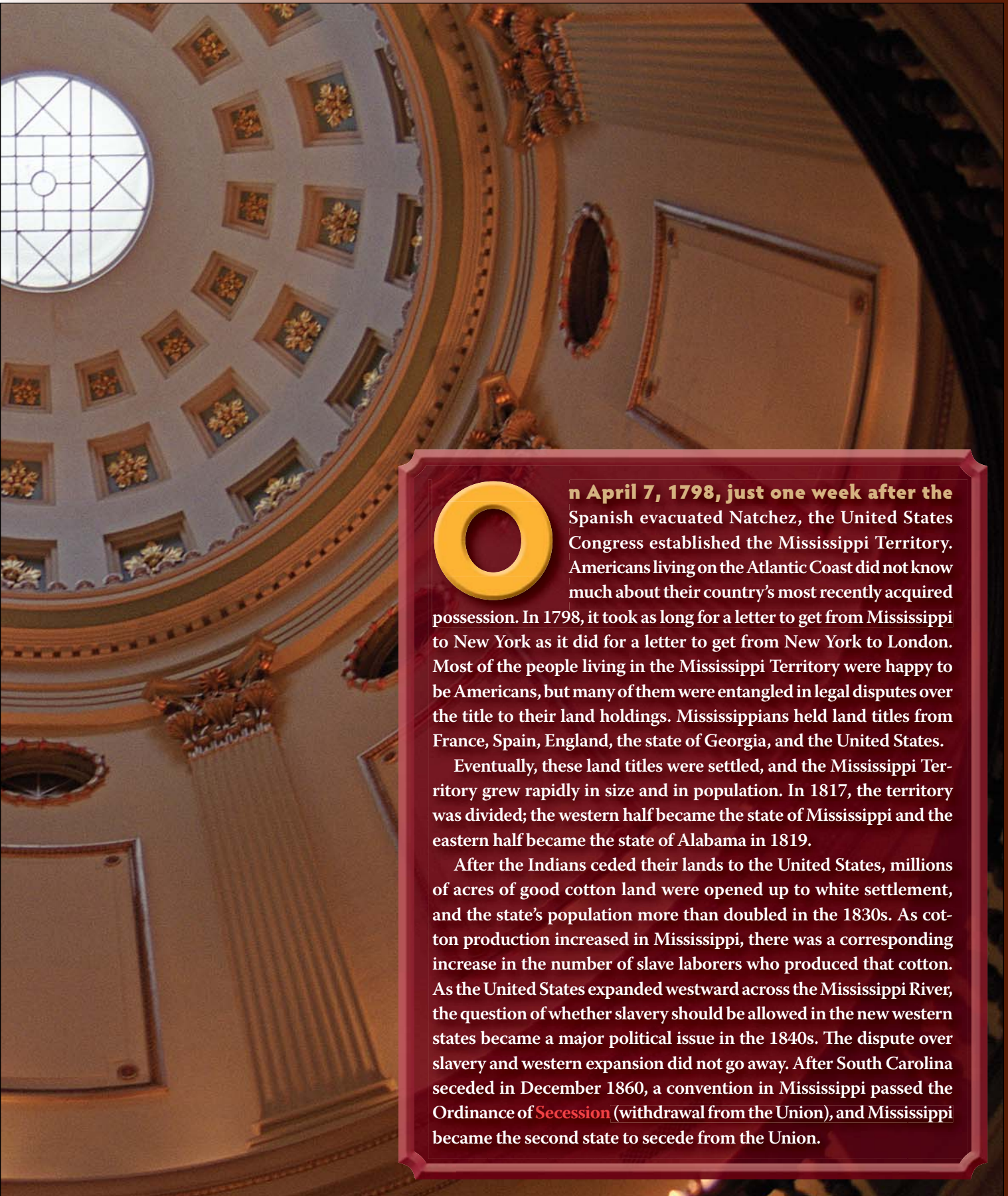
Mississippi Territory, Northwest Territory, Washington, Fort Mims, Harper's Ferry

TERMS

secession, Northwest Ordinance, Natchez Trace, flatboat, Devil's Backbone, Louisiana Purchase, annexation, Constitution of 1817, sectionalism, protective tariff, internal improvements, Constitution of 1832, Flush Times, Missouri Compromise, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, abolitionist, Wilmot Proviso, Compromise of 1850, fire-eaters, Kansas-Nebraska Act, free soilers, *Dred Scott* decision



Above: State architect William Nichols designed this beautiful rotunda for the new capitol in Mississippi's new capital of Jackson. Completed in 1839, it is now referred to as the Old Capitol, replaced by the current structure in 1903.



On April 7, 1798, just one week after the Spanish evacuated Natchez, the United States Congress established the Mississippi Territory. Americans living on the Atlantic Coast did not know much about their country's most recently acquired

possession. In 1798, it took as long for a letter to get from Mississippi to New York as it did for a letter to get from New York to London. Most of the people living in the Mississippi Territory were happy to be Americans, but many of them were entangled in legal disputes over the title to their land holdings. Mississippians held land titles from France, Spain, England, the state of Georgia, and the United States.

Eventually, these land titles were settled, and the Mississippi Territory grew rapidly in size and in population. In 1817, the territory was divided; the western half became the state of Mississippi and the eastern half became the state of Alabama in 1819.

After the Indians ceded their lands to the United States, millions of acres of good cotton land were opened up to white settlement, and the state's population more than doubled in the 1830s. As cotton production increased in Mississippi, there was a corresponding increase in the number of slave laborers who produced that cotton. As the United States expanded westward across the Mississippi River, the question of whether slavery should be allowed in the new western states became a major political issue in the 1840s. The dispute over slavery and western expansion did not go away. After South Carolina seceded in December 1860, a convention in Mississippi passed the Ordinance of **Secession** (withdrawal from the Union), and Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union.

Signs of the Times

U.S. EXPANSION

Between 1803 and 1816, Ohio, Louisiana, and Indiana became the 17th, 18th, and 19th states. Mississippi became the 20th in 1817. By 1859, our country had 33 states.

EXPLORATION

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark set out in 1804 to explore the new Louisiana Territory purchased from France in 1803.

MUSIC

In 1810, the first regular orchestra in America, the Boston Philharmonic Society, was formed. Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" in 1814 during the War of 1812.

LITERATURE

Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle" (1819), *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper (1826), and *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville (1851), were published. Noah Webster published the first American dictionary in 1828.

EDUCATION

Elizabeth Female Academy, founded at Washington in 1818, is considered by some as the nation's first collegiate institution for women. The University of Mississippi opened its doors in 1848.

INVENTIONS

In 1831, Cyrus McCormick invented the reaper, a machine to harvest grain. In 1844, a telegraph line between Washington, DC, and Baltimore, MD, was completed and the first news was transmitted by Morse code.

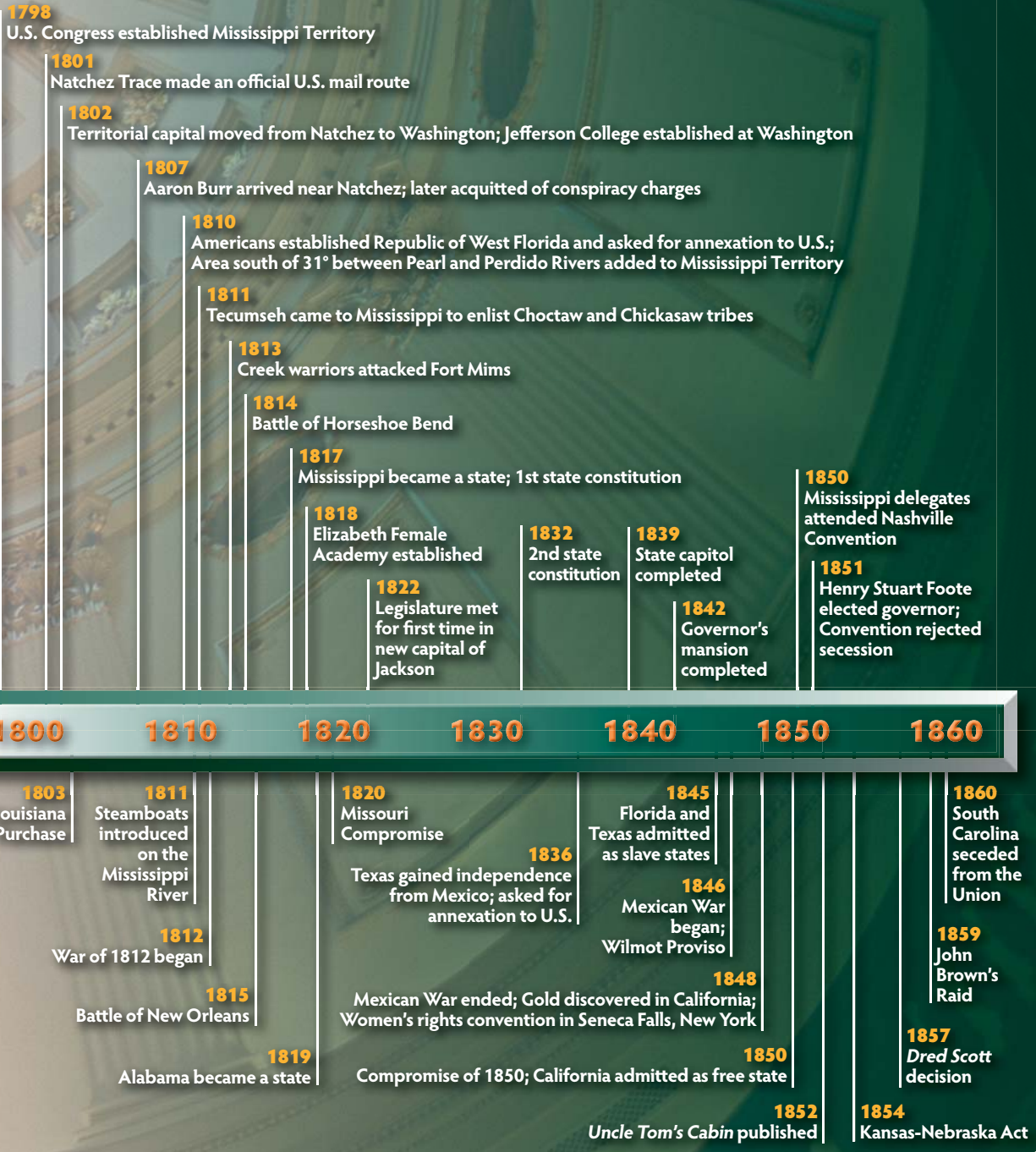
TRANSPORTATION

Robert Fulton demonstrated the promising future of the steamboat when his *Clermont* traveled from New York City to Albany, NY, in 1807. "Tom Thumb," the first American-built steam locomotive used on a common-carrier railroad, was built in 1830.

