Conflict and Compromise in History

Conflict and Compromise in Missouri

- **Vietnam Civilian Protest:** The lack of compromise in Vietnam from U.S. officials (entering the war itself) sparked unrest at home in many states in the form of protests and demonstrations. Consider the student strikes and rallies for peace at the University of Missouri-Columbia.
  

- **Social Conflict during the War: Japanese Internment:** After the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Roosevelt decided he needed to compromise the livelihood of American citizens of Japanese descent in order to prevent a feared conflict that the Japanese would infiltrate America from the inside. Consider the internment of Japanese Americans and the influence colleges like the University of Washington St. Louis had on the effectiveness of Executive Order 9066.
  
  [http://libguides.wustl.edu/japanese-american](http://libguides.wustl.edu/japanese-american)

- **Missouri Compromise:** What seemed like a good idea at first, the Missouri Compromise promised Missouri statehood as a slave state, and Maine statehood as a free one, keeping the balance of free and slave states equal in Congress. However, this compromise sparked larger feuds between the North and the South when it was repealed and replaced, which would ultimately lead to skirmishes between the two sides, and eventually, the Civil War.
  
  [http://ancestralfindings.com/the-missouri-compromise-what-was-it-and-how-did-it-contribute-to-the-civil-war/](http://ancestralfindings.com/the-missouri-compromise-what-was-it-and-how-did-it-contribute-to-the-civil-war/)

- **Missouri Mormon War:** Religious differences in the Midwest and the lack of compromise resulted in the Mormon War, the widespread violence between Mormon and Protestant groups that pushed the Mormons into moving west to flee persecution. Consider the effects of the Missouri Mormon War.
  
  [http://www.civilwaronthewesternborder.org/timeline/mormon-war](http://www.civilwaronthewesternborder.org/timeline/mormon-war)

- **Ragtime, Blues, and Jazz: St. Louis and the Beginning of a New Musical Generation:** Civil War tensions over slavery ended in 1865, but racial discrimination did not dissipate so quickly, and thus a new world of music was born from artists like Scott Joplin, W.C. Handy, and Mamie Smith, who felt compelled to write songs with feelings of sadness and injustice they experienced as African-Americans post-war. Consider the impact St. Louis had on this music movement.
  

- **King Assassination Riots 1968:** The Civil Rights movement had begun to make progress with the help of sit-ins, marches, and the face of the movement- Martin Luther King Jr. However, when he was murdered in 1968, the country erupted in violence. Consider the effectiveness of these riots in places like Kansas City, and if they were the conflict or compromise to the bigger issue.
The Right to Die: The history of a person’s ‘right to die’ has always been questionable for reasons such as whether they had previously given consent to another in the event they couldn’t make their own decisions, and whether a person in critical condition has said whether or not they would want to be kept alive. The famous court case Cruzan v. Director of Missouri Department of Health examines this right and provides a compromise.

Maya Angelou and the Civil Rights Movement: Born in St. Louis, Angelou was a prominent figure in the Civil Rights campaign both in America, but in South Africa. Working as an activist through writing, she also confronted the conflicts of being a woman, not just an African American. Consider how her deeds affected the Civil Rights movement and perpetuated compromise.

Political Machines: In the early 1900s America was allowing immigrants to enter the country at alarming rates, and because political parties wanted their votes, the growth of political machines occurred in big cities. Consider the impact the machine Tom Pendergast had on meeting the needs of these immigrants, did it solve a problem or create a new conflict?

Women’s Suffrage Beginnings: Virginia Minor: Among the very first suffragettes, Virginia Minor was truly a revolutionary who believed conflict was occurring due to the injustice women were facing due to their lack of the right to vote. Her compromise was found in new institutions such as the Women Suffrage Association of Missouri and Missouri Women's Suffrage Conventions, where she would influence women like Susan B. Anthony.

