The Simple AP® US History Unit 5 Cheat Sheet

5.2 Manifest Destiny

The Idea

Manifest Destiny: belief the U.S. was meant to spread across the continent from coast to coast.
Reasons: farmland, trade, religion, national pride, racial ideas (Anglo-Saxon superiority).

Expansion Events

Event	Year
Texas annexed	1845
Oregon Treaty	1846
Mexican Cession	1848
Gadsden Purchase	1853

Texas: American settlers broke from Mexico in 1836; joined U.S. as a slave state.
Oregon: split with Britain at the 49th parallel.
President Polk made expansion his main goal.

People on the Move

Oregon Trail: families head west for land.
Mormons settle Utah to escape persecution.
Gold Rush (1849): huge, diverse migration to California (miners from many nations).
Native Americans lose land and lives.
Mexican residents of the Southwest lose land over time despite treaty promises.
Chinese immigrants came for gold; faced a special tax and discrimination in Calif..

⚠ Every new territory raised the question: slave or free? (Wilmot Proviso, 1846 on)

✓ Expansion → slavery debate → Civil War.

5.3–5.4 War with Mexico & 1850

Mexican-American War (1846–48)

Cause: Texas border dispute; Polk sends troops.
"American blood on American soil": Polk's case for war (Mexico disputed the border).
Critics: abolitionists, Whigs, young Lincoln.
Result: U.S. gains California and the Southwest.
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) ends the war; U.S. pays $15 million; Rio Grande border.
Wilmot Proviso: tried to ban slavery in new land; failed in the Senate (1846–47 votes).
Popular sovereignty: let settlers vote on slavery.
Wilmot vote split Congress by region, not party.

Compromise of 1850

North got	South got
California free	Fugitive Slave Act
No DC slave trade	Pop. sovereignty

Fugitive Slave Act: Northerners forced to return escapees → anger & outrage in the North.
Uncle Tom's Cabin: novel turns many Northerners against slavery (Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1852).
Free-Soil Party: keep slavery out of the West.
Underground Railroad grows; some Northern states pass laws to protect escapees.
Henry Clay and Stephen Douglas pushed the compromise through (Clay's last deal).
Texas got its debts paid as part of the deal.

⚠ The compromise delayed war but angered the North & deepened Southern fears.

✓ Compare: 1820 → 1850 → 1854 compromises.

5.5 Regional Differences

Two Economies

	North	South
Economy	Factories, farms	Cotton
Labor	Free workers	Enslaved
People	Larger	Smaller
Railroads	Most	Few

Ideas

Free labor (North): hard work lets anyone rise; slavery blocks that (Republicans).
South: called slavery a "positive good."
Abolitionists: Garrison, Douglass, Tubman; still a minority in the North, then the West.
Immigrants (Irish, German) mostly settled in the North → North grows faster & bigger.

Politics

Know-Nothings: anti-immigrant party.
Whigs collapse over slavery (1852–54).
Republican Party (1854): stop slavery's spread.
Churches split North and South.
Southern fear: losing power in Congress as free states join & the balance of power.
Democrats split North and South by 1860.
Cotton exports tied the South's economy to Britain (King Cotton, Lancashire mills).

⚠ Many Northerners opposed slavery's spread, not slavery itself (many racist too).

✓ Compare economy, labor and ideas, North vs South & explain why they differ.

5.6–5.7 Road to Secession

Road to War

Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854): settlers vote on slavery → ends Missouri line (Douglas).
Republican Party forms in response.
Bleeding Kansas: violence between pro- and anti-slavery settlers (1855–56; Lecompton).
Dred Scott (1857): Black Americans not citizens; Congress can't ban slavery in territories.
Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858) make Lincoln famous nationwide (Freeport Doctrine).
John Brown (1859): raid to start a slave revolt; executed → martyr to Northerners.
Sumner beaten on the Senate floor (1856) over slavery speech by SC Rep. Brooks.

Election of 1860

Candidate	Support
Lincoln	North (wins)
Douglas	Northern Dems
Breckinridge	Deep South
Bell	Border states

Secession: South Carolina leaves first; Confederacy forms (Dec. 1860).
Fort Sumter (1861): war begins.
Lincoln won with no Southern electoral votes → South felt shut out & the White House.

⚠ Southern states named slavery as the reason for secession (not tariffs first).

✓ Pick 1 turning point (e.g., Dred Scott, 1857) and explain why it mattered for secession.

