

Full name

Professor

Class

Due Date

Missouri Compromise

1) What did each section of the country, North and South, gain and what did each give up?

When Missouri entered as a slave state, it gave the South one more state than the North, which meant that Maine coming in as a free state evened the balance out again. Further, there was the notion that constituted how everything below the line would allow slavery, but everything above the line would not condone it. Each side therefore gave up what it truly wanted in terms of power, but gained an advantage in either numbers or land.

2) Where can you see this compromise heading in the future when the south brought more land in like Texas and the Southwest? Could this compromise continue to hold if there was now an imbalance?

In the future, the concept of Texas bringing in more land or the South having more land as a whole would not change the compromise because it does not consider the incredibly important factor of population. Despite having more potential land in the South, it is equally as important to explore the effects of having a denser population because that holds more weight in the 'power' that a particular side has. The imbalance in physical power is ultimately outweighed by the power of the people because the side that holds more in population would really have the greater advantage; the alternative is simply a lot of control over empty land.

3) What is the role of compromise in a self-governing society, considering that many convictions are deeply held but not shared by everyone in the community? Further, is some level of compromise necessary to the survival of a democratic republic?

A self-governing society is good in practice but difficult in execution because it provides the foundation for a lot of controversy and strained relationships. People that do not directly communicate their concerns with one another create a narrative of secrecy and shady relationships that undermine the integrity of the system as a whole. There is definitely some level of compromise that is necessary to maintain a democratic republic because the reality is that people are always going to have differed opinions based on their individual opinions and perspectives. Varied opinions can empower a unit to make informed choices, but it can also hinder progress. It is therefore imperative that people are able to compromise in order to sustain the system; compromises should aim to please as many people as possible without completely ignoring the needs of the minority group(s).