

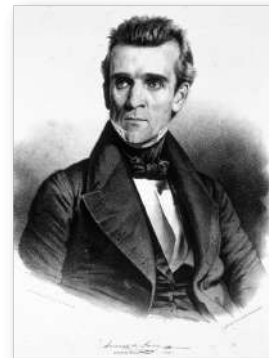
## 14-1 – The Debate Over Slavery- Pages- 438-443

**Essential Question:** *How did antislavery literature and the annexation of new lands intensify the debate over slavery?*

### Main Idea 1:

**The addition of new land in the West renewed disputes over the expansion of slavery.**

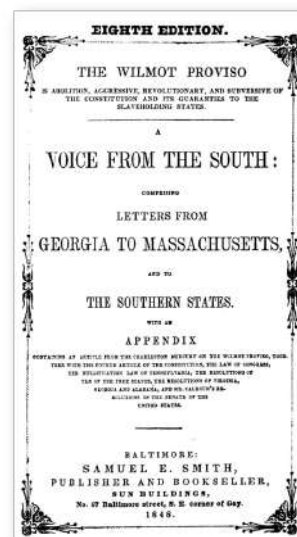
- Additional **land** gained after **Mexican-American** War caused bitter **slavery** dispute
- **Missouri Compromise** of 1820 **prohibited** slavery **north** of latitude 36°30'
- President **Polk** wanted to **extend** the line to the **West Coast**, dividing **Mexican Cession** into **free** and **enslaved** parts
- Some leaders wanted **popular** sovereignty, the idea that **political** power belongs to the **people**, to decide on **banning** or **allowing** slavery.



### Regional Differences about Slavery

#### Growing Sectionalism

- Some **northerners** wanted to ban **slavery** in the **Mexican Cession**.
- The **Wilmot Proviso**, prohibiting **slavery** there, was **proposed** but not **enacted**.
- The **Wilmot Proviso** had an **impact** on life in America.
  - ★ It started a **debate** between the **North** and the **South** that showed a growing **sectionalism** in the United States
- The **Wilmot Proviso** led to the **introduction** of the idea of **popular** sovereignty.
  - **Popular** sovereignty affected **slavery** in the United States.
  - ★ It stated that **states** or territories had the **power** to **decide** whether to **permit** slavery.
- **Sectionalism**, favoring the **interests** of one **section** or **region** over the interests of the entire **country**, was on the **rise**.
- Antislavery **northerners** formed a new party—the **Free-Soil Party**—to support the **Wilmot Proviso**.



#### California Question

- **California** applied to enter the **Union**.
- Southerners did not want **California** to be a **free** state because it would **upset** the **balance** of **slave** and **free** states.
- ★ In 1848, the **boundary** between **slave** states and **free** states was the **imaginary** line that ran **parallel** to **Missouri's** northern **border**.

## Main Idea 2:

The Compromise of 1850 tried to solve the disputes over slavery.

- Senator **Henry Clay** offered **Compromise** of 1850
  - **California** would enter the **Union** as a **free** state.
  - The rest of the **Mexican Cession** would be **federal** land. The **slavery** question would be decided by **popular** sovereignty.
- ★ The **Compromise** of 1850 was **significant** because it **ended** the **balance** between **free** and **slave** states in the **Union**
  - **Texas** could give up **land** east of the upper Rio Grande. In return, the **government** would **pay** Texas's **debt** from when it was an **independent** republic.
  - **Slave trade**, but not **slavery**, would **end** in the nation's **capital**.
  - A more **effective** fugitive **slave** law would be **passed**.
- John C. **Calhoun** and Daniel **Webster** differed in their **interpretations** of the **power** of the **federal** government.
  - ★ **Calhoun** believed that the **federal** government did not have the **power** to **ban** slavery, while **Webster** believed the **government** did have this **power**
- The **compromise** was **enacted** and settled most **disputes** between **slave** and **free** states.