SPORTS

In the 1840s, Alexander Cartwright and the New York Knickerbockers baseball team drafted the "rules of baseball."

Figure 6 Timeline: 1798–1860



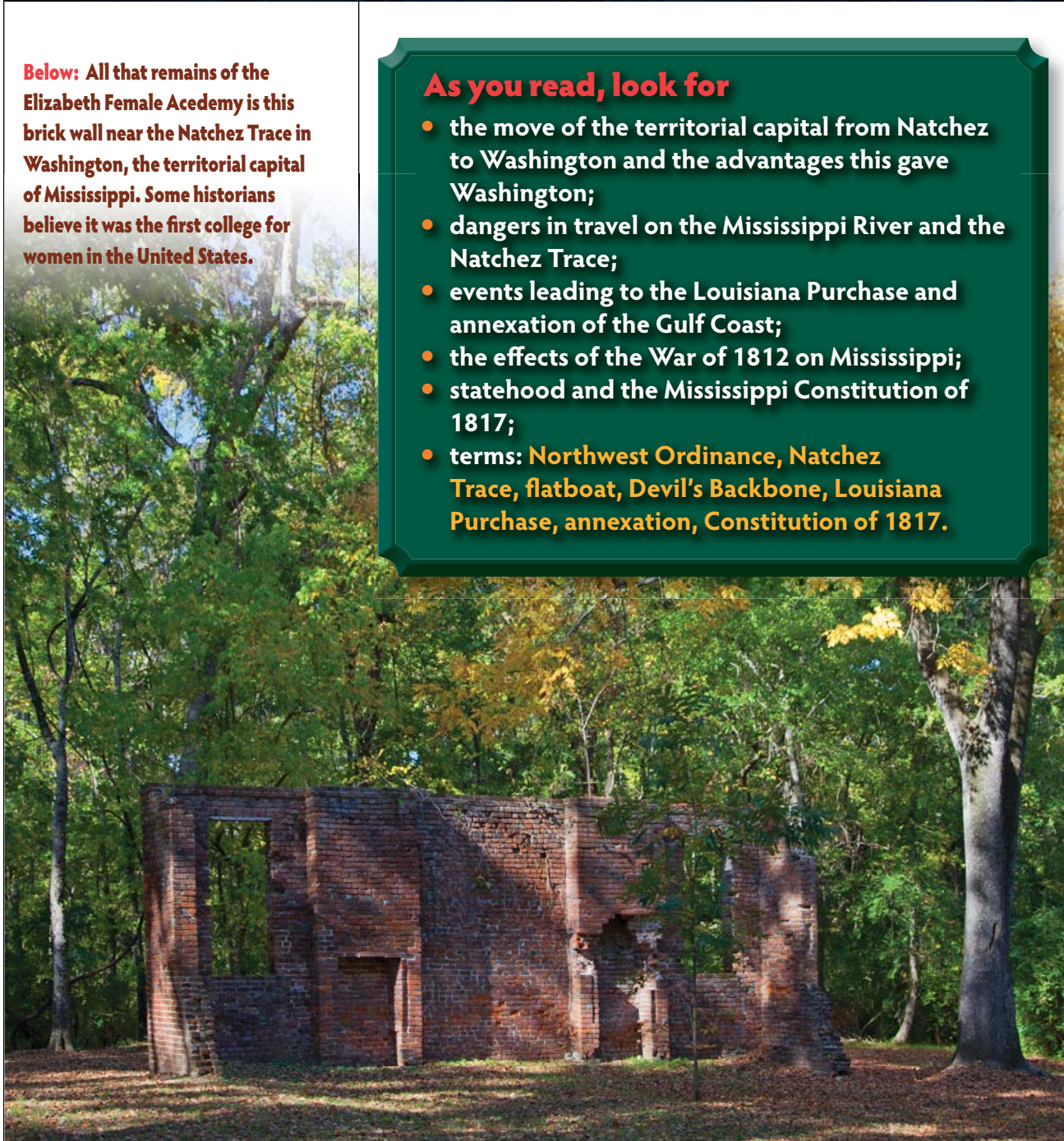
Section 1

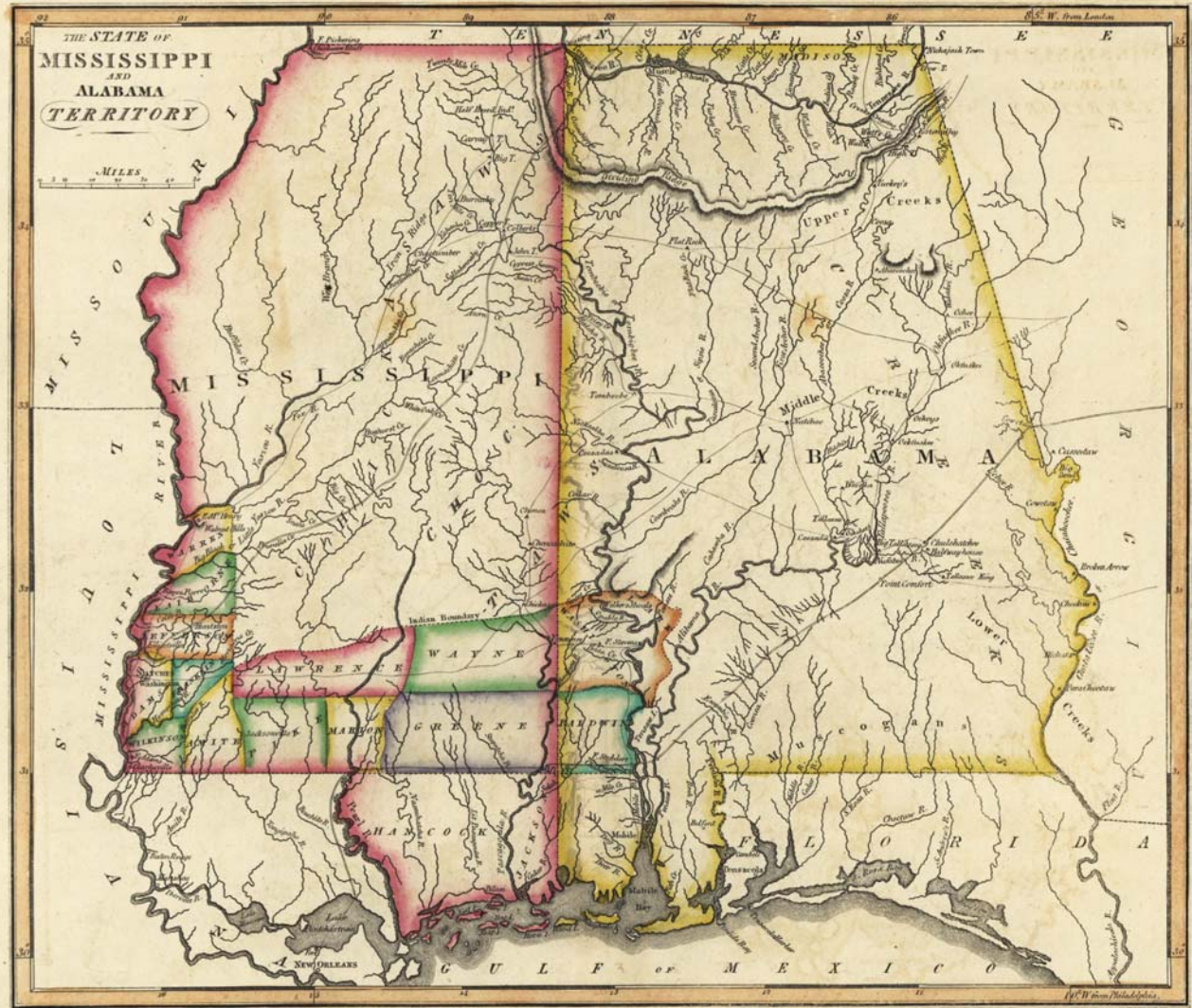
The Mississippi Territory, 1798-1817

Below: All that remains of the Elizabeth Female Acedemy is this brick wall near the Natchez Trace in Washington, the territorial capital of Mississippi. Some historians believe it was the first college for women in the United States.

As you read, look for

- the move of the territorial capital from Natchez to Washington and the advantages this gave Washington;
- dangers in travel on the Mississippi River and the Natchez Trace;
- events leading to the Louisiana Purchase and annexation of the Gulf Coast;
- the effects of the War of 1812 on Mississippi;
- statehood and the Mississippi Constitution of 1817;
- terms: **Northwest Ordinance, Natchez Trace, flatboat, Devil's Backbone, Louisiana Purchase, annexation, Constitution of 1817.**





The law that created the Mississippi Territory was based on the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which established the Northwest Territory and provided for its government. There was, however, one important difference in those two laws. Slavery was not allowed in the Northwest Territory. The law creating the Mississippi Territory made slavery legal in Mississippi. This “peculiar institution,” as slavery was called in the antebellum South, will be fully discussed in the next chapter.

Washington, the Territorial Capital

The law that created the Mississippi Territory designated Natchez as the capital. But politics were so contentious in the early years of the territory that even the location of the capital was an issue between rival factions. In 1802, the territorial assembly moved the capital from Natchez to Washington, a small village six miles east of Natchez. As the territorial capital, Washington flourished. By 1817, its population numbered about 1,000.

Above: This 1818 map shows Mississippi in the first year of its statehood. Alabama was still a territory, and the border between the two had yet to be finalized.



Top: Jefferson College in Washington was chartered in 1802, but because the General Assembly did not provide any funding, it did not open until 1811. The first class consisted of 15 boys and girls. **Above:** The great bird artist John James Audubon was on the faculty of Jefferson College. **Opposite page, above:** Mount Locust is the only surviving stand on the Natchez Trace. Stands were the equivalent of motels for travelers on the Trace.

