

HISTORICAL CAUSATION AND ARGUMENTATION... Territorial Expansion & Social Conflict

From the 2015 Revised Framework:

Causation - Historical thinking involves the ability to **identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships** among historical **causes and effects**, distinguishing between those that are long term and proximate. Historical thinking also involves the ability to distinguish between causation and correlation, and an awareness of contingency, the way that historical events result from a complex variety of factors that come together in unpredictable ways and often have unanticipated consequences.

Argumentation - Historical thinking involves the ability to **create an argument and support it using relevant historical evidence**. Creating a historical argument includes defining and framing a question about the past and then formulating a claim or argument about that question, often in the form of a thesis. **A persuasive historical argument requires a precise and defensible thesis or claim, supported by rigorous analysis of relevant and diverse historical evidence**. The argument and evidence used should be framed around the application of a specific historical thinking skill (e.g., comparison, causation, patterns of continuity and change over time, or periodization). Furthermore, historical thinking involves the ability to examine multiple pieces of evidence in concert with each other, noting contradictions, corroborations, and other relationships among sources to develop and support an argument.

From the 2015 Revised Rubric for the Long Essay - Describes causes AND/OR effects of a historical event, development, or process. Explains the reasons for the causes AND/OR effects of a historical event, development, or process. (2 of 6 possible points) Scoring Note: If the prompt requires discussion of both causes and effects, responses must address both causes and effects in order to earn both points.

From the 2015 Revised Content Outline:

Key Concept 5.1: The United States became more connected with the world, pursued an expansionist foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere, and emerged as the destination for many migrants from other countries.

- I. Popular enthusiasm for U.S. expansion, bolstered by economic and security interests, resulted in the acquisition of new territories, substantial migration westward, and new overseas initiatives.
 - A) The desire for access to natural and mineral resources and the hope of many settlers for economic opportunities or religious refuge led to an increased migration to and settlement in the West.
 - B) Advocates of annexing western lands argued that Manifest Destiny and the superiority of American institutions compelled the United States to expand its borders westward to the Pacific ocean.
 - C) The U.S. added large territories in the West through victory in the Mexican–American War and diplomatic negotiations, raising questions about the status of slavery, American Indians, and Mexicans in the newly acquired lands.
 - D) Westward migration was boosted during and after the Civil War by the passage of new legislation promoting Western transportation and economic development.
 - E) U.S. interest in expanding trade led to economic, diplomatic, and cultural initiatives to create more ties with Asia.

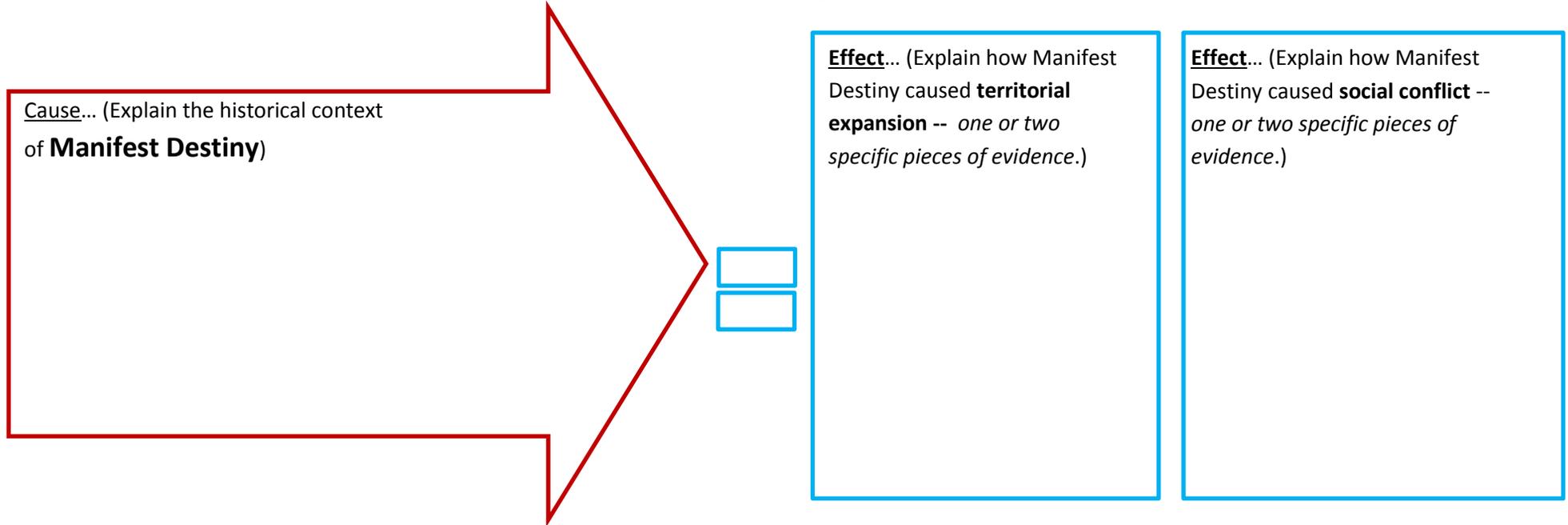
Key Concept 5.2: Intensified by expansion and deepening regional divisions, debates over slavery and other economic, cultural, and political issues led the nation into civil war.