## Main Idea 3:

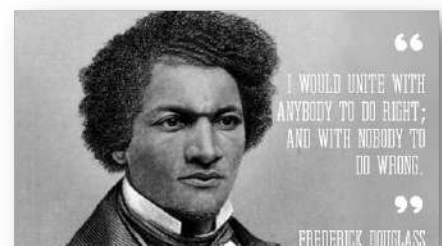
The Fugitive Slave Act caused more controversy.

### Fugitive Slave Act

- Made it a **crime** to help **runaway** slaves and **allowed** officials to **arrest** runaway slaves in **free** areas
- Slaveholders could take **suspected** fugitives to U.S. **commissioners** who, decided their **fate**. **Commissioners** received more **money** for returning them to **slaveholders**.
- Accused **fugitives** could not **testify** on their own **behalf**

### Reaction to Act

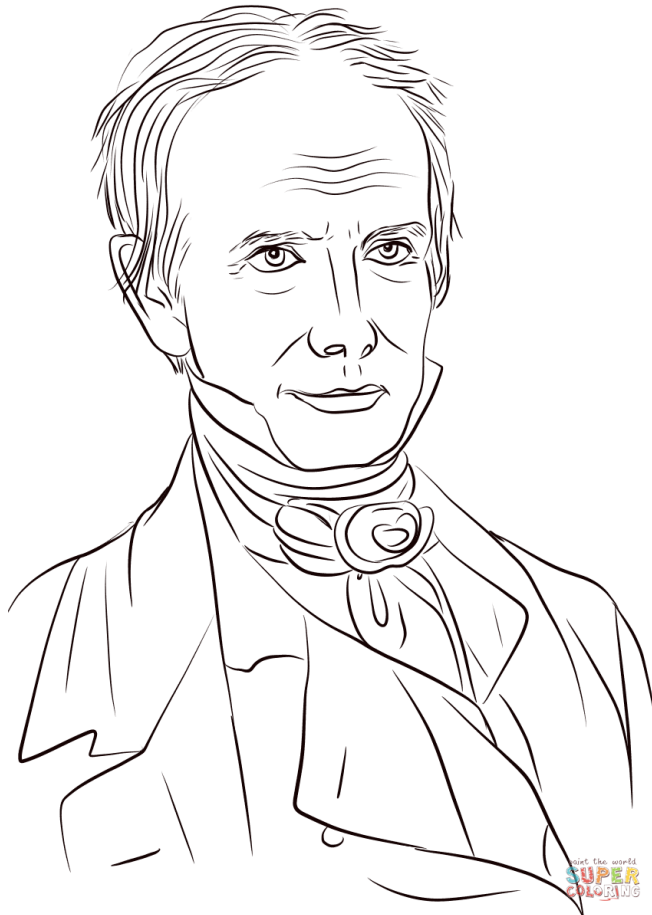
- **Enforcement** of act **immediate**
- **Thousands** of northern **African Americans** fled to **Canada** in fear
- Act upset **northerners**
- ★ The main **reason** that most **northerners** were **opposed** to the new Fugitive Slave Act was that they felt it gave **commissioners** too much **power** and was **unfair** to **slaves** by giving them a trial without a **jury**.
- Anthony Burns was **fugitive** returned to **slavery** with **federal** help in 1854
- Frederick **Douglass** different from many other **slaves** of his time
  - ★ **Douglass** was well **educated** and had **published** narratives about his **life**
    - Spoke out **against** the Fugitive Slave Act.
- **Persuaded** many to join **abolitionist** cause



**Main Idea 4:**

**Abolitionists used antislavery literature to promote opposition.**

- Northern **abolitionists** used **stories** of fugitive **slaves** to gain **sympathy** for their **cause**.
- **Fiction** also informed **people** about the **evils** of slavery.
- **Uncle Tom's Cabin** by Harriet Beecher Stowe was an influential **antislavery** novel published in 1852.
  - ★ Stowe wanted to **educate** northerners about the **evils** of **slavery** in the U.S.
    - More than **2 million** copies **sold** within a **decade**
    - Still widely **read** as source about **harsh** realities of **slavery**
- **Uncle Tom's Cabin** angered many **southerners**.
  - ★ They felt that Stowe's **novel** would **inspire** people to join the **anti-slavery** movement.



Henry Clay