Jefferson College and Elizabeth Female Academy

Jefferson College, Mississippi's first state-supported institution of higher learning, was established at Washington in 1802. The college was named for President Thomas Jefferson. Elizabeth Female Academy, which is considered by some historians as the nation's first collegiate institution for women, was founded at Washington in 1818.

Among Washington's most renowned citizens were John James Audubon, the famous artist, and Joseph Holt Ingraham, who, with his son Prentiss Ingraham, published more than seven hundred novels. John James Audubon and Joseph Holt Ingraham were both professors at Jefferson College. The most famous alumnus of Jefferson College was Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America.

The Great River and the Devil's Backbone

The Mississippi River and the **Natchez Trace** (the overland route that followed a northeasterly path beginning in Natchez) were the two main transportation routes into the Mississippi Territory, but they were plagued by lawless gangs of robbers who made both life and property unsafe in the new territory. The first public building erected in Mississippi was a jailhouse.

Something Extra!

Jefferson College closed in 1863, when enrollment fell during the Civil War. It reopened as a preparatory school in 1866, became Jefferson Military College in the early 1900s, and closed forever in 1964.



Flatboats (large boats with flat bottoms and square ends, used for carrying freight downstream) carried a variety of goods from Kentucky and Tennessee down the Mississippi River, past Natchez, to the port of New Orleans. After selling their goods in New Orleans, the boatmen dismantled their boats and sold the lumber. They then embarked upon the long and dangerous return to Kentucky and Tennessee by way of the Natchez Trace, which was known as the **Devil's Backbone**.

The slow-moving flatboats were easy prey to the cutthroats and robbers who clustered in bands along the great river and the Natchez Trace. The

canebrakes (thickets of cane) near Vicksburg were among their favorite hideouts. Those robbers were such a menace that the territorial governor offered a \$2,000 reward for the head of Sam Mason, the most notorious bandit of them all. The reward specified “dead or alive,” but if Mason were killed, the reward would not be paid unless his head was presented as positive proof. According to legend, a member of Mason’s gang, Wiley Harpe, who was called “Little Harpe,” killed the famous bandit one night as he slept. Harpe *decapitated* (cut off the head of) Mason, covered the head with clay, wrapped it, placed it in a box,



Something Extra!

The Natchez Trace was originally a game trail used by the Choctaw, Natchez, and Chickasaw peoples. Today the Natchez Trace Parkway is a 444-mile scenic highway between Natchez and Nashville, Tennessee.

Map 25 Early Nineteenth- Century Roads

Map Skill: Name three roads that end in Natchez.



Above: This colorful nineteenth-century poster shows early modes of transportation on the Mississippi River. Just to the right of Mississippi on the map, you can see a flatboat, essentially a large raft made of hewn logs, with a little log cabin for shelter. Flatboats, which could only go downstream, were replaced by steamboats. A large steamboat laden with bales of cotton can be seen just below the flatboat. The *New Orleans* was the first steamboat to travel the Mississippi River. After surviving the New Madrid earthquake, the steamboat arrived in New Orleans early in 1812 and began voyaging between New Orleans and Natchez. Two years later, she hit a stump and sank.

and brought it to Natchez to claim the reward. However, just before receiving the money, Harpe was recognized by a man he had recently robbed. He denied that he was the infamous “Little Harpe,” but he was told to remove his shirt. On the left side of his chest, his accuser said, would be found a two-inch scar that had been inflicted on the robber in their recent encounter. The exact size and location of the scar, as predicted, was sufficient evidence for the territorial officials. “Little Harpe,” and a fellow gang member who accompanied him to town, were tried and convicted. After their execution, they were decapitated and their heads were impaled on stakes at the north and south entrances to Natchez. This gory sight was a warning to other robbers of the fate awaiting them if they were captured and convicted.

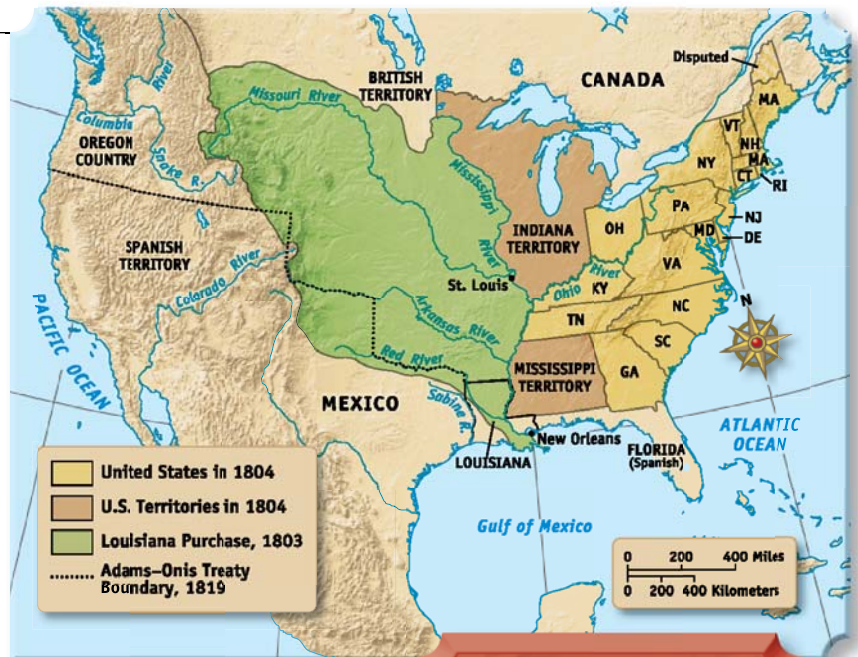
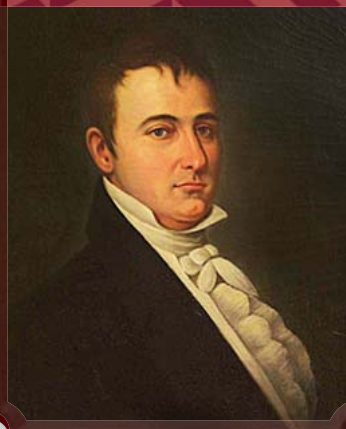
This brand of justice, plus a steady growth in the territory’s population, gradually reduced the dangers of frontier travel. After the Natchez Trace was made an official United States mail route in 1801, travel along the Devil’s Backbone became much safer. The introduction of steamboats on the Mississippi River in 1811, which made flatboats obsolete, also made river transportation much less dangerous. The river pirates were gone, but another equally interesting group of rascals, the riverboat gamblers, followed in their footsteps.

The Louisiana Purchase

While land titles were being settled in the Mississippi Territory, one of the most spectacular land deals in history was being negotiated by American agents in Paris. It all started in October 1802 with rumors that Spain might sell Louisiana back to France. After learning that Spain did intend to return Louisiana to France, President Thomas Jefferson opened negotiations with France. He did not want to buy all of Louisiana; he just wanted New Orleans. However, when Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte of France offered to sell all 828,000 square miles of the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million, which was about 3 cents an acre, President Jefferson accepted the deal. America bought an empire just to get a city! This **Louisiana Purchase** more than doubled the size of the United States.

Something Extra!

After serving as territorial governor for both Mississippi and Orleans, William C. C. Claiborne became Louisiana's first state governor when it became a state in 1812.



Map 26

The Louisiana Purchase

Map Skill: What formed the eastern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase?

On December 20, 1803, Louisiana was transferred to the United States in official ceremonies in New Orleans. William C. C. Claiborne, governor of the Mississippi Territory, accepted Louisiana on behalf of the United States. Claiborne remained in New Orleans and was appointed governor of the Orleans Territory when it was established in 1804.

Annexation of the Gulf Coast

In September 1810, a group of Americans captured the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge and established the Republic of West Florida. They immediately asked for **annexation** (adding territory to an existing governmental unit) to the United States. On October 27, 1810, President James Madison issued a proclamation stating that the area between the 31° parallel and the Gulf Coast, from the Mississippi River on the west to the Perdido

Something Extra!

Native Americans called Andrew Jackson "Sharp Knife" or "Long Knife."

River on the east, was already American territory. He based that claim on the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Madison said that the eastern boundary of the old Province of Louisiana had been the Perdido River, and that the Gulf Coast had been included in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Because Spain was involved in the Napoleonic Wars in Europe, Spanish authorities were unable to resist this American claim and allowed the Gulf Coast region to be annexed by the United States. The area south of the 31° parallel between the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers was added to Orleans, and the area between the Pearl and the Perdido Rivers was added to the Mississippi Territory.



Above: This lithograph shows a triumphant General Andrew Jackson on the Hickory Grounds, Alabama, in 1814, having just defeated the Creek Indians at Horseshoe Bend.

The War of 1812

The basic cause of the War of 1812 between England and America was freedom of the seas, but as far as the Mississippi Territory was concerned, it was primarily an Indian War. For about a year before the war, which began on June 18, 1812, British agents in the United States had been forming alliances with various Indian nations. The British promised to return their tribal land to the Indians if they helped defeat the United States. Tecumseh, the famous Shawnee warrior, helped the British organize the Indian tribes. In 1811, Tecumseh came to Mississippi to enlist the Choctaw and Chickasaw in his great confederation of Indian nations.

Creek Attacks

The Choctaw and Chickasaw did not join Tecumseh in his war against the Americans, but the Creek Nation did. Soon after Tecumseh's speech, Creek war parties attacked white settlements along the southern frontier. The Indian attacks spread fear and panic among the white settlers in communities near Creek villages. General Andrew Jackson

and his Tennessee Volunteers were ordered to attack the Creeks.

Whites living in the scattered settlements along the lower Tombigbee River hastily abandoned their homesteads and gathered at the residence of Samuel Mims. His residence later became known as Fort Mims because it was protected by a stockade. Over five hundred men, women, and children took refuge inside the fort. At noon on August 30, 1813, a group of Creek warriors attacked Fort Mims and killed all but about thirty-six of the settlers within its walls.

Heroic Hester

The loss of life among white settlers along the lower Tombigbee River would undoubtedly have been much greater had it not been for the courageous slave woman known only as Heroic Hester. Although wounded in the Fort Mims attack, Hester made her way to the Mobile River, found a canoe, and rowed several miles downstream to Fort Stoddert, where she informed American troops about the Creek attack.

Defeat of the Creek Nation

At the famous Battle of Horseshoe Bend on March 27, 1814, General Jackson defeated the Creek Nation and forced them to sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson. Under the terms of that treaty, the Creek Nation ceded nearly 23 million acres of land to the United States.

