

PERIOD 5 DBQ

DBQ MODIFIED FOR 2020 EXAM FORMAT

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. **You will have 45 minutes to complete this DBQ.**

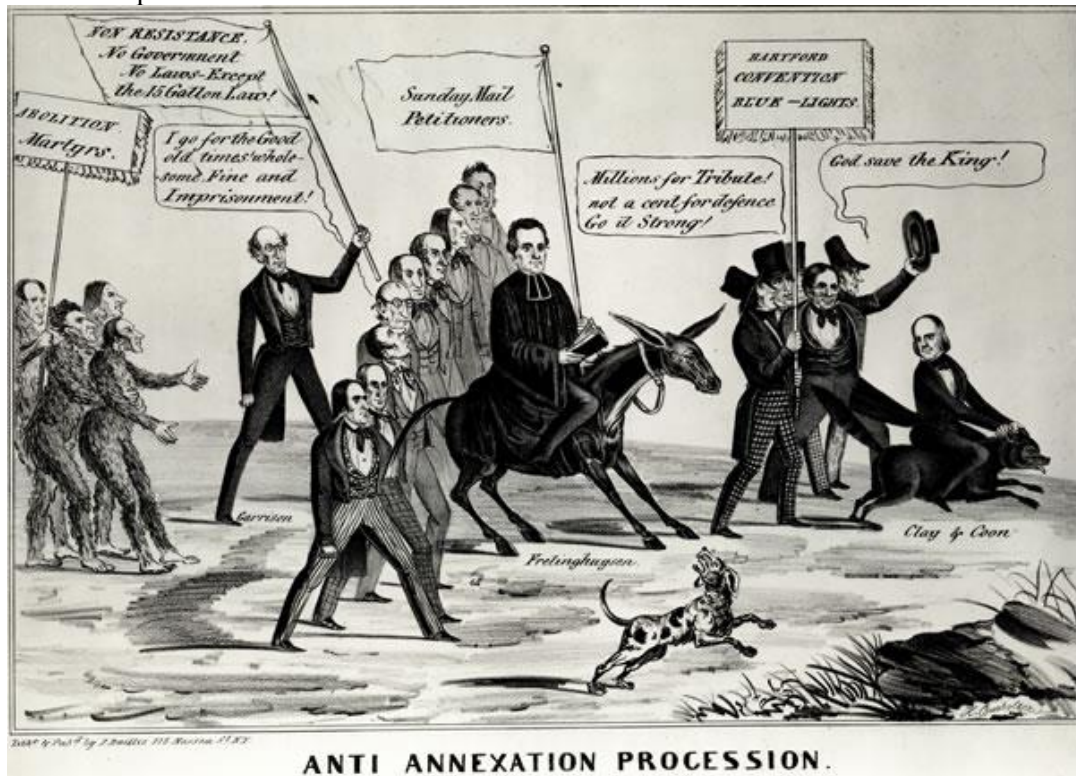
In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensive thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least 4 documents.
- Use 2 additional pieces of specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument in the prompt.
- For at least 2 documents, explain how or why the documents point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
- Use evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt.

1. Analyze the debates that emerged over Western expansion from 1844 - 1861 and evaluate the extent to which each perspective influenced American policy.

Document 1

Source: 1844 political cartoon



Description:

At the head Henry Clay followed by three groups of men. The first (right) are the "Hartford Convention Blue-Lights," who shout, "God save the King!" and "Millions for Tribute! not a cent for defense Go it Strong!"

Next (center) is a line of "Sunday Mail Petitioners," One of them remarks, "I go for the Good old times! wholesome, Fine and Imprisonment!"

William Lloyd Garrison leads the third group. He displays the banner of "Non-Resistance, No Government No Laws--Except the 15 Gallon Law!" His followers are the "Abolition Martyrs" (far left)

Document 2

Source: *Washington Daily Union* Article of March 16, 1848

It is true that the war has cost us millions of money, and, what is far more precious, the lives of some of our noblest citizens. But what great advantages has it not obtained for us? It has covered us with glory. It has extended our fame to the remotest corners of earth. If the treaty be ratified, it will extend the area of freedom to the southern Pacific. ... Now they are tamed. Now they have consented to negotiate for peace, without requiring our ships to leave their coast and our troops to desert their territory. These in the popular sentiment have been produced by the brilliant achievements of Buena Vista and of Cerro Gordo, the capture of their castle and of their capital. Does anyone now believe that their spirit is not humbled, and that the sense of their own inferiority will not induce them to refrain from a repetition of the insults and aggressions which they had so repeatedly perpetrated upon us? They will be stripped, too, of a large portion of their territory. They may be stripped of more, if they should wantonly insult us again. Will not the lessons they have learned operate as a security for the future?

Document 3

Source: President James Polk Address to Congress Regarding Gold in California – Dec. 5, 1848.

It was known that mines of the precious metals existed to a considerable extent in California at the time of its acquisition. Recent discoveries render it probable that these mines are more extensive and valuable than was anticipated. The accounts of the abundance of gold in that territory are of such an extraordinary character as would scarcely command belief were they not corroborated by the authentic reports of officers in the public service who have visited the mineral district and derived the facts which they detail from personal observation. Reluctant to credit the reports in general circulation as to the quantity of gold, the officer commanding our forces in California visited the mineral district in July last for the purpose of obtaining accurate information on the subject. The explorations already made warrant the belief that the supply is very large and that gold is found at various places in an extensive district of country

Document 4

Source: Taylor, Bayard – Reporter for New York Tribune – 1849.

The first result of the rush of emigrants from all parts of the world into California- a country almost unknown- was to nearly end all law. The countries which were nearest the golden coast sent forth thousands of adventurers, who speedily outnumbered the American population. Another factor that threatened serious consequences was the large numbers of worthless and wicked people from our own country who came to the pacific coast. From the beginning, a lack of government, or law might have been expected. Instead of this, there was a desire to maintain order and protect the rights of all throughout the mining districts. In the absence of all law or available protection, the people met and adopted rules for their mutual security – rules adapted to their situation where they had neither guards nor prisons. Small thefts were punished by banishment from diggings. For those of large amount or for more serious crimes, there was the single alternative of hanging.

Document 5

Source: Robert Toombs of Georgia statement on the House of Representatives Floor December 13, 1849 regarding the Wilmot Proviso.

I do not, then, hesitate to avow before this House and the country, and in the presence of the living God, that if by your legislation you seek to drive us from the territories of California and New Mexico, purchased by the common blood and treasure of the whole people, and to abolish slavery in this District, thereby attempting to fix a national degradation upon half the states of this Confederacy, I am for disunion. And if my physical courage be equal to the maintenance of my convictions of right and duty, I will devote all I am and all have on earth to its consummation. The Territories are the common property of the people of the United States, purchased by their common blood and treasure. You are their common agents. It is your duty, while they are in a territorial state, to remove all impediments to their free enjoyment by all sections and people of the Union, the slaveholder and the non-slaveholder