Mary Paxton Keeley: Trailblazer for Women in Journalism: The early twentieth century was a time filled with hardship for women in fields outside the home. However, pioneers such as Mary Paxton Keeley made the way easier for future female students in the journalism industry, seeing as she was the first woman to graduate from the University of Missouri School of Journalism and would later work for the Kansas City Post.
• **Lucile Bluford**: At a time where African-Americans were experiencing severe racism, activists were doing their best to combat the injustices they experienced. Consider the activist Lucile Bluford and her battles with the courts for equal rights for black students in higher education, specifically journalism.

http://library.umkc.edu/spec-col-collections/bluford

• **Dred Scott v. Sanford**: Late nineteenth century views of African American rights were conflicted over the legitimacy of claims of citizenship among enslaved peoples, became deeply divided as slave Dred Scott went to court to sue for his freedom. As Scott had long lived North of the 36° 30 line while his master lived in the South, confusion surrounding the Missouri Compromise led to its repeal, fueling this case. The eventual decision—that Scott, as an enslaved man, lacked citizenship, and, consequently, the right to sue—sparked major conflict, arousing political divisions leading to Lincoln’s election prior to the Civil War.

https://www.nps.gov/jeff/planyourvisit/dredscott.htm

• **Alexander Doniphan and Mormon Defense**: During the 1830s, large Mormon migration to Missouri prompted local fear Mormons would gain a hold on votes through a political majority, sparking conflict which led to Mormon subjugation. Doniphan tried to initiate a land-based compromise through the establishment of Caldwell County: a Mormon safehaven. Mormon spillover saw a breakdown of this compromise, leading to the Missouri Mormon War. After the capture and ordered unlawful execution of Joseph Smith and his followers, Doniphan refused to take the lives of these Mormon leaders until they were granted a trial, arguing their constitutional rights of Americans. Consider the impact of Doniphan’s Mormon defense on religious freedom in Missouri and whether or not his actions more closely incited conflict or propelled Missourians towards compromise.


• **The Geyer Act and Public Education in Missouri**: Based upon Thomas Jefferson’s plans for the establishment of public education systems in Virginia, the Geyer Act, introduced by James Rollins and written by Henry Geyer, established Missouri Public Schools as well as the University of Missouri. Though well intentioned, impracticalities within this act sparked conflicts in proper implementation of public schools systems, forcing lawmakers to the compromise of revoking the majority of this act in 1841. The act, nonetheless, largely shaped current Missouri public education systems.

http://muarchives.missouri.edu/um-hist.html
Conflict and Compromise in Kansas

- **Darwin vs. Creationism:** The Scopes Trial of 1926: Religious conflicts over the teaching of evolution in public schools led to the compromise that the Butler Act which had previously banned teaching anything other than creationism in schools. Consider the Next Generation Science Standards in Kansas

- **Vietnam Civilian Protest:** The lack of compromise in Vietnam from U.S. officials (entering the war itself) sparked unrest at home in many states in the form of protests and demonstrations. Consider the student strikes and antiwar rallies in Kansas in 1967, known as the Vietnam Summer.
  [https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/bitstream/handle/1808/20713/Coen_Lawrence_Political_Protests.pdf?sequence=1](https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/bitstream/handle/1808/20713/Coen_Lawrence_Political_Protests.pdf?sequence=1)

- **Ku Klux Klan:** The infamous white supremacy group embodies their distorted view of how compromise influences conflict. To them, the conflict was African-Americans were taking their jobs and polluting the country, the compromise being death to all blacks. However, the real conflict was their violence all across the South. Consider the murders that took place in Kansas just prior to the Election of 1868.
  [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANEXPERIENCE/features/grant-kkk/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANEXPERIENCE/features/grant-kkk/)

- **Dockum Drug Store Sit-In:** A prevalent problem in the late 50’s and early 60’s was segregation of blacks and whites. This conflict sparked those who advocated change to do so peacefully, through means of marches, walkouts, and sit-ins. An overlooked but incredibly important sit-in was held at Dockum Drug Store in Wichita, Kansas. This protest of segregation would influence further sit-ins such as the one held in Greensboro, North Carolina.