The Battle of New Orleans

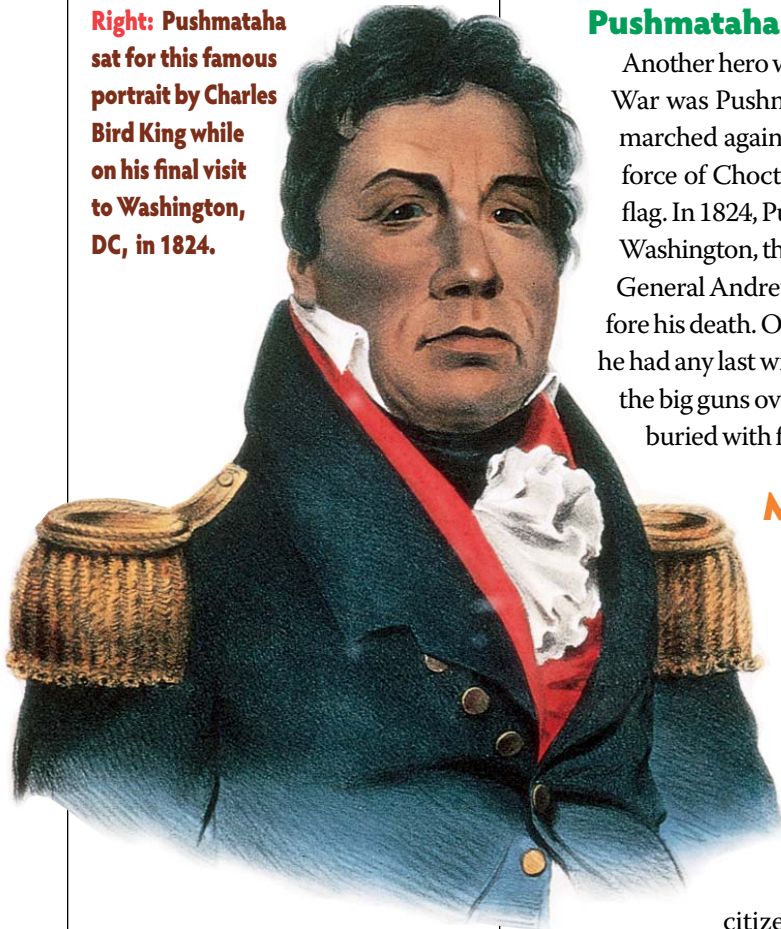
After the defeat of the Creek, General Jackson was ordered to New Orleans to defend the city against a British invasion. When the Battle of New Orleans took place on January 8, 1815, the War of 1812 was already over. But neither the British naval commanders nor General Jackson had received the official news. This famous battle, which was a great victory for America, made General Jackson a national hero and helped him win the presidential election several years later.



Above: "Remember Fort Mims" became a rallying cry for settlers on the frontier following the massacre. Although the number killed, probably around 250, was greatly exaggerated, it still stands as one of the worst massacres in American history. Below: General Jackson led American forces in a defeat of the British in the Battle of New Orleans, despite the fact that the war was over.



Right: Pushmataha sat for this famous portrait by Charles Bird King while on his final visit to Washington, DC, in 1824.



Pushmataha

Another hero who became famous for his exploits during the Creek War was Pushmataha, the Choctaw chief. When General Jackson marched against the Creek, Pushmataha was by his side leading a force of Choctaw and Chickasaw into battle under the American flag. In 1824, Pushmataha visited Washington, DC. While he was in Washington, the aging chieftain became gravely ill with pneumonia. General Andrew Jackson visited Pushmataha several times just before his death. On one of those visits, Jackson asked the old warrior if he had any last wishes. Pushmataha answered, “When I am dead, fire the big guns over me.” A short time later, Pushmataha died and was buried with full military honors. The big guns sounded his death.

Mississippi Becomes a State

After the War of 1812, Mississippi’s population grew rapidly and soon reached the level necessary for advancement to statehood. After a constitution was written and state officials were elected, the U.S. Congress officially admitted Mississippi to statehood on December 10, 1817. Natchez was named the state capital.

Under the Mississippi **Constitution of 1817**, our first state constitution, slavery was maintained as a legal institution. Only white male citizens 21 years of age who owned property or were members of the state militia were eligible to vote. Members of the Mississippi Senate were required to own 300 acres of land or other property valued at \$1,000. Members of the House of Representatives were required to own 150 acres or other property valued at \$500. The governor was required to own 600 acres or \$2,000 worth of personal property. Most judicial officials were appointed rather than elected.

Because of these property requirements, and because the Constitution of 1817 made slavery legal, the wealthy planters controlled the political process and significantly influenced the customs and traditions in antebellum Mississippi.

Something Extra!

Mississippi was the 20th state admitted to the Union, and Alabama was the 22nd. The state of Illinois came between them in 1818.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: Northwest Ordinance, Natchez Trace, Louisiana Purchase.
2. Why was travel on the Mississippi River and the Natchez Trace so dangerous?
3. How did the War of 1812 affect the Mississippi Territory?

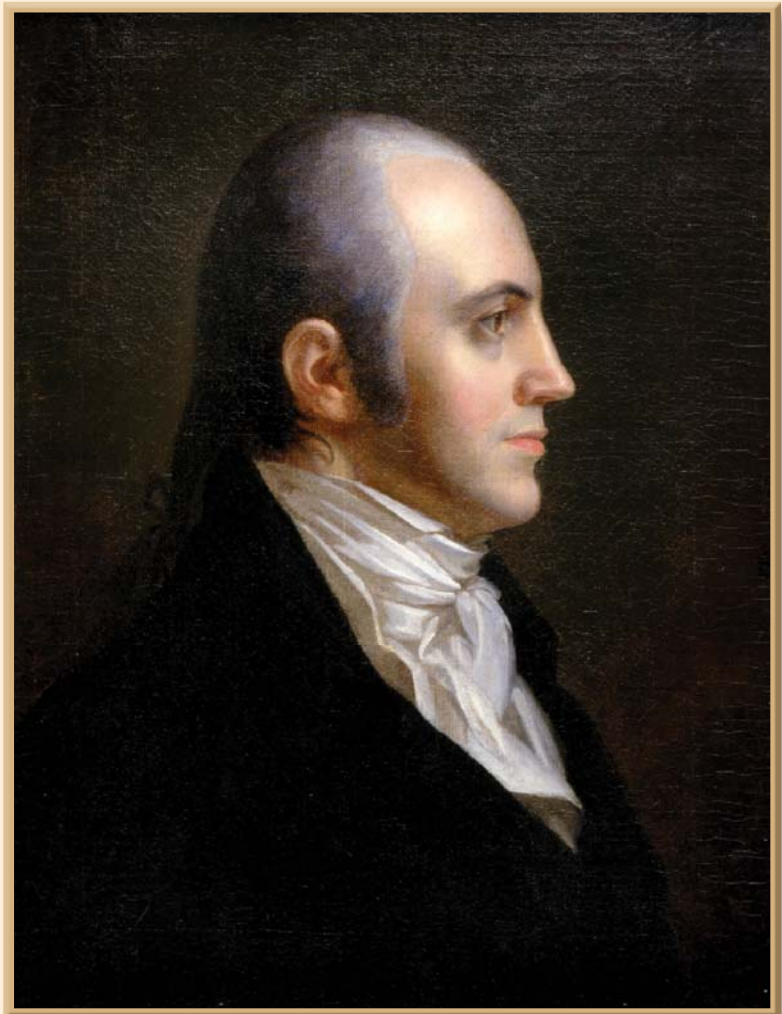
Of Special Interest

The Burr Conspiracy

Aaron Burr was one of the most famous and interesting men in American history. He was born on February 6, 1756, in New Jersey, but later moved to New York and became a successful politician. The 1800 presidential election resulted in a tie vote between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. After a bitter quarrel and thirty-six ballots, the House of Representatives elected Thomas Jefferson by one vote. According to the rules at that time, Burr became vice president.

A long-standing feud between Burr and Alexander Hamilton resulted in a duel between the two men. Alexander Hamilton was one of America's Founding Fathers and the first secretary of the treasury. In their duel on July 11, 1804, Burr shot and killed Hamilton. Dueling was illegal in New York, and Burr fled the state to escape arrest for murder.

In the fall of 1806, rumors circulated throughout the Mississippi Territory that Aaron Burr was leading an expeditionary force down the Mississippi River. President Thomas Jefferson, who was reelected in 1804, issued a proclamation warning the citizens in the lower Mississippi valley to beware of "the treasonable expedition." Precisely what Burr's intentions were, neither the rumors nor the presidential proclamation made clear. Consequently, the citizens of the Mississippi Territory gave way to wild speculation.



Above: Aaron Burr distinguished himself with his service in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, once saving a brigade that included his future rival, Alexander Hamilton. He was equally successful as a politician, serving in the New York State Assembly, and as New York State attorney general, before becoming a U.S. senator, and eventually vice president of the United States.



Above: General James Wilkinson, governor of the Louisiana Territory, and rumored to be involved in a treasonous plot with Aaron Burr, instead betrayed him to President Thomas Jefferson, who issued a warrant for Burr's arrest. **Right:** This old color postcard shows Windy Hill Manor, where Aaron Burr stayed while in Natchez.

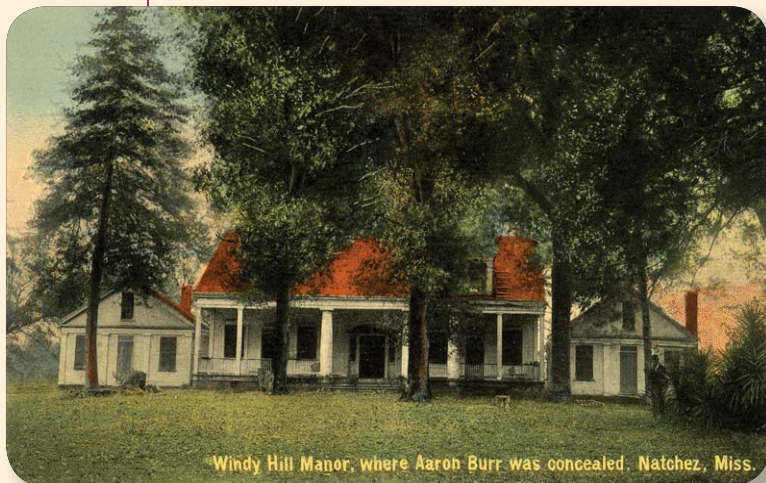
Some believed that Burr and the infamous General James Wilkinson, who had previously been implicated in a secessionist plot in Kentucky, might be planning a rebellion in America's newly acquired Louisiana Territory. Others speculated that Great Britain, which still hoped to regain her lost American colonies, was subsidizing the conspirators. Some rumors had Burr and Wilkinson invading Mexico.

