

Nationalism and Sectionalism 9-2

The Big Idea

A rising sense of national unity allowed some regional differences to be set aside and national interests to be served.

Main Ideas

- Growing nationalism led to improvements in the nation's transportation systems.
- The Missouri Compromise settled an important regional conflict.
- The outcome of the election of 1824 led to controversy.

Main Idea 1: Growing nationalism led to improvements in the nation's transportation systems.

- **Nationalism**: feelings of pride and loyalty to a nation
- **Henry Clay proposed the American System**: a series of measures to make America economically self-sufficient.
 - National bank to provide a single currency, and improved roads and canals funded by a protective tariff
 - Some in Congress felt such improvements were not permitted by the Constitution.
 - Clay argued that possible gains for the country justified federal action.
 - Congress agreed with Clay.

Henry Clay

- Served as a U.S. representative from Kentucky, a senator, the Speaker of the House, and secretary of state
- Supported nationalism
- Developed the **American System**
- Dedicated to preserving the Union
- Initiated the **Missouri Compromise**

Roads and Canals

Roads

- **Cumberland Road** was first federally built road.
- Begun in Maryland in 1815, stretched to Illinois by 1850

Canals

- Americans tried to make water transportation easier by building canals.
- **Erie Canal** ran from Albany to Buffalo in New York, allowing goods and people to move between East Coast and towns on Lake Erie.
- Success of Erie Canal provided incentive for future canal building.

The Era of Good Feelings

Era of Good Feelings: time of peace, prosperity, and progress from 1815–1825

National unity strengthened by two Supreme Court decisions that reinforced federal power.

McCulloch v. Maryland (1819) asserted implied powers of Congress in allowing for creation of national bank.

Gibbons v. Ogden (1824) said states could not interfere with power of Congress to regulate interstate trade.

Main Idea 2: The Missouri Compromise settled an important regional conflict.

- **Sectionalism**, or disagreements between different regions, threatened the Union.
- **Missouri** applied to enter Union as **slave state**, which would **change balance between free and slave states**.
- Initial compromise rejected
- Henry Clay proposed **Missouri Compromise in 1820**
 - **Missouri would enter as slave state.**
 - **Maine would join Union as a free state**, preserving balance between free and slave states.
 - **Slavery would be prohibited in any new states or territories north of latitude 36°30'.**
- Disagreements between the North and South over slavery continued.

Main Idea 3: The outcome of the election of 1824 led to controversy.

- **Andrew Jackson won the popular vote but did not have enough electoral votes.**
- **The House of Representatives was required by the Constitution to choose the winner; they chose John Quincy Adams.**
- **Jackson's supporters claimed Adams had made a "corrupt bargain" with Henry Clay.**
- **Accusations grew after Adams made Clay secretary of state.**
- **Controversy weakened Adams's support.**