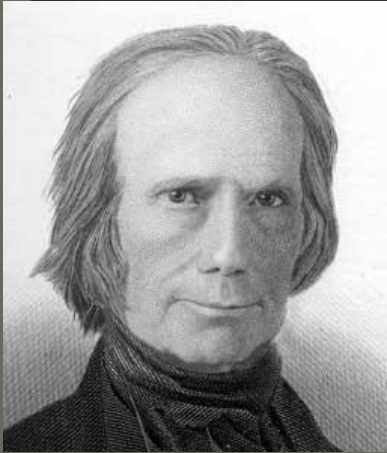


Henry Clay and The American System

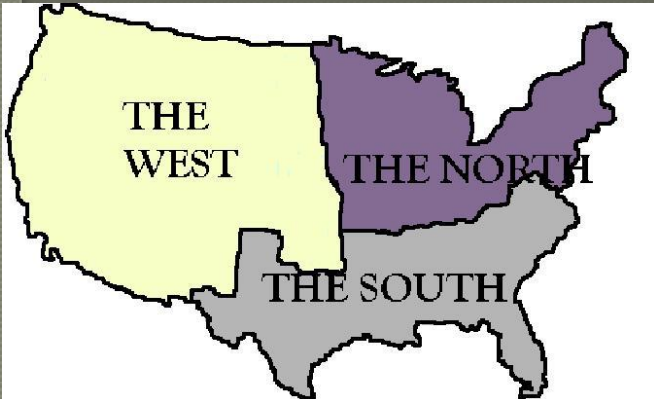


Henry Clay

The Great Compromiser

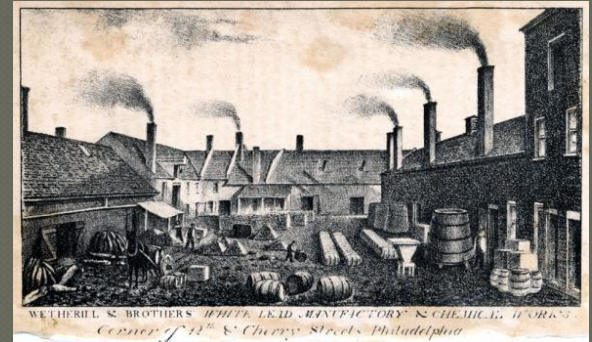


- ✦ Henry Clay had a great ability to find compromise.
- ✦ After the tariff of 1816 the South was very unhappy. The products they imported from Europe were now more expensive.
- ✦ The South felt the North and Congress did not care if they were happy or not.
- ✦ This was causing sectionalism, or a split, in the country between the North, South and West.
- ✦ Sectionalism is when people are more loyal to the section of the country where they live rather than to the country as a whole.



The American System

- The American System was a plan to strengthen and unify the nation.
- The plan was suggested by Henry Clay and supported by the Whig Party.
- The Plan included:
 - Support a high protective tariff
 - Keep high public land prices to generate federal revenue.
 - Keep the Bank of the United States.
 - Develop of a system of internal improvements (such as roads, bridges, canals and railroads) to unite the nation together . These improvements would be financed by the tariff and land sales.



The American System



- Clay argued that the West should support the tariff because Northerners consumed Western foods.
- He also argued that the South should support the tariff because the North was a ready market for cotton.
- Parts of the American System were enacted by Congress.
 - 2nd bank of the United States
 - High tariffs
- But the internal improvements were never adequately funded.
 - Partly due to sectional jealousies.