On January 10, 1807, Burr's flotilla of nine unarmed ships and seventy-five men docked just upriver from Natchez. The local militia took Burr into custody, and a hearing was set for February 10. Some of Burr's friends posted his bond of \$10,000, and a Natchez attorney agreed to represent him at the hearing. Burr was a man of rare social grace and great

charm. During his brief stay in Natchez, he became the toast of the town.

On February 2, 1807, a "large and curious crowd" attended Aaron Burr's hearing before the grand jury. George Poindexter, the territorial attorney general, startled the curious crowd by asking the judge to dismiss Burr on the grounds that the territorial court had no jurisdiction in the matter. His motion was denied, and vague charges of conspiracy to commit treason were made against Burr. The grand jury quickly found in favor of Burr, and the foreman of the jury scolded territorial officials for arresting Burr without a proper warrant. Burr interrupted the court momentarily, speaking out loudly that he "quite agreed" with the jury. The Burr partisans in the courtroom roared with laughter.

After the charges were dropped, Burr left Natchez but was later arrested near Mobile. Fearful that he might be arrested again, Burr had disguised himself in buckskins, but his aristocratic bearing and speech



aroused the suspicion of federal authorities. After his arrest, Burr was taken to Washington, DC, and was tried for treason in the U.S. Circuit Court in Richmond. Chief Justice John Marshall dismissed all charges against Burr and released him when his chief accuser, President Thomas Jefferson, refused to appear before the court.

Following his trial, Burr spent a brief *sojourn* (temporary stay) in Europe. He then returned to the United States and practiced law until his death in 1836. Historians have yet to resolve the mystery that has cloaked Aaron Burr's mission all these years.

Early Statehood, 1817-1845

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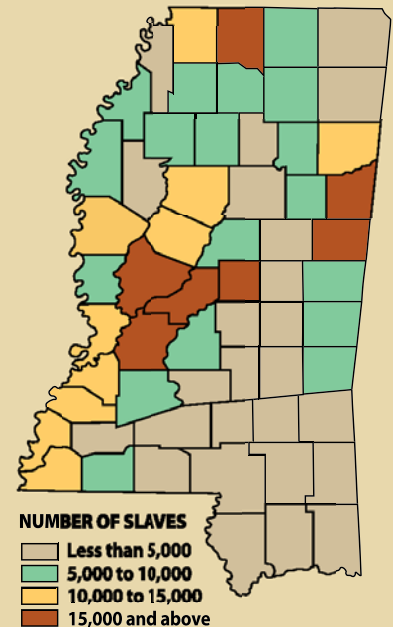
- the causes and effects of sectionalism;
- internal improvements, a new constitution, and a new capital for the new state;
- the unique features of antebellum politics;
- a booming economy and a growing dependence on cotton production;
- causes and effects of the Missouri Compromise of 1820;
- terms: **sectionalism**, **protective tariff**, **internal improvements**, **Constitution of 1832**, **Flush Times**, **Missouri Compromise**.

One of the challenges facing the young American republic in its early years was **sectionalism** (an allegiance to local, rather than national, interests). This problem was caused by the differences in geography and climate that existed in various parts of the country. People in each of these regions, or sections, developed local customs and traditions and different economic interests. Representatives and senators in the U.S. Congress almost always supported laws and policies that were good for their section. Unfortunately, what was good for one section was not always good for another.

Causes of Sectionalism

One of the major causes of sectionalism was the protective tariff. A **protective tariff** is a tax placed on manufactured goods that are imported into America from foreign countries. This tax is added to the cost of products when they are sold to the American people. The purpose of this tax is to protect American manufacturers from the competition of manufacturers in other countries. Tariff laws were supported by congressmen from manufacturing states in the Northeast. But congressmen from agricultural states in the Deep South opposed protective tariffs because they raised the prices of manufactured products.

Another issue that caused serious sectional differences was slavery. In the southern agricultural states, slavery was the primary system of labor.



Map 27

Slave Population, 1850

Map Skill: How many counties have a slave population of 15,000 or above?



Something Extra!

The capital city of a state is spelled c-a-p-i-t-a-l.

The building in the capital city that houses the state legislature and other government offices is spelled c-a-p-i-t-o-l.

In the Northeast, white wage earners did most of the work. Over the years, a sectional controversy developed over whether America should continue to allow slavery. Eventually, slavery became the single most important sectional issue in American politics. Almost all other sectional differences or controversies were related in one way or another to slavery.

Internal Improvements

The future of Mississippi looked promising in 1817, and its citizens set themselves to the task of developing its natural resources. The state's most abundant natural resource was land. It was available to white settlers "for the taking." There were, however, several obstacles that had to be overcome before the state could realize the maximum benefit from this resource.

In 1817, there were few roads or bridges in Mississippi, especially in areas that were sparsely settled. Also, many of the state's rivers, another valuable natural resource, were not navigable for any great distances because of sunken logs, trees that had washed out along the banks, and other obstructions. In order for settlers to occupy and cultivate the land, they had to be able to get to it. Consequently, the need for **internal improvements** (roads, bridges, canals, and other transportation needs) was one of the most important issues to come before the state legislature in the early

years of statehood. Eventually, the legislature appointed a Board of Internal Improvements to oversee the construction of roads, bridges, canals, and railroads that would be financed by public funds.

A New State Capital

In 1821, the legislature appointed a special committee to recommend a site for a new state capital as near the center of the state as possible. The committee recommended Le Fleur's Bluff on the Pearl River. This bluff was named for Louis Le Fleur, a French trader who established a trading post on the bluff that now bears his name. Le Fleur married a Choctaw Indian princess named Rebecca, who bore him a famous son, Greenwood Le Flore. While a town site was being laid out at Le Fleur's Bluff, the state capital was temporarily moved from Natchez to Columbia in Marion County. In

December 1822, the Mississippi legislature met for the first time in the new capital city, which was named Jackson in honor of General Andrew Jackson.

The Constitution of 1832

By the early 1830s, the Constitution of 1817 was unpopular and outdated. The establishment of several new counties in north Mississippi, and the need for additional judicial districts, made many changes in the constitution necessary. The people wanted to abolish the property requirements for office and for voting, and they wanted the right to elect judges. In 1831, Mississippians voted in favor of writing a new constitution by a margin of four to one.

On September 10, 1832, forty-eight delegates met at Jackson and drafted a new state constitution. Among the most important changes in the Mississippi **Constitution of 1832** was the removal of all property qualifications for public office and for voting. This change brought the highest offices of state government within the reach of all white male citizens. In addition, all judicial officials and many other officers who had been appointed under the 1817 constitution were to be elected by the people. The 1832 constitution maintained slavery as a legal institution.

A New Capitol and Governor's Mansion

The 1832 constitution increased the membership in both houses of the legislature and created several new state agencies. The only public building in Jackson was a small wooden, two-story structure that served as the state capitol. This building could not adequately house the new legislature and the new state agencies. The Constitution of 1832 also required the governor to

Something Extra!

Mississippi has had only four state constitutions—all ratified in the nineteenth century. They are the constitutions of 1817, 1832, 1868, and 1890.

Opposite page: Increases in representation mandated by the Constitution of 1832 created the need for a new state capitol, designed by William Nichols and completed in 1839. **Below:** This beautiful curving stairway is one of the outstanding architectural features of the 1839 capitol, which is now a museum of Mississippi history.





Above: The Constitution of 1832 required that the governor live in Jackson. The new governor's mansion was completed in 1842, and is still considered to be one of the most beautiful in the country.

live in Jackson during his term of office, but there was no suitable residence in the capital for the governor and his family. To provide for the needs of an expanded state government, the first legislature to meet after the adoption of the new constitution appropriated \$105,000 for the construction of a state capitol and a residence for the governor.

William Nichols, one of America's premier antebellum architects, was appointed state architect in 1835. He designed both the state capitol, which was completed in 1839, and the governor's mansion, which was finished in 1842.

Antebellum Politics

Mississippi has always been famous for its fiery brand of politics. Its citizens have traditionally taken politics seriously and have been enthusiastic in their support of the candidate of their choice. In antebellum Mississippi, there were two major parties, the Whigs and the Democrats. In those days, political debates were held several times during a campaign. The debates were not like political rallies of today, where candidates make short speeches and then hurry on to their next engagements or to a television appearance.

Political rallies lasted several hours, sometimes all day. Candidates did not talk in sound bites. Their speeches usually lasted for an hour, sometimes two or three hours. If a speaker's platform was not available, candidates stood on tree stumps to make their speeches. When one candidate finished, his



opponent took the stump to criticize or correct the previous speaker, who was usually standing by to listen. If a candidate heard something he felt was untrue, unfair, or insulting to him, he might interrupt the speaker and demand that he *retract* (take back) or clarify his statement.

Often the audience demonstrated their agreement or disagreement by cheering, applauding, or booing the candidates. Under such circumstances, and especially because Mississippians in those days had such a strong sense of personal honor, it was not unusual for fights to break out among the huge crowds. Sometimes the candidates themselves engaged in fistfights. On occasion, those fights might lead to someone drawing a pistol, which many Mississippians carried with them at all times. When this occurred, someone was usually wounded, at times even killed.

Flush Times in Mississippi

Most of the small Indian nations left Mississippi when the French ceded the territory to the British in 1763. Only the Choctaw and Chickasaw remained in Mississippi when it was admitted to statehood. In the early 1830s, those two large nations gave up their remaining tribal lands and moved to Indian Territory. Those land cessions more than doubled the area open for white settlement and caused a land rush and population explosion that transformed Mississippi's economic and social system.

Above: The great American artist George Caleb Bingham painted his classic depiction of *Stump Speaking* in 1853-1854. Bingham is famous for his portrayal of life on the Mississippi and on the new American frontier.

Something Extra!

Today we talk about a candidate on the campaign trail making a "stump speech," and we refer to campaigning as being "on the stump."