- I. Ideological and economic differences over slavery produced an array of diverging responses from Americans in the North and the South.
 - A) The North's expanding manufacturing economy relied on free labor in contrast to the Southern economy's dependence on slave labor. Some Northerners did not object to slavery on principle but claimed that slavery would undermine the free labor market. As a result, a free-soil movement arose that portrayed the expansion of slavery as incompatible with free labor.
 - B) African American and white abolitionists, although a minority in the North, mounted a highly visible campaign against slavery, presenting moral arguments against the institution, assisting slaves' escapes, and sometimes expressing a willingness to use violence to achieve their goals.
 - C) Defenders of slavery based their arguments on racial doctrines, the view that slavery was a positive social good, and the belief that slavery and states' rights were protected by the Constitution.
- II. Debates over slavery came to dominate political discussion in the 1850s, culminating in the bitter election of 1860 and the secession of Southern states.
 - A) The Mexican Cession led to heated controversies over whether to allow slavery in the newly acquired territories.
 - B) The courts and national leaders made a variety of attempts to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories, including the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas–Nebraska Act, and the Dred Scott decision, but these ultimately failed to reduce conflict.
 - C) The Second Party System ended when the issues of slavery and anti-immigrant nativism weakened loyalties to the two major parties and fostered the emergence of sectional parties, most notably the Republican Party in the North.
 - D) Abraham Lincoln's victory on the Republicans' free-soil platform in the presidential election of 1860 was accomplished without any Southern electoral votes. After a series of contested debates about secession, most slave states voted to secede from the Union, precipitating the Civil War.

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – Causation... *Territorial Expansion and Social Conflict*

Reminders About Causation

Historians often debate the causes and effects of events, because history is complex and filled with multiple variables. Some facts are facts: black and white. But most of history is gray: up for interpretation. When analyzing causation, we must remember that we are making a judgment and defending our viewpoint. And, remember... every viewpoint has an opposing or differing viewpoint. Analyzing the effects of historical events requires similar skill. It is not only listing ways the event impacted the nation, for example, it is analyzing historical significance of those effects. Did the effect stem directly from the event? Or, was it simply a coincidence in time and place? Was the effect short term or long term? Which cause was most significant? Which effect was most significant? Etc.



Cause... (Explain the historical context of **Manifest Destiny**)

Effect... (Explain how Manifest Destiny caused **territorial expansion** -- *one or two specific pieces of evidence.*)

Effect... (Explain how Manifest Destiny caused **social conflict** -- *one or two specific pieces of evidence.*)

Cause... (What *other* force caused expansion and/or social conflict?)

To what extent was the expansion and social conflict due to Manifest Destiny?

The most significant effect of Manifest Destiny was:

Because...

On a separate sheet of paper or as a text entry on Canvas, Write a thesis in response to the following prompt:

To what extent was Manifest Destiny responsible for territorial expansion and social conflict during the Antebellum Era?

Refer to your writing guidelines if you do not remember the formula!