ECONOMIC REASONS FOR REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

H/O Old South
North, South, and West developed in very different directions -- did not see eye to eye on many issues
The North was becoming industrialized

Advances in communications, transportation, industry, and banking were helping it become the nation's commercial center
Slavery had been outlawed in many states (immigrants and unskilled labor)
The South, meanwhile, remained almost entirely agrarian
Tobacco and cotton, required vast acreage. Southerners were constantly looking west for more land.
They also looked for new slave territories to include in the Union in order to strengthen their position in Congress.
Western economic interests were largely rooted in commercial farming, fur trapping, and real estate speculation.
Distrusted the North, which they regarded as the home of powerful banks that could take their land
They had little more use for the South, whose rigidly hierarchical society was at odds with the egalitarianism
Westerners wanted to avoid involvement in the slavery issue—regarded as irrelevant.
SOCIAL HISTORY,
1800-1860

H/O
Southern Hierarchy
Cotton gin altered **Southern** agriculture – needed more slaves …

Commerce led to a larger middle class (esp. **North**) and industrialization resulted in bigger cities (and large groups of “impoverished” immigrants) …

**Westward** migration created a new frontier culture …
Each of these sets of circumstances influenced people's attitudes and ambitions.
Remember these generalizations about the different regions of the U.S., because by using them and some common sense, you can often answer specific AP questions.
If a question asks about support for a particular tariff, which area would almost certainly support and which oppose?

It wouldn’t matter what tariff is asked about – the North would support it while the South opposed it!
THE NORTH AND AMERICAN CITIES

nation's industrial and commercial center
Modern waste disposal, plumbing, sewers, and incineration were still a long way off ... unhealthy environments
Epidemics not only likely but inevitable, but cities meant jobs
Northern farmers, unable to compete with cheaper produce carted in from the West and South (by steamship and rail), moved to cities to work in the new factories
Cities offered more opportunities for social advancement

Provided important services
Labor unions began to form
Americans in cities formed
clubs and associations
through which they could
exert more influence on
government
wide variety of leisure-time options
A very few (the aristocracy) controlled most of the personal wealth
Middle class made up of tradesmen, brokers, and other professionals.

Women in their families could devote themselves to homemaking.
This was known as the Cult of domesticity
Since labor was usually performed away from the home …

the notion developed that men should work while women kept house and raised children
Middle classes constituted much of the market for luxury goods such as housewares and fine furniture.
In working-class families, men often worked in factories or at low-paying crafts; women often worked at home.

Families lived just above the poverty level.
Were most often recent immigrants in the 1840s and 1850s: when the great immigration waves from Ireland and then Germany arrived.
Met with **hostility**, especially from the working classes, who feared competition for low-paying jobs. The **Irish, in particular,** were subject to widespread bias, directed in part at their Catholicism.
1830s and 1840s, religious, ethnic, and/or class strife could escalate to violence
THE SOUTH AND RURAL LIFE
Few major urban centers in the South

(agrícultural economy)
1860 the population density of Georgia was 18 people per square mile ... 
(Massachusetts, the most populous state, had 153 people per square mile)
Not enough people around to support organized cultural and leisure events
While the North developed canals, railroads, and highways, the South did not

... financing such
South did not develop a strong market economy

Wealthiest Southern citizens consisted mainly of plantation owners
More than three-quarters of white Southerners owned no slaves. Of the rest, half owned five or fewer slaves.
Southern Paternalism relied on the perception of blacks as childlike and unable to take care of themselves.
Slave owners almost always converted their slaves to Christianity, again convinced that they were serving the slaves' best interests. The Africans, in turn, adapted Christianity to their cultures and incorporated their own religions and traditions into their new faith.
most worked extremely long hours at difficult and tedious labor
But remember .... Slaves were an investment

(importing African slaves was banned in 1808, making it essential to keep one's slaves alive and reproducing)
Majority of Southern planters farmed smaller tracts of land. Yeomen owned no slaves and worked their small tracts of land with only their families. Most were of Scottish and Irish descent and farmed in the hills, which were unsuitable for plantation farming.
South was also home to more than 250,000 free blacks. Black codes, prevented them from owning guns, drinking liquor, and assembling in groups of more than three.
Prejudice was a constant fact of life.