Below: Flush Times saw the increasing dependence of the Mississippi economy on "King Cotton." This 1854 engraving shows a cotton blossom.

Bottom: Great mansion houses like Waverly near West Point remind us of the vast wealth that cotton brought to the plantation owners.



Thousands of white settlers were drawn to Mississippi by cheap land. A person could buy land on credit for \$1.25 an acre, with a minimum purchase of 50 acres. Within a few years, the federal government had sold more than 7 million acres of good cotton land in north Mississippi, and the state's population soared from 136,621 in 1830 to 375,651 in 1840. The economic expansion of the early 1830s was known as the **Flush Times**. It was a brief period when "a golden canopy covered the land."

A Booming Economy

Towns sprang up overnight. Slaves were imported into the state in ever-increasing numbers. The state's economy was booming. Several new banks were chartered to supply the money and credit necessary for the purchase of land, farm supplies, and slaves. Prices for everything were rising in this period of inflation. Land prices increased from \$1.25 an acre in 1832 to \$40.00 an acre in 1836. During those Flush Times, Mississippians established the plantation system and the cotton economy—and linked their destiny to slave labor.

King Cotton

One of the most important developments of the Flush Times was Mississippi's increasing dependence on a one-crop cotton economy, a crop that became known as King Cotton. As Mississippi was entering the Flush Times, technological developments in the English textile industry increased the demand for southern cotton. This high demand for cotton, coupled with the availability of cheap land and a steady supply of slaves from the Upper



South, induced Mississippi farmers to abandon other crops in favor of cotton.

King Cotton could make a man rich in just a few years. By the 1840s, the plantation system with its slave labor was the cornerstone of Mississippi's economy. The cotton-rich aristocrats living in big white mansions became the economic and social models for other white Mississippians. Most Mississippians, even those who did not own land and slaves, were *zealous* (passionately supportive) in their defense of the "peculiar institution" of slavery.

Missouri Compromise of 1820

Although the United States Constitution allowed the institution of slavery, there were several organizations devoted to the *abolition* (doing away with, ending) of slavery. Initially, those societies did not have widespread appeal among politicians or the general public in northern states. In fact, until the 1830s, there were more abolition societies in the South than there were in the North. The first major controversy over slavery was not about the legality of the institution, but the expansion of slavery into the new states established in the Louisiana Purchase. The control of the national government was at stake. If there were more slave states, they could control the national government in Washington. If there were more free states, they would control the national government.

The early controversy over slave expansion into the western territories was resolved by the **Missouri Compromise** of 1820. The compromise prohibited slavery in the Louisiana Purchase above the 36°30' parallel but allowed slavery below the 36°30' line. After the Missouri Compromise, states were admitted to the Union in pairs, with one free and one slave state admitted at the same time. Missouri was admitted to statehood soon after Maine was added—to maintain the balance between free and slave states.



Map 28 The Missouri Compromise of 1820

Map Skill: What new free state balanced the new slave state of Missouri?

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: sectionalism, internal improvements, Missouri Compromise.
2. Why did the North favor protective tariffs and the South oppose them?
3. What two important changes in voting rights were made in the Constitution of 1832?

Section 3

Events Leading to Secession, 1845-1860

Something Extra!

It's said that, in the early 1800s, the initials "G.T.T." (for "Gone to Texas") were carved into many a southern door or fence post. Today the phrase lives on as a tourist slogan for the Lone Star State.

As you read, look for

- the importance of the annexation of Texas and the Mexican War;
- the Compromise of 1850 and its impact on politics in Mississippi;
- the consequences of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the *Dred Scott* decision;
- the growing influence of the fire-eaters;
- terms: **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, abolitionist, Wilmot Proviso, Compromise of 1850, fire-eaters, Kansas-Nebraska Act, free soilers, Dred Scott decision.**



Above: Although Texans lost the Battle of the Alamo, they won the war, gaining independence in 1836.

Although it worked well for several years, the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was a temporary solution. The annexation of Texas and the admission of California renewed the bitter debate over slavery expansion. Another compromise in 1850 again postponed a final resolution of the issue of slavery in America. But the increasing support for the abolition of the “peculiar institution” over the next few years forced southern slave owners to consider secession from the Union and establishment of a separate country where slavery would be legal and protected by law.

Annexation of Texas

In 1836, Texas gained its independence from Mexico and asked the United States to annex the territory. Most Texans were southerners who had moved to Texas to acquire cheap land and plant cotton. And they took their slaves with them. Texas was so large that some consideration was given to dividing it into five states. Because slavery was legal

in Texas, this division would mean that five new slave states would be added to the Union. Northern and midwestern free states were bitterly opposed to the admission of five new slave states because there was no immediate prospect for a similar number of free states being added to the Union. The Texas question placed a severe strain on the uneasy truce that had existed between the free and slave states since the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

For almost ten years, the Texas question remained a national controversy. The control of the national government was at stake. The admission of Texas, especially if it were divided into several states, would give the slave states control over the national government. Mississippi politicians and newspapers—and the state’s congressmen—were naturally in favor of the admission of Texas.

As Texas was seeking admission to statehood, Florida also petitioned for admission and was admitted as a slave state on March 3, 1845. Texas was admitted on December 29, 1845. The admission of those two states tipped the balance in favor of the slave states. In the spirit of the Compromise of 1820, two free states were soon admitted to restore a balance between free and slave states. On December 28, 1846, Iowa was admitted as a free state, and Wisconsin’s admission on May 29, 1848, reestablished a balance between free and slave states.

Mexican War, 1846-1848

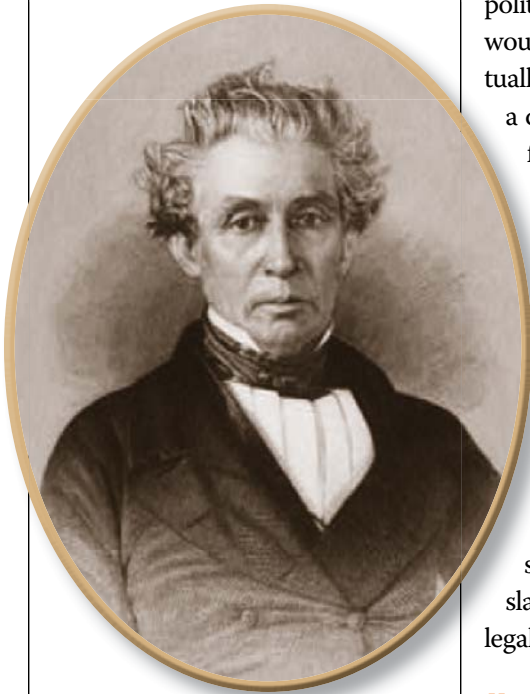
Mexico did not recognize the independence of Texas. Within a year after the annexation of Texas, the United States was at war with Mexico. Mississippians raised two regiments of volunteers that served with distinction in that short but important war. Jefferson Davis resigned his seat in Congress to lead one of Mississippi’s regiments. John Anthony Quitman, a wealthy

Something Extra!

In 1845, a New York journalist, John L. O’Sullivan, first used the term “manifest destiny” in print, referring to the belief that the United States was destined to expand across the entire continent.

Below: The American capture of Chapultepec Castle, guarding the western approach to Mexico City, was a significant victory in the Mexican War. It is mentioned in the Marines’ Hymn as the “Halls of Montezuma.”





Above: Mississippi Supreme Court Justice William L. Sharkey presided over the 1849 meeting in Jackson that led to the decision to send delegates to the Nashville Convention. A dedicated Unionist even during the Civil War, Sharkey served briefly as provisional governor in 1865.

planter from Natchez, was appointed military governor of Mexico City during American occupation of the Mexican capital. Many other prominent Mississippians, including Earl Van Dorn, Reuben Davis, and Charles Clark, also served in the Mexican War.

Under the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** of 1848, which ended the Mexican War, the United States acquired the territory that includes all or part of the present states of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and California.

Wilmot Proviso of 1846

The Mexican War had broad popular support in Mississippi and the South, but it was very unpopular in the North. **Abolitionists** (those who wanted to end slavery) claimed that the war was designed to increase the political power of the slave states. They pointed out that most of the land that would be acquired by the war was below the 36° 30' parallel and would eventually become slave states. To prevent this from happening, David Wilmot, a congressman from Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to exclude slavery from any of the territory that America might acquire from Mexico. This bill, called the **Wilmot Proviso**, ignited a bitter sectional debate in Congress. The law was not passed, but Mississippians and other southerners were angry that northern states would try to prevent them from taking their slaves into the western territory. By the time the war was over in 1848, some Mississippians were talking about secession and the formation of a southern nation.

Admission of California

After gold was discovered in California in 1848, its population increased so rapidly during the “Gold Rush” that it was eligible for statehood a year later. There was a numerical balance between free and slave states in 1849, but the admission of California, where slavery was not legal, would tip the balance in favor of free states.

“Threatening Relationship”

In May 1849, a group of Mississippi’s leading politicians, planters, and businessmen held an informal meeting in Jackson to discuss the “threatening relationship” between the North and the South. William L. Sharkey, a member of the Mississippi Supreme Court, presided at that meeting. The major topics of discussion were the admission of California and the southern slave owners’ right to expand the institution of slavery into the territory that America had recently acquired from Mexico. At the request of this informal meeting, several southern slave states sent delegates to a convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Nashville Convention

On June 3, 1850, representatives from nine southern states, including Mississippi, met in Nashville, Tennessee. The purpose of this meeting was to formulate a strategy that would legalize slavery in the Utah and New Mexico Territories and would prevent the admission of California as a free state. While the convention was in session, Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky

introduced several bills that were designed to ease sectional tension.

Compromise of 1850

Senator Henry Clay had already become known as the “Great Pacificator” for his ability to work out compromises between the North and the South. He had been instrumental in designing the Missouri Compromise in 1820 and a tariff compromise in 1833. Once again, this great statesman arranged a compromise to reduce the sectional animosity that threatened the Union. Clay introduced a series of bills that became known as the **Compromise of 1850**.