5.8 Military Conflict in the Civil War

Advantages

Union	Confederacy
More people	Fighting at home
Factories, railroads	Strong generals
Navy	Only had to survive

Strategy

Anaconda Plan: blockade the South and take the Mississippi (Gen. Winfield Scott).
South hoped Britain would help; it didn't.
"King Cotton" plan failed: Britain found cotton elsewhere (Egypt, India supply UK).

Key Battles

Antietam (1862): bloodiest day → Emancipation Proclamation (Sept. 1862, ~23,000 hit).
Gettysburg (1863): Lee's invasion stopped.
Gettysburg Address: Lincoln calls for a "new birth of freedom." (Nov. 1863, at the battlefield)
Vicksburg (1863): Union controls the Mississippi.
Sherman's March (1864): total war from Atlanta across Georgia → helps Lincoln win in 1864.
Appomattox (1865): Lee surrenders.
Black soldiers: ~180,000 served for the Union.
~620,000 died: the deadliest war in U.S. history.
New weapons (rifles, ironclads) raised casualties.

⚠ Antietam was close, but it let Lincoln announce emancipation (Britain stays out).

✓ Union won through resources, strategy and leadership (Grant, Sherman, Lincoln).

5.9 Government Policies During the War

Emancipation

Emancipation Proclamation (1863): frees enslaved people in rebel states.
Effects: war now about ending slavery; Britain stays out; Black men enlist (54th Mass.).
~500,000 enslaved people freed themselves by fleeing to Union lines (contrabands).
13th Amendment (1865): ends slavery everywhere in the U.S. (ratified Dec. 1865, after the war).

Union Home Front

Law	What it did
Homestead Act	Free western land
Pacific Railway	Cross-country RR
Morrill Act	State colleges
High tariffs	Protect industry

Lincoln suspended **habeas corpus** (jailed critics).
Draft riots: NYC (July 1863), deadly.
Rich men could pay $300 to avoid the draft → anger or hire a substitute to fight.

Confederate Home Front

Shortages, inflation, and bread riots.
"Rich man's war, poor man's fight": big slaveholders exempt from draft.
Women worked as nurses (Clara Barton) and in factories (Clara Barton) & in factories.

⚠ The Proclamation didn't free people in border states (MD, KY, MO, DE, later WV).

✓ War laws shaped the West and industry after 1865 (Homestead, railroads, tariffs).

5.10–5.11 Reconstruction & Its Failure

Plans

Plan	Approach
Lincoln	Lenient (10%)
Johnson	Lenient
Radical Rep.	Strict, military

Black Codes: Southern laws limiting freedpeople.
Johnson impeached (1868); not removed.
Radical Republicans put the South under military rule (5 districts, Reconstruction Acts 1867).

Amendments

13th: ends slavery. **14th**: citizenship, equal protection. **15th**: Black men vote.
Women left out of the 15th → women's movement splits (Stanton & Anthony oppose).

Gains

Freedmen's Bureau: schools, food, help.
Black officeholders elected in the South.
Families reunite; Black churches and schools grow (Fisk, Howard, Morehouse).

Why It Failed

No land → **sharecropping** and debt.
KKK violence; North loses interest.
Compromise of 1877: troops leave the South.
Redeemers (white Democrats) take back Southern governments ("Redemption" by 1877).

⚠ Rights on paper were not enforced after 1877.

✓ Argue: legal gains vs economic and political losses (rights on paper vs. practice).

5.12 Comparison & Exam Strategy

Big Themes

Expansion → slavery fights → war.
Federal power grows in war and Reconstruction.
Citizenship redefined by the 14th Amendment.
Identity: nation reunited, but racial divides remain.

Key Dates

Year	Event
1848	Mexican War ends
1850	Compromise of 1850
1854	Kansas-Nebraska Act
1857	Dred Scott
1860	Lincoln elected
1865	War ends
1877	Reconstruction ends

Essay Tips

Compare: Reconstruction plans; North vs South.
Causation: why did the Civil War start? Weigh several causes (slavery comes first).
Complexity: Reconstruction won rights on paper but lost them in practice (Jim Crow).
Context: link to Manifest Destiny and reform movements (Period 4 context).
Links: sharecropping and Jim Crow continue into Period 6 & beyond (into Period 8).

⚠ Don't stop at 1865: Reconstruction counts.

✓ DBQ: 4+ documents plus outside evidence.