

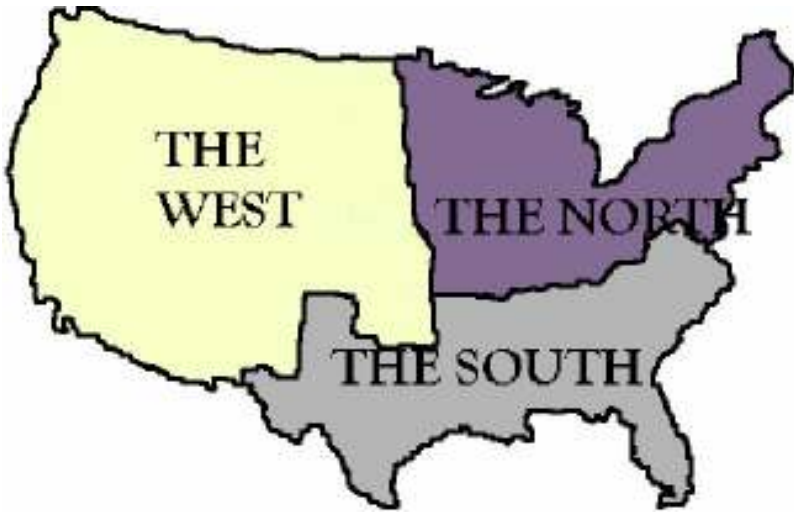
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# Sectionalism



**Sectionalism** is a tendency among people to blindly focus on the interest of a section of a place at the expense of the whole. In national politics, sectionalism often comes before separatism. In a political context, sectionalism is loyalty to the interests of one's own region or section of the country, rather than the nation as a whole.

In the [United States](#), sectionalism became a major problem and the nation's fastest growing influence when [Missouri](#) applied for [statehood](#) in [1819](#). Most of those living in Missouri wanted [slavery](#) to be allowed in the state. However, if this had happened, there would be twelve states that allowed slaves and only eleven that did not, consequently upsetting the balance of power in the [United States Senate](#).

The [Missouri Compromise](#) solved the problem and restored balance in the [United States Senate](#) by adding two new states to the Union, [Maine](#) and Missouri. Maine would be a state where slavery was illegal and Missouri would have slavery.

Sectionalism played a minor part in President [Abraham Lincoln](#)'s winning of the election in 1860. Because Lincoln did not support slavery expanding beyond where it already existed, and all of the Northern States (with most of the popular votes) also did not support slavery, Lincoln won more of the popular votes in those states and thus won their votes in the [United States Electoral College](#) as well as border states. Lincoln's win caused many Southern states to suspect that their rights would not be protected so they seceded from the Union and established the [Confederate States of America](#), which eventually led to the American Civil War.

**List a few things that you see in this picture.**

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**Based upon your understanding of the reading, answer the following questions:**

1. Based upon the text, please define "sectionalism"...
2. What were the different "sections" in the sectionalism of the United States?
3. What was the name of the Compromise that solved the balance of power in the United States?
4. Who won the presidency based upon the sectionalism of the mid 1800s?
5. In what year did Missouri try to become a state?