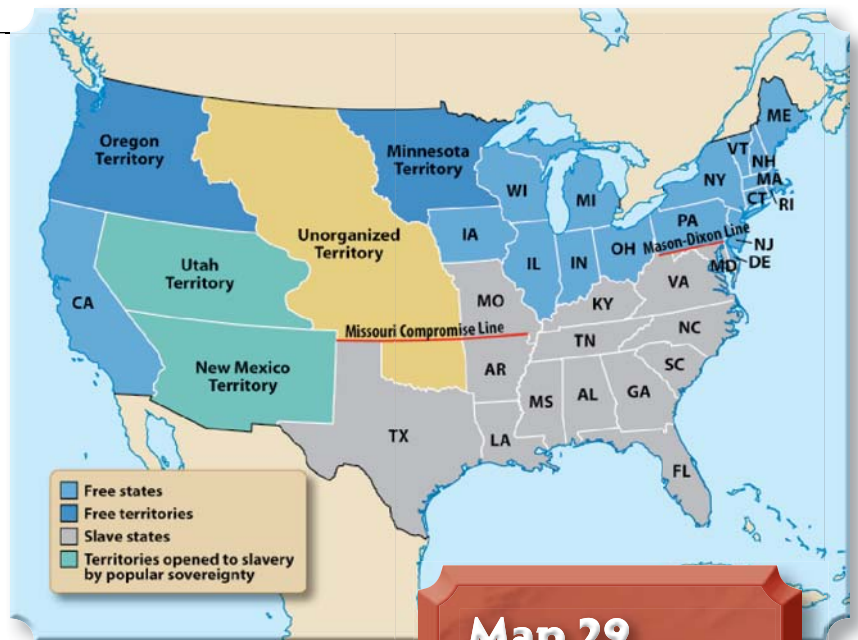


Figure 7 Provisions of the Compromise of 1850

- California was admitted as a free state.
- Slavery would be decided in Utah and New Mexico by popular vote.
- Slavery would remain legal in Washington, DC.
- The public sale of slaves would be prohibited in Washington, DC.
- A strong fugitive slave law was put into effect.

The Compromise of 1850, like the Missouri Compromise of 1820, did not resolve the differences between the free and slave states. Clay’s compromise merely postponed a final resolution to some later date.

Mississippi Election of 1851

The reaction to the Compromise of 1850 in Mississippi was sharply divided. Mississippi’s two United States senators in 1850 were Henry Stuart Foote and Jefferson Davis. Senator Foote strongly supported the compromise, but Senator Davis, Mississippi’s most popular politician, opposed and voted against the compromise.

The Mississippi legislature also opposed the compromise and authorized a special election in September 1851 to elect delegates to a secession convention. This call for a special election sparked a great public debate

Map 29

The Compromise of 1850

Map Skill: Which territories were opened to slavery by popular sovereignty?

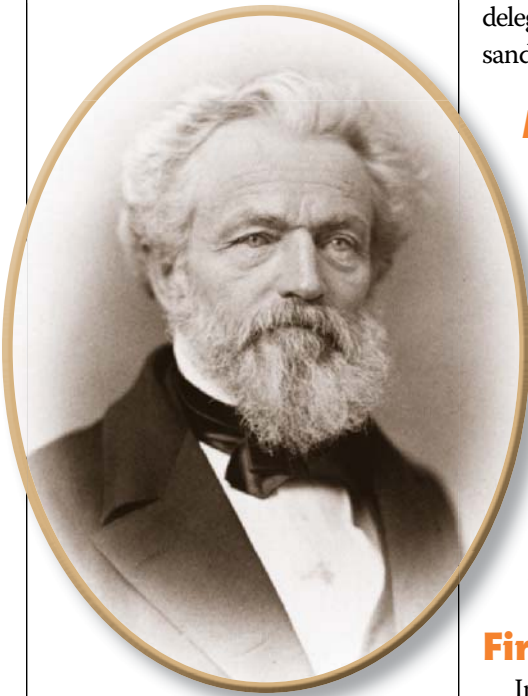
Something Extra!

Under the 1850 fugitive slave law, *fugitives* (runaways) could not testify on their own behalf and were not permitted a jury trial. Penalties were imposed on federal marshals who refused to enforce the law or from whom a fugitive escaped, and on individuals who helped slaves to escape.



and caused a major reorganization of political parties in Mississippi. Senator Foote resigned his seat in the U.S. Senate, returned home, and organized the Union Party. This party was composed of both Whigs and Democrats who had one thing in common: they were opposed to secession. The Union Party nominated Foote for governor along with a slate of delegates to the secession convention who were pledged to vote against secession. John Anthony Quitman and other Democrats organized the States' Rights Party, which nominated Quitman for governor. The States' Rights Party nominated a slate of delegates to the convention who were pledged to vote for secession.

The election of 1851 was hotly contested, and both Quitman and Foote campaigned vigorously. On one occasion, Quitman became so angry at some remarks Foote made that he physically attacked Foote. After that fight, Foote and Quitman did not make any more joint appearances during the campaign. By September, the Union Party had built up a substantial lead. The election results showed an overwhelming support for Foote and his stand against secession. Union Party delegates to the convention were elected by a majority of more than seven thousand votes, and Henry Stuart Foote was elected governor in November 1851.



The election of 1851 pitted Union Party candidate, Henry S. Foote (top), against States' Rights candidate, John Anthony Quitman (above), one of the most prominent of the fire-eaters. Feelings ran so high during the campaign that, at one joint appearance, Quitman physically attacked Foote.

Mississippi Convention of 1851

After a vigorous campaign, the convention delegates assembled in Jackson on November 10, 1851. What was supposed to be a secession convention turned out to be something quite different. Instead of passing an ordinance *severing* (cutting) the ties between Mississippi and the Union, the convention passed a resolution reprimanding the legislature for calling the convention. The delegates also declared that, even though they did not agree with all its provisions, the state of Mississippi should accept and abide by the Compromise of 1850. However, the delegates asserted that a state did have the constitutional and legal right to withdraw from the Union. They also declared that, if the relations between Mississippi and the Union did not improve over the next few years, Mississippi might be forced to take that step.

Fire-eaters

In the early 1850s, a group of southern politicians began making inflammatory speeches throughout the South. These men, called **fire-eaters**, tried to persuade the southern people that secession from the Union was the only choice southerners had if they wanted to maintain their traditional way of life. The most important Mississippi fire-eaters were John Anthony Quitman, Albert Gallatin Brown, John J. McRae, William Barksdale, and John J. Pettus.

An increasing number of southerners accepted the advice of the fire-eaters and began to think in terms of establishing an independent southern nation. The feeling of sectional pride grew into a desire for a national identity—for a new and independent country of slave states. The southern agricultural states, where slavery was legal, had much more in common with one another than

they did with the industrial states of the North or the agricultural states of the Midwest, where slavery was forbidden by law and custom.

Although many southern leaders spoke out against secession, events during the 1850s played into the hands of the fire-eaters, who became stronger and more convincing as the decade wore on. As the influence of the fire-eaters increased in the slave states, their counterparts in the free states, the abolitionists, began to enjoy a similar influence.

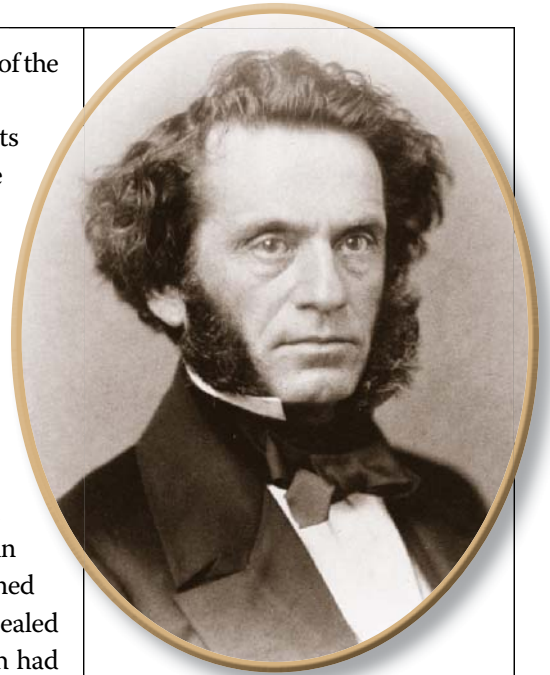
Something Extra!

Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, greatly aided the abolitionist cause. It sold 300,000 copies in the United States in its first year (1852). Southerners were outraged by the book, but in the North it was a rallying cry for the anti-slavery movement.

Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854

The **Kansas-Nebraska Act** of 1854 created the two new territories of Kansas and Nebraska and specified that the status of slavery in those territories would be determined by popular vote. The law also repealed the Missouri Compromise, which had established the 36°30' parallel as the dividing line between free and slave territory. Abolitionists in the free states denounced the law, but southerners applauded the Kansas-Nebraska Act because it opened a vast new territory to slave expansion.

Both sections immediately realized the importance of migration into Kansas,



Above: Leading fire-eater Albert Gallatin Brown served as governor from 1844 to 1848. **Below:** Proslavery "border ruffians" used violence to prevent free-soilers from voting in Kansas's first territorial elections, ensuring a proslavery legislature.





Above: The story of Dred Scott and his case before the U.S. Supreme Court was front-page news during 1857.

Something Extra!

The sons of Peter Blow, an early master of Dred Scott, helped pay Scott's legal fees through the years. They had been childhood friends of the slave. After the Supreme Court decision, they purchased Scott and his wife and set them free. Dred Scott died nine months later.

where a popular vote would determine the status of slavery. The New England Immigrant Aid Society was formed to assist **free soilers** (those opposed to the extension of slavery into the territories) migrating to Kansas. In the South, the standard offer to anyone moving to Kansas was “five dollars and a gold watch.” It was almost inevitable that the settlement of Kansas would be accompanied by violence and bloodshed.

