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Course

Date

Expansion of the United States, Slavery and Expulsion of Southern Natives from their Homeland  
(1783 to 1861)

When the Revolutionary war ended in 1783, England recognized America's land and territorial claims that included the Mississippi River's western part. The Americans successfully doubled their colonies' size, acquiring pieces of present-day Ohio valley, Kentucky, Tennessee, and purchased Louisiana in 1803, hence the name westward expansion. About the same time, in 1830, President Andrew Jackson passed a new law that demanded political and military interventions to remove the southern natives from their Homeland. The residents were forced to leave their homelands or assimilate to the U.S. law. Foner (1) states that most of the developments and significant trends of the 19<sup>th</sup> century related to the United States history were intimately linked with slavery. Therefore, the western expansion and the expulsion of the native southerners, mainly because the two occasions occurred relatively in the same period, were also connected to slavery. In this regard, this paper explores the association between the three events and the resulting consequences from the interconnection.

Although many historians claim that the westward expansion was the frontier through which democracy was initiated, and Americans embraced the ideas of individualism and equality, giving rise to the prevalence and growth of slavery. As the American territories expanded, slavery was introduced to the southwest side of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. It later expanded to Texas in the early 1840s, making slavery the major political problem in the

1850s. A famous phrase at that time was to make America an "empire of liberty." Nevertheless, the slave-owners and traders claimed slavery to be an important factor in civilization. They argued that it led to society as it freed the upper class from manual labor, leading to more excellent mechanical and literature innovations. The southerners were solidly united to keeping slavery a continuous trend. Therefore, it is practical to say that the U.S.'s expansion led to the growth of the slave trade resulting in it being a central political question. Besides, the Northern side did not have cases of the slave trade. However, Foner (1) suggests that maybe the idea of the connection of slavery and the U.S.'s expansion in the North was ignored.

President's Jackson desire to expand the American land led to the expulsion of the native southerners, and consequently, slavery. When Andrew Jackson was elected as president in 1828, he pledged to expand America westwards. He said, "what good man would prefer a country covered with forest and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic" (Foner 1). After expanding American territories to the west, President Jackson, fueled by the urgency for civilization, captured the Southern land belonging to the Indian natives. Some of the Indians were forcibly removed and escorted to Oklahoma in the "Trail of Tears" journey. The Indian's Homeland became cotton plantations and settlements for settlers who brought along slaves to work in the farms. Hence, it can be perceived that the expansion to the west as a means to remove native Indians from the fertile southern lands and promise them a settlement in the unsuitable western side. This connection between expansion and expulsion resulted in slave plantations, slave tension between the North and Southern parts leading to the civil war. It led to significant consequences, such as the settlers becoming successful farmers while the natives lost their land and settled in problematic areas. Nevertheless, it led America to become a dominant and powerful nation.

Nonetheless, the American expansion and expulsion of southerners also led to the release of some slaves. During the migration of settlers towards the South, after expanding the west side and removing Indian natives from the South, the British army released a considerable number of slaves (U.S. History 1). However, only those who agreed to fight for America were granted freedom, while those who refused remained in bondage. Additionally, some of the Indian-American natives led by Chief John Ross were slaveholders. When they acquired the new Indian land in Oklahoma, the Indian natives reestablished slavery as the captives were the primary labor source of establishing new nations. Hence, slavery was also introduced on the western side.

In summary, slavery was connected mainly to America's westward enlargement and removing native Indian southerners from their Homeland. Nonetheless, expansion and expulsion were also related since the United States' growth to the west aimed at driving natives to the unfertile west side and clearing the fertile southern land for slave plantations and settlements for settlers. As a result, slavery was expanded into the south part of America, and some slaves were released during the settler's journey to the southern settlements. The consequences of the relationship between slavery, expansion of America, and removal of natives was increased tension between the North and south sides, which later led to the civil war that made America a mighty nation.

Works Cited

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