**Chapter #18:** **Renewing the Sectional Struggle – Big Picture Themes**

*1. The main question facing the nation was, “Will new lands won from Mexico have slaves or be free?”*

*2. The answer to the question was hammered out in the Compromise of 1850. It said California was to be free, popular sovereignty (the people decide) for the rest of the lands.*

*3. A tougher fugitive slave law was a major concession to the South, but it wasn’t enforced. This angered the Southerners.*

*4. The North—South rift was widened with the Kansas-Nebraska Act. It repealed the Missouri Compromise which had kept the peace for a generation. In its place, popular sovereignty opened the Great Plains to potential slavery. Whereas the slave-land issue had been settled, now it was a big question mark.*

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**GUIDED READING QUESTIONS:**

**The Popular Sovereignty Panacea**

Know: Mexican Cession, Fire-eaters

**1. What were the advantages and disadvantages of popular sovereignty?**

**Political Triumphs for General Taylor**

**2. Why was the Free-Soil party formed? Was it important? Explain.**

**"Californy Gold"**

**3. Did the California Gold Rush make people rich? Explain.**

**Sectional Balance and the Underground Railroad**

Know: Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman

**4. "The South was in a politically weak position in the 1850's." Assess this statement.**

**Twilight of the Senatorial Giants**

Know: Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster

**5. What effect did Webster's speech have?**

**Deadlock and Danger on Capitol Hill**

Know: William H. Seward, Higher Law

**6. How did William Seward contribute to the tension between North and South in 1850?**

**Breaking the Congressional Logjam**

Know: Compromise of 1850

**7 . What factors led to the acceptance of the Compromise of 1850?**

**Balancing the Compromise Scales**

**8. Explain the quote, "No single irritant of the 1850's was more consistently galling to both sides...."**

**Defeat and Doom for the Whigs**

**9. What was important about the election of 1852?**

**Expansionist Stirrings South of the Border**

Know: William Walker, Commodore Matthew C. Perry

**10. Explain the Ostend Manifesto, and what consequences it had.**

**The Allure of Asia**

Know: Treaty of Wanghia, Caleb Cushing, Commodore Perry

**11. Is China or Japan more important to American trade today?**

**Pacific Railroad Promoters and the Gadsen Purchase**

**12. What was the reason for the Gadsen Purchase?**

**Douglas's Kansas-Nebraska Scheme**

Know: Stephen A. Douglas

**13. Why were northerners so opposed to popular sovereignty?**

**Congress Legislates a Civil War**

**14. What were the effects of the Kansas-Nebraska Act?**