- **Bleeding Kansas and John Brown:** Although the majority of Americans were content with the Compromise of 1850, some were becoming increasingly violent abolitionists, most notably, John Brown. Men like him and others who used violence to assert their views on slavery caused Bleeding Kansas, a conflict that would not be solved until Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

- **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka:** Due to Jim Crow laws in the south post-Civil War, segregation was immensely prevalent, the court case Plessy v. Ferguson even advocated the notion of ‘separate but equal’. However, it was becoming quite clear that separate does not mean equal, and integration was the only way race relations were to improve. The first step- integrate public schools. This landmark Supreme Court case was certainly a compromise to end one conflict, but did it start another?
  [http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/history-brown-v-board-education-re-enactment](http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/history-brown-v-board-education-re-enactment)
• **Indian Removal: Potawatomi Trail of Death:** With the idea of Manifest Destiny emerging, settlers in the east migrated west for more land, land that was already settled by Native Americans. Consider the settlers in Indiana who forcibly removed nearly 900 Potawatomis to Kansas. Conflicts like this would find a solution in Andrew Jackson in 1830 with the Indian Removal Act.

[http://www.potawatomi-tda.org/ptodhist.htm](http://www.potawatomi-tda.org/ptodhist.htm)

• **Exodusters:** Despite the Emancipation Proclamation and the Union’s victory in the Civil War, many African Americans still felt discriminated when looking for jobs and no longer wanted to live in the predominantly racist South. The result of this was a mass migration of blacks to Kansas where the prospects of work was better and race relations not as tense.


• **Alexander Howat and the United Mine Workers of America:** Although the strike that occurred in Franklin, Kansas 1921 is not the most famous strike, the case had major influence on union workers and their right to strike. Because the case made it all the way to the Supreme Court (Dorchy v. Kansas), the Kansas state legislature was forced to disband the Kansas Industrial Court, a compromise that was much appreciated by the miners involved.


• **Albert Reid and Antitrusts:** The progressive movement was perpetuated by the rise of big business and the robber barons that took advantage of it. Although they were rich, the working class did not appreciate becoming poorer while corporate officials became richer and decided to express this through means of political cartoons like Albert Reid. Ultimately, the government would find a compromise and relax their laissez faire tendencies.

[http://kshs.org/kansapedia/antitrust-cartoon/15775](http://kshs.org/kansapedia/antitrust-cartoon/15775)

• **The Eisenhower Doctrine:** The only President to come from Kansas, Dwight D. Eisenhower was a staunch Republican who favored a strong military influence, especially in the Middle East. Conflicts that arose due to Soviet interference in Syria and Egypt known as the Suez Crisis would try to be suppressed by Eisenhower and his namesake doctrine.


• **Amelia Earhart:** Born in Atchison, Kansas, Earhart was a symbol of conflict for traditionalists who resisted women in areas of work outside the home. She was extremely successful; Earhart was the first woman to cross the Atlantic on a plane, and merely four years later, became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She was one of many
women who were inspirations for the feminist movement in the 1920’s.
https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/amelia-earhart/

- **Gwendolyn Brooks**: Brooks’s life as a poet along with her works themselves express the conflicts many had to endure in her lifetime. Despite these conflicts, Gwendolyn Brooks was able to write in such a style that won her the first Pulitzer Prize ever awarded to a black author.
  https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/gwendolyn-brooks

- **Quantrill’s Raiders**: Failure to uphold the Missouri Compromise through its repeal by the 1954 Kansas-Nebraska Act led to widespread conflict over the status of Kansas as a free or slave state. In an attempt to gain substantial influence amid the unraveling of this compromise, Quantrill developed and implemented a new method guerilla warfare which targeted soldiers and civilians alike.
  https://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/i_r/quantrill.htm

**Conflict and Compromise in the Truman Presidency**

- **Segregation of Troops**: President Truman in 1948 decided to enact Executive Order 9981 that desegregated the U.S. armed forces. He did this to create an integrated military.

