

Contextualization: The United States Constitution & early republic can be seen as a series of compromises. The Constitution itself holds compromises over slavery (3/5), representation (Connecticut) & elections (electoral college). While the United States was relatively small & uniform, compromise was easier to come by as most put union over regional & personal preferences.

Thesis: Although cultural developments contributed to the end of compromise by 1860 to a small extent as religious denominations split over slavery, political ^A tension over the scope of the national government's authority over states, economic ^B tension over the institution of slavery & the type of economy the US would pursue & social tensions caused by the growth of abolitionist movements & the subsequent Southern defense of slavery all caused the end of any hope for a compromise by the time Lincoln was elected in 1860.