Dred Scott Decision of 1857

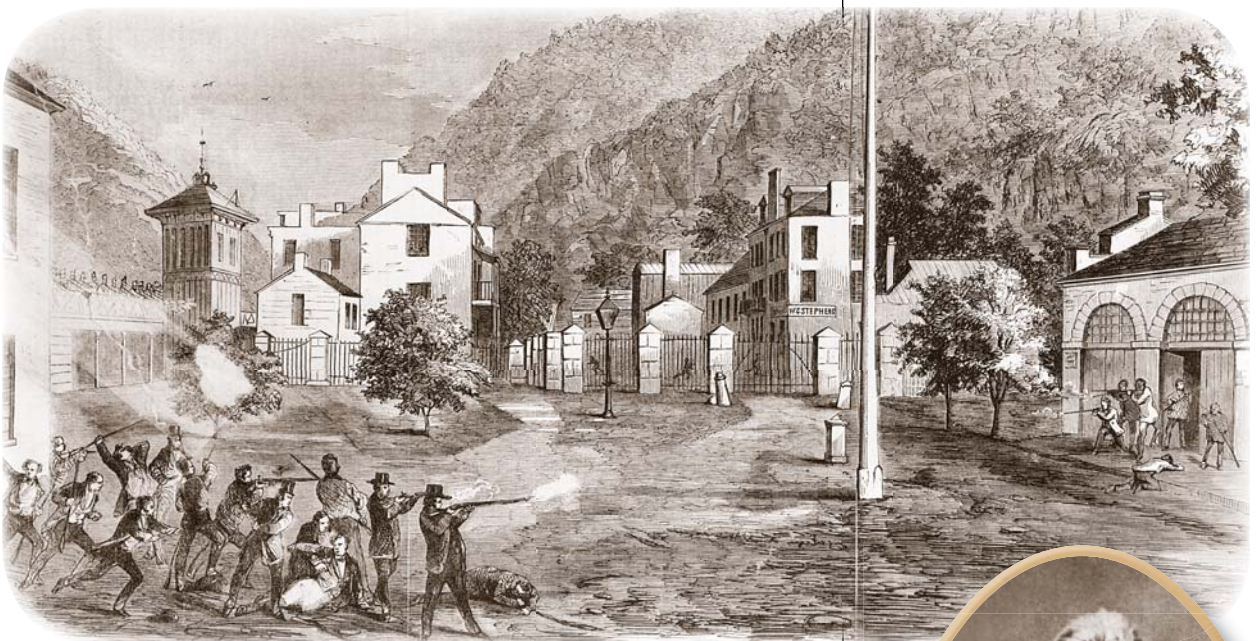
One of the most important Supreme Court decisions in the nation's history, the **Dred Scott decision**, in the case of *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, was made on March 6, 1857. Dred Scott was a slave who had been taken by his owner, an army surgeon, from Missouri, where slavery was legal, to Illinois and Minnesota, where slavery was illegal. After Dred Scott's owner died, he was purchased by an abolitionist who allowed him to file suit in federal court seeking his freedom. Dred Scott argued that, when he was taken into free territory, he became a free man. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Dred Scott had not been freed because he was taken into free territory. The court further ruled that slaves were recognized as personal property under the U.S. Constitution, and that slave owners could not be restricted from taking their slaves or other personal property into any state or territory under the jurisdiction of the federal constitution.

The *Dred Scott* decision declared that the only way slavery could be restricted to the territory where it existed in 1857, or abolished entirely, was by an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. A constitutional amendment restricting or abolishing slavery was not possible because an amendment requires a three-fourths majority of all the states. In 1857, there were eighteen free states and fifteen slave states, more than enough to block an amendment abolishing slavery.

John Brown's Raid of 1859

On October 16, 1859, John Brown led a raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia). Brown's purpose was to capture a supply of arms and ammunition and lead the slaves in armed revolt. Brown's mission was not successful. He was captured by federal soldiers under the command of Robert E. Lee, and later tried, convicted, and executed in December 1859. During the trial, it was learned that John Brown had participated in an 1856 attack on proslavery settlers in what was then known as “Bleeding Kansas.”

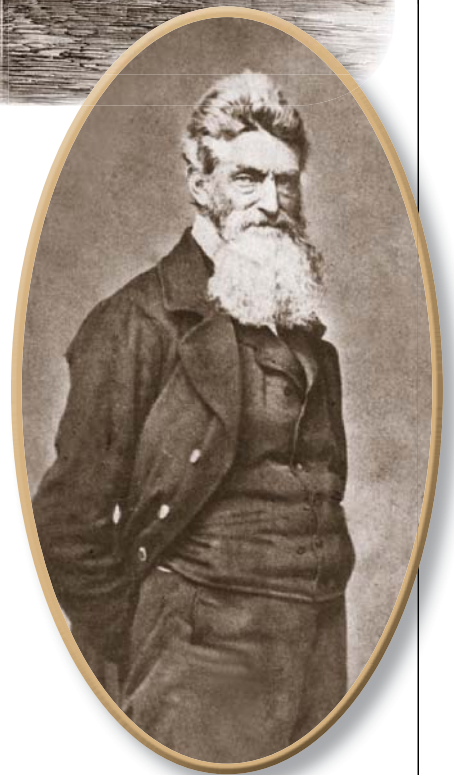
John Brown's raid created a crisis of fear throughout the South. For generations, southerners had lived in dread of a massive slave revolt. But they never anticipated that white men would lead an uprising. John Brown's Raid, which was supported and financed by Boston abolitionists, convinced many southerners that, not only was their social and economic system in danger, but their own personal safety was also in jeopardy.



The Irrepressible Conflict

After the *Dred Scott* decision and John Brown's Raid, Americans were weary of compromises and began to view the bitter struggle over slavery as an *irrepressible* (impossible to control) conflict that would lead eventually to war between the free states and the slave states. By 1860, slavery had become the fundamental issue in American politics. Slavery was a moral, economic, and political issue—an intensely emotional and divisive issue. Antebellum Americans had to take a position on slavery. They were either for it or against it; there was no middle ground. Eventually, Mississippians decided that the only way they could maintain the southern way of life, which was based on the plantation system and slave labor, was to secede from the Union and join with other southern states to form a separate country.

The customs and traditions that distinguish Mississippians from other Americans had their origins in the social and economic conditions of the antebellum period. In order to provide an understanding of the forces and circumstances that shaped our history, and continue to influence our society, the next chapter will deal with life and labor in antebellum Mississippi.



Above: John Brown was a fanatical abolitionist who had been involved in the violence in "Bleeding Kansas." In 1859, he led an armed raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, with the intention of inspiring an armed revolt by slaves.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, free soilers, *Dred Scott* decision.
2. What was the outcome of the Mississippi Convention of 1851?
3. What were the consequences of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854?

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1 The Mississippi Territory, 1798-1817

- Jefferson College and Elizabeth Female Academy were established at Washington, which became the state capital.
- Flatboats carried goods down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Boatmen dismantled their boats and returned north via the Natchez Trace. Both routes were often dangerous.
- The United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803.
- The area south of 31° between the Pearl and Perdido Rivers was added to Mississippi in 1810.
- In Mississippi, the War of 1812 was mostly fought against Indians, who were British allies.
- Andrew Jackson defeated Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814. Under the Treaty of Fort Jackson, the Creek ceded nearly 23 million acres to the United States.
- Mississippi became a state on December 10, 1817.
- Under the Mississippi Constitution of 1817, slavery was legal and there were property requirements for voting and holding office; therefore, wealthy planters controlled state politics.

Section 2 Early Statehood, 1817-1845

- The protective tariff and slavery were two issues that led to sectionalism.
- The Board of Internal Improvements oversaw construction of much-needed roads, bridges, canals, and railroads.
- A new capital city named for Andrew Jackson was completed in 1822 at Le Fleur's Bluff on the Pearl River.
- The Constitution of 1832 removed property qualifications for voting and office-holding but retained slavery.
- A new state capitol (1839) and a governor's

mansion (1842) were both designed by William Nichols.

- Political passions often led to violence among candidates and their supporters.
- Choctaw and Chickasaw land cessions of the early 1830s led to a land rush and population explosion—called the Flush Times.
- The Missouri Compromise of 1820 limited slavery in the Louisiana Territory to land below 36°30'. The balance of free and slave states was maintained.

Section 3 Events Leading to Secession, 1845-1860

- Slave states Texas and Florida were admitted in 1845. The admission of free states Iowa and Wisconsin restored the balance.
- In the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican War, the U.S. acquired all or part of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and California.
- At the Nashville Convention of 1850, Senator Henry Clay's Compromise of 1850 settled some immediate problems, postponing a final resolution on slavery.
- The antisecession Union Party prevailed over the prosecession States' Rights Party. Delegates to the secession convention of November 1851 accepted the Compromise of 1850 but said they might secede later.
- Southern secessionists called fire-eaters grew in influence during the 1850s.
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 created two new territories where the status of slavery could be determined by popular vote.
- The *Dred Scott* decision of 1857 ruled that slaves were personal property and could be taken into any state or territory.
- John Brown's raid on a federal arsenal in Harper's Ferry, Virginia, brought fear to the South.

Activities for Learning

Understanding the Facts

1. What were the first two territorial capitals of the Mississippi Territory?
2. Who was Jefferson College's most famous alumnus?
3. Describe the boundaries of the Gulf Coast area added to the Mississippi Territory in 1810.
4. Under the Mississippi Constitution of 1817, what were the four eligibility requirements to vote?
5. What were the two major causes of sectionalism?
6. What was Mississippi's population in 1830 and, then, in 1840?
7. Who served as military governor of Mexico City during the Mexican War?
8. Why did the Wilmot Proviso upset so many Mississippians?
9. What did Union Party members oppose?
10. What group's influence increased in Mississippi politics during the 1850s?

Developing Critical Thinking

1. In nineteenth century America, why did people often develop a stronger allegiance to their state or region than the nation as a whole?
2. Why would candidates for political office, in antebellum Mississippi, make their speeches while standing on a tree stump?
3. In what sense was Cotton "King" in antebellum Mississippi?

Writing across the Curriculum

Imagine it is 1851 and John Anthony Quitman (States' Rights Party) and Henry S. Foote (Union Party) are campaigning for the governorship of Mississippi. Write a stump speech that endorses one of these candidates. Your speech should include at least four facts about your candidate that were obtained from the chapter.

Exploring Mississippi on the Internet

Go to <http://mdah.state.ms.us/museum/mhistory.html>. Look at the floorplan of the governor's mansion and view the furnishings. How many floors and rooms are in this mansion? In your own words, describe some of the furnishings.

Building 21st-Century Skills: Reaching Compromises

In a democratic society, power resides with the people. The citizenry decides how much power is granted to the government. This widespread distribution of power and limited governmental authority means lawmaking is a complicated process. Many diverse interests and opinions have to be taken in consideration in the legislative process. In a democracy, conflicting viewpoints are inevitable and compromise is essential. A compromise is a way to settle disagreement by finding common ground. Opposing parties each give way a little in their demands in order to arrive at an agreement.

Reread the compromises described in this chapter. Identify the issues that created conflict, the opposing viewpoints, and the concessions made so agreement could be reached.