- **Truman and the Atomic Bomb**: World War Two was over in Europe, but it continued in the Pacific, and the Japanese had made it quite clear that they would not surrender. To end the war and prevent the loss of more American troops, Truman used the new atomic weapon on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
  https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/index.php

- **Potsdam Conference**: After the Western Allied invasion of Germany in 1945, the Nazi regime had officially surrendered. Allied leaders who had accomplished the end of the war in Europe met at Potsdam to discuss the demilitarization and disarmament of the country. This compromise ensured that no future conflict would arise.
  https://www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/potsdam.htm

- **Nuremberg War Crime Trials**: Following the surrender of Nazi Germany, international allies scheduled trials for Nazi war criminals on the grounds of crimes against humanity and crimes against peace. These trials would mark the compromise that would bring solace for victims of the Nazi regime. A primary advocate in the execution of these trials was President Harry Truman.
  https://trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/nuremberg/

- **Korean War**: Conflict between the North Koreans and South Koreans and the foreign policy shift led by President Truman after WWII shows how a compromise can end conflict.
  https://www.trumanlibrary.org/hstpaper/koreasub.htm
• **Cold War Containment:** In 1945 the Second World War was officially over, but a new conflict was developing for who would be the new world power. Truman foresaw that a war with the U.S.S.R would be imminent if he did not construct a new foreign policy to counteract the expanding communist threat in Eastern Europe. His compromise strategy would become known as containment.
  

• **The Marshall Plan:** Post WWII, Europe was in ruins, and the U.S.S.R. was seeking more territory towards the west. Truman knew that communism needed to stay contained, and to effectively do that he must prevent Europe from struggling financially. The compromise George Marshall suggested would save Europe from starvation and successfully contain the communists.
  
  [https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/marshall/large/](https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/marshall/large/)

• **The Truman Doctrine:** Although WWII was over, a new threat emerged that was just as dangerous—communism. To stop the spread of communism, President Truman established his namesake doctrine that would provide aid to any country who were, or could become victims of the Soviet Union’s expansion of communism. This doctrine was effective in preventing a worldwide conflict.
  

• **United Nations:** Truman could see the problems that arose after the First World War and how those conflicts had perpetuated the Second World War, so he, along with 51 other countries created a compromise known as the United Nations that would take on a wide variety of other conflicts such as raising the standard of living, promoting human rights, and preventing war.
  
  [http://www.un.org/un70/en/content/history](http://www.un.org/un70/en/content/history)

• **Berlin Airlift:** In response to the conflict Stalin perpetuated by blockading Berlin from Allied aid in 1948 which would end with starving Berliners and Soviet control of the city, Truman’s compromise was to send continuous airplanes into the city to provide provisions. Although this compromise solved the problem of starvation in the city, it did not stop the Soviets from continuing their grab for European control.
  

• **Truman and the Fair Deal:** Although the conflicts abroad took up much of President Truman’s time, he also knew he must address the problems at home. His compromise was proposed to a Joint Session of congress in 1949 and would take into account the domestic conflicts at home such as housing reform, equal opportunity for those looking for work, and universal health insurance.
https://trumanlibrary.org/news/fairdeal.htm

Additional Links:

- Truman’s Calendar: https://www.trumanlibrary.org/calendar/
- National Archives: https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog
- Presidential Libraries: https://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/visit
- Missouri History:
  - http://www.kchistory.org/
- U.S. Courts: http://www.uscourts.gov/
- PBS American Experience: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANexperience/
- Kansas History:
  - https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/kansas-military-timeline/18941
- NHD Leaders in Our World: http://100leaders.org/
- National Women’s History Museum: https://www.nwhm.org/