

Cherny, Chapter 5: California and the Crisis of the Union, 1850-1870

Intro: What does the controversy over Archy Lee tell us about California attitudes on slavery?

Explain: “They probably had no idea that their request for statehood would contribute significantly to the emerging national crisis.” (131)

Crisis and Conflict in the 1850s

Why was California's proposal for statehood controversial? Explain the **Compromise of 1850**. (132-133)

What is **Vigilantism**? In what way did California face a crisis of legitimacy in the 1850s? (133-136)

Describe the situation facing California's native peoples. What does the 1860 Census tell us? (136-138)

How did federal policies affect the **Californios**? Why did so many of them lose their land? (138-141)

Why did some Californios propose making Southern California a separate territory? (140-141)

Californians and the Crisis of the Union

Explain how the national controversy of slavery played out in California. (141-143)

How did political leaders in California address the sectional conflicts facing the nation? Why do you suppose we see particularly intense conflict within the Democratic Party? (143-145)

How would you explain the brief success of the American Party (also called the Know-Nothing Party) in California in the 1850s? (144)

How would you explain the appeal of the emerging Republican Party in California in this era? (145)

How did most Californians feel about the Civil War. How did people support the war effort? (146-147)

Explain how the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments impacts law and politics in California. (147-148)

Economic Growth in a Time of National Crisis

How did the California economy change in the 1850s and 1860s? (148)

How do the changes in mining practices reflect broader economic and social trends? (148-149)

Comment: “The large numbers of gold seekers in 1849 and later stimulated a wide range of other economic developments, for they needed shirts and biscuits, tents and transportation.” (149)

Comment: “Throughout the 1850s and 1860s, the average farm in California was in excess of 450 acres, more than double the national average.” (150)

What role did the federal government play in promoting transportation to California? (151-152)

Why was the **Pony Express** only needed for about eighteen months? (151)

How did railroads change the economy of California? (152-155)

New Social and Cultural Patterns

Explain how California's social institutions developed in the 1850s and 1860s. (155-159)

How did attitudes about men and women tend to reflect attitudes in the country as a whole? (155-157)

How did California become known as a land of religious toleration? (157-159)

Describe some of the literary contributions of Californians in the Gold Rush era. (160-161)

Summary

Comment: "With the victory of the Republicans...came federal subsidies for construction of a railroad to tie California to the North." (162)

Thinking question: Which statements in the Summary capture the significance of California in relation to the nation? Which statements give us clues about what is going to happen next in the state?