Some were mulattos, (mostly descendants of wealthy whites) and led lives of relative luxury and refinement in the Deep South, particularly in and around New Orleans.
THE WEST AND FRONTIER LIVING
In 1800 the frontier lay east of the Mississippi River.

By 1820 nearly all of this eastern territory had attained statehood.
Now the frontier region consisted of much of the
Louisiana Purchase
By the early 1840s, the frontier had expanded to include the Pacific Northwest
In 1848 the Gold Rush drew numerous settlers to California. Ohio Valley and points west were hospitable to grain production and dairy farming.
Midwest came to be known as "the nation's breadbasket."

Fur traders were often the first pioneers in a region... constantly moved west
Trappers formed the first American government in the Oregon Territory.

Western frontier was also home to cattle ranchers and miners.
Frontier life was rugged. Because of the possibilities for advancement and for "getting a new start in life," the West came to symbolize freedom and equality.
RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
Impulse to improve the lives of others

Early social reform movements grew out of the Second Great Awakening
Second Great Awakening began in the Northeast in the 1790s. Gave birth to numerous societies dedicated to saving humanity from its own worst impulses.
Movement spread to South and West ... churches began to replace revivals Hallelujah!
Most active members of reform groups were women. Temperance societies achieved nationwide prohibition in 1919.
Popularized the notion that society is responsible for the welfare of its least fortunate

Penitentiaries sought to rehabilitate criminals
Other important movements of the period
The Shakers, a utopian group that splintered from the Quakers ... isolated themselves in communes where they shared work and its rewards
Shakers practiced celibacy ... their numbers, not surprisingly, diminished.
Other Utopian groups included the Oneida community in New York, the New Harmony community in Indiana, and Brook Farm in Massachusetts.
Joseph Smith formed the Mormon Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1830. Strong opposition in the East and Midwest.
Mormons made the long, difficult trek to the Salt Lake Valley...
... came to dominate the Utah territory
Women's rights movement was born in the mid-nineteenth century Seneca Falls Convention, held in 1848
Its leaders: Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Stanton teamed up with Susan B. Anthony and founded the National Women's Suffrage Association in 1869
Horace Mann was instrumental in pushing for public education. He lengthened the school year, used the first standardized books.
Before the 1830s, few whites fought for the liberation of the slaves
Most anti-slavery whites sought gradual abolition, coupled with a movement to return blacks to Africa
Moderates wanted emancipation to take place slowly.

Immediatists, as their name implies, wanted emancipation at once.
Immediatist William Lloyd Garrison began publishing a popular abolitionist newspaper called the *Liberator* in 1831.
In the 1840s, Frederick Douglass began publishing his influential newspaper The North Star
Other prominent black abolitionists included Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth.
HEADING TOWARD THE CIVIL WAR (1845-1860)

1844 pitted James Polk, a Democrat expansionist, against Whig leader Henry Clay
-"54°-40' or Fight"-

**Polk Slogan**

America's Northwestern border should be extended to the 54°40' latitude, deep in Canadian territory
Polk wanted the immediate annexation of Texas as well as expansion into the Mexican-claimed territories of New Mexico, Arizona, and California.
Polk won. President Tyler proposed the annexation of Texas saying Polk’s win was a “mandate.” U.S. annexed Texas, and Mexico broke off diplomatic relations.
THE POLK PRESIDENCY
Polk realized the United States could hardly afford to fight two territorial wars at the same time, so ... He softened his position on Canada.
The **Oregon Treaty**, signed with Great Britain in 1846, allowed the United States to **acquire peaceably** what is now Oregon, Washington, and parts of Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.
Polk concentrated on efforts to claim the Southwest from Mexico - tried to buy the territory when that failed, he provoked Mexico until it attacked American troops
The Mexican-American War

Began in 1846
did not have universal support from the American public
Opponents argued that Polk had provoked Mexico into war at the request of powerful slave holders.
Defeat of the Wilmot Proviso, a Congressional bill mandating the prohibition of slavery in any territory gained from Mexico during the war, reinforced those suspicions.
led to the formation of the **Free Soil Party**

A single-issue party devoted to the goals of the Wilmot Proviso
Southerners felt that it was the choice of the settlers in new territories, and not of the federal government.

