**CIVIL WAR DBQ ~ Selecting Evidence**

Directions: Using the “Failed Compromises” Lecture, the document packet and your own understanding of the causes of the Civil War, select a minimum of three pieces of outside evidence and two documents for each body paragraph then briefly analyze that evidence to explain how it would support the corresponding topic sentence.

(Intro)

After half a century of development and growth, the American people witnessed an ominous threat to their precious Union. The nation was founded by the compromises of the Founding Fathers and since that time compromise kept the nation together. However, it was the increasing tensions surrounding slavery that ultimately led to the breakdown of compromise by the middle of the 19th century. Compromise, that seemingly held the nation together during the early century, could not easily be achieved in this time period of great expansion due to the political recriminations and conflicts concerning slavery. In addition the moral and social stances on the issue divided the North and the South, making compromise difficult. Finally, the eventual breakdown of trust between competing parties led to a collapse in compromise. In the end compromise, what was a basic tenet of American democracy, failed to hold the nation together and a Civil War engulfed the nation.

(1) **Between 1820 and 1850 it seemed that compromise and faith in the government would help to maintain the union and that the concept of secession was out of the realm of possibility.**

Ex. Missouri Compromise of 1820 temporarily resolved issue of balancing political power and extension of slavery into the

territories

Ex. Henry Clay argued that it was many politicians believed that the idea of secession was not possible

“Impracticable” and “impossible” that

Southern states could secede

(2) **As westward expansion continued there was a significant shift in the political views towards slavery that ultimately led to the collapse of compromise. As Northerners looked to stop the spread of slavery into new territories, Southerners flexed their political power to halt the spread of abolitionist influence.**

(3) **Furthermore, the moral and social conflict over slavery rose to new levels of hatred and violence during this time period and thus threatened compromise.**

(4) **A final factor that contributed to the death of compromise was the lack of trust between competing parties. Escalating tensions over slavery led to violence between the North and the South that ultimately resulted in the collapse of the union following the election of 1860.**

(Conclusion)

By 1860 the American nation underwent a transformation that led to the collapse of the fundamental principle of democracy: compromise. Compromise no longer wielded its strength in American government by the middle of the 19th century due in large part to contentious debate over slavery. As debates over political power, economic beliefs and social values increased in frequency throughout the 19th century, trust broke down between the North and South and compromise no longer had any power. Slavery radicalized and galvanized slaver supporters and abolitionists equally to the point of national division. The breakdown of compromise unfortunately led to the bloody Civil War.

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After half a century of development and growth, the American people witnessed an ominous threat to their precious Union. The nation was founded by the compromises of the Founding Fathers and since that time compromise kept the nation together. However, it was the increasing tensions surrounding slavery that ultimately led to the breakdown of compromise by the middle of the 19th century. Compromise, that seemingly held the nation together during the early century, could not easily be achieved in this time period of great expansion due to the political recriminations and conflicts concerning slavery. In addition the moral and social stances on the issue divided the North and the South, making compromise difficult. Finally, the eventual breakdown of trust between competing parties led to a collapse in compromise. In the end compromise, what was a basic tenet of American democracy, failed to hold the nation together and a Civil War engulfed the nation.

 Between 1820 and 1850 it seemed that compromise and faith in the government would help to maintain the union and that the concept of secession was out of the realm of possibility.

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| Missouri Compromise | Landmark agreements that Henry Clay engineered to keep the nation together |
| Compromise of 1850 |
| Doc A Henry Clay “impossible that South Carolina ever desired for a moment to become a separate and independent state.” | Many politicians believed that the idea of secession was not possible. |
| Doc D Daniel Webster “the idea of separation of these states…to be a moral impossibility.” |
| Doc B Anti-Slavery Convention “we concede the Congress under the present national compact, has no right to interfere with any of the slave states…” | Even some of the strongest abolitionists feared that the Constitution protected the Southern institution of slavery.  |

As westward expansion continued there was a significant shift in the political views towards slavery that ultimately led to the collapse of compromise. As Northerners looked to stop the spread of slavery into new territories, Southerners flexed their political power to halt the spread of abolitionist influence.

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| Doc B Anti-Slavery Convention “we maintain that Congress has a right…to suppress the domestic slave trade...and to abolish slavery in those portions of our territory…” | Abolitionists and Northern politicians pleaded for the government to stop the extension of slavery into new territories. |
| Wilmot Proviso |
| Doc C Resolution of the Pinckney Committee | Southern politicians used their power to limit and place restrictions on petitions involving abolition.  |
| Gag Rules |
| Doc D Daniel Webster “among individuals and among legislatures of the North, a disinclination to perform fully their constitutional duties in regard to the return of persons bound to service | As abolitionists helped runaway slaves escape to the North, Southerners lobbied for stronger fugitive slave laws. It became a federal crime to help runaway slaves and escaped slaves could be arrested and returned to their owners.  |
| Fugitive Slave Law |

Furthermore, the moral and social conflict over slavery rose to new levels of hatred and violence during this time period and thus threatened compromise.

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| Doc B Anti-Slavery Convetion “every American who retains a human being in involuntary bondage is a man stealer.” | The moral arguments against slavery were spreading throughout the North.  |
| Abolitionists such as Garrison, Douglass and Beecher Stowe |
| Doc G Lincoln argues that slavery goes beyond politics | Slavery impacts religion, literature and morals to excite and divide the society |
| Doc F Herald “The prevailing class one meets with is that of mechanics struggling to be genteel, and small farmers who do their drudgery, and yet are hardly fit for association with a southern gentleman’s body servant.” | Verbal attacks on the ill-bred, ill-mannered working classes and small farmers of the North in comparison to the gentleman of the south |

 A final factor that contributed to the death of compromise was the lack of trust between competing parties. Escalating tensions over slavery led to violence between the North and the South that ultimately resulted in the collapse of the union following the election of 1860

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| Doc E Southern Chivalry | The caning of Sen. Charles Sumner by Rep. Preston Brooks in the Senate |
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| Kansas Nebraska Act | As Free Soilers and Southern slave owners rushed into the Kansas territory conflicts escalated into mass violence.  |
| Lecompton Constitution |
| Bleeding Kansas |
| Doc. H Map of the Election | As Lincoln, the Republican, won all but one free state capturing the electoral majority, most of the country was strongly divided between Northern and Southern democrats and the Constitutional Union party.  |

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