

# Period 5

## 1844-1877

### Key Concepts

The United States became more connected with the world, pursued an expansionist foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere, and emerged as the destination for many migrants from other countries.

Popular enthusiasm for U.S. expansion, bolstered by economic and security interests, resulted in the acquisition of new territories, substantial migration westward, and new overseas initiatives.

In the 1840s and 1850s, Americans continued to debate questions about rights and citizenship for various groups of U.S. inhabitants.

Intensified by expansion and deepening regional divisions, debates over slavery and other economic, cultural, and political issues led the nation into civil war. Ideological and economic differences over slavery produced an array of diverging responses from Americans in the North and the South.

Debates over slavery came to dominate political discussion in the 1850s, culminating in the bitter election of 1860 and the secession of Southern states. The Union victory in the Civil War and the contested reconstruction of the South settled the issues of slavery and secession, but left unresolved many questions about the power of the federal government and citizenship rights. The North's greater manpower and industrial resources, the leadership of Abraham Lincoln and others, and the decision to emancipate slaves eventually led to the Union military victory over the Confederacy in the devastating Civil War.

Reconstruction and the Civil War ended slavery, altered relationships between the states and the federal government, and led to debates over new definitions of citizenship, particularly regarding the rights of African Americans, women, and other minorities.

### Timeline

- Mexican-American War 1846-1847
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo 1848
- California gold rush 1849
- Compromise of 1850
- Kansas-Nebraska Act 1854
- Dred Scott v. Sandford 1857
- Panic of 1857
- Lincoln-Douglas debates 1858
- Harpers Ferry raid 1859
- Election of Lincoln 1860
- Secession 1860
- Fort Sumter 1861
- Homestead Act 1862
- Emancipation Proclamation 1863
- Lee's surrender 1865
- Lincoln assassinated 1865
- The Freedman's Bureau 1865
- Civil War Amendments (13, 14, 15)
- Reconstruction Act 1867
- Panic of 1873
- Compromise of 1877

### Terms, people, and events

- Manifest Destiny (cont.)
- James Polk
- Boundary disputes over Maine, Oregon, and Texas
- Wilmot Proviso
- Clayton-Bulwer Treaty
- Gadsden Purchase
- Expansion of railroad and federal land grants
- Popular sovereignty
- Free-Soil Movement
- Fugitive Slave Law
- The underground railroad
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- "Bleeding Kansas"
- Caning of Charles Sumner
- Know-Nothing Party
- Republican Party
- John Brown
- Crittenden Compromise
- Border states
- Confederate States of America
- Jefferson Davis
- Robert E. Lee
- Ulysses S. Grant
- Wartime advantages of the North v. South
- habeas corpus
- Know early and late wartime strategies by both sides
- Sherman's March to the Sea
- Appomattox Court House
- Black Codes
- "Scalawags" and "Carpetbaggers"
- Sharecropping
- Ku Klux Klan
- Election of 1876 and Rutherford B. Hayes