The two sides were growing farther apart.
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)

Mexico handed over almost all of the modern Southwest: Arizona, New Mexico, California, Nevada, and Utah
New territories posed major problems regarding the status of slavery.
Political parties split over issue – anti-slavery Whigs went to Free Soil party which refused to allow popular sovereignty.
California, the populous territory, wanted statehood. Californians had already drawn up a state constitution. That constitution prohibited slavery.
Proslavery forces argued southern California should be forced to accept slavery, in accordance with the boundary drawn by the Missouri Compromise
Democrat Stephen Douglas and Whig Henry Clay hammered out what they thought to be a workable solution, known as the Compromise of 1850.
Original compromise was defeated, but Douglas broke it down into smaller bills and managed to get each passed. Admitted California as a free state; created the territories of Utah and New Mexico, but left the status of slavery up to each territory to decide.
This reinforced the concept of popular sovereignty; and enacted a stronger fugitive slave law.
Definition of popular sovereignty was so vague that Northerners and Southerners could interpret the law entirely differently so as to suit their own positions.
The fugitive slave law, meanwhile, made it much easier to retrieve escaped slaves and **required free states to cooperate in their retrieval**
We’re on our way to BIG problems!
Toward War Between the States

Antislavery sentiments in the North grew stronger in 1852 with the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
It was turned into a popular play that toured America and Europe.

extremely powerful

piece of propaganda
Franklin Pierce, perceived in both the North and South as a moderate, was elected president.
THE KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT AND "BLEEDING KANSAS"
Settlers entering the Kansas and Nebraska territories found no established civil authority. Congress wanted to build railways through the territory, but they needed some form of government to impose order.
Stephen Douglas formulated and ushered through Congress a law that left the fate of slavery up to residents without specifying when or how they were to decide.
To make matters worse, by opening the two territories to slavery, the Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the Missouri Compromise.
Many Northern states passed laws weakening the fugitive slave act.

Southerners, who thought the fugitive slave law would be the final word on the issue, were furious.
Antislavery Whigs joined Northern Democrats and former Free Soilers to form a new party, the Republicans.
They championed a wider range of issues, including the further development of national roads, more liberal land distribution in the West, and increased protective tariffs.
Remember Clay’s “American System”? 
Western settlers, and Eastern importers all found something to like in the Republican platform

Another new party formed during this period
The **American party**, often called the **KnowNothings** because they met privately and remained secretive about their political agenda, rallied around a single issue: Hatred of foreigners
For a while it appeared that the Know-Nothings, and not the Republican party, would become the Democrats' chief competition.

But the party self-destructed, primarily because its Northern and Southern wings disagreed over slavery.
Time for “self determination.”

Just prior to the election for Kansas's legislature, thousands of proslavery Missourians temporarily relocated in Kansas
The new legislature, which President Pierce recognized, promptly declared Kansas a slave territory. Abolitionists refused to accept this outcome and set up their own government.
Proslavery forces demolished the abolitionist city of Lawrence.

Radical abolitionist John Brown led a raid on a proslavery camp, murdering five.
Brown hoped to spark a slave revolt but failed.

He was executed after his raid on Harper’s Ferry in 1859.
After his execution, news spread that Brown had received financial backing from Northern abolitionist organizations.

Brown became a martyr for the cause, celebrated throughout the North.
More than 200 people died in the conflict, which is how Kansas came to be known as Bleeding Kansas, or Bloody Kansas, during this period.
The crisis destroyed Pierce's political career

Democrats chose James Buchanan as their 1856 candidate
In a sectional vote, **Buchanan won the election**, carrying the South Republican John Fremont carried the North Know-Nothings ran Millard Fillmore, who won only 20 percent of the vote
The Know Nothings were finished as a party.