

The Constitution, a Compromise

Elder Tess

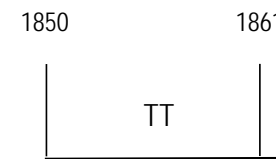
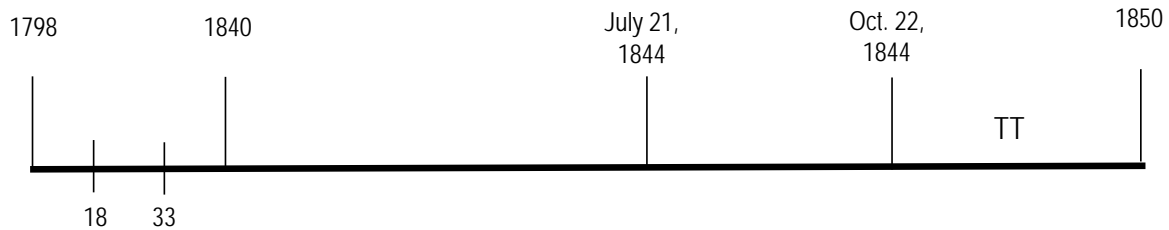
September 19, 2020



Islands of the Sea September Camp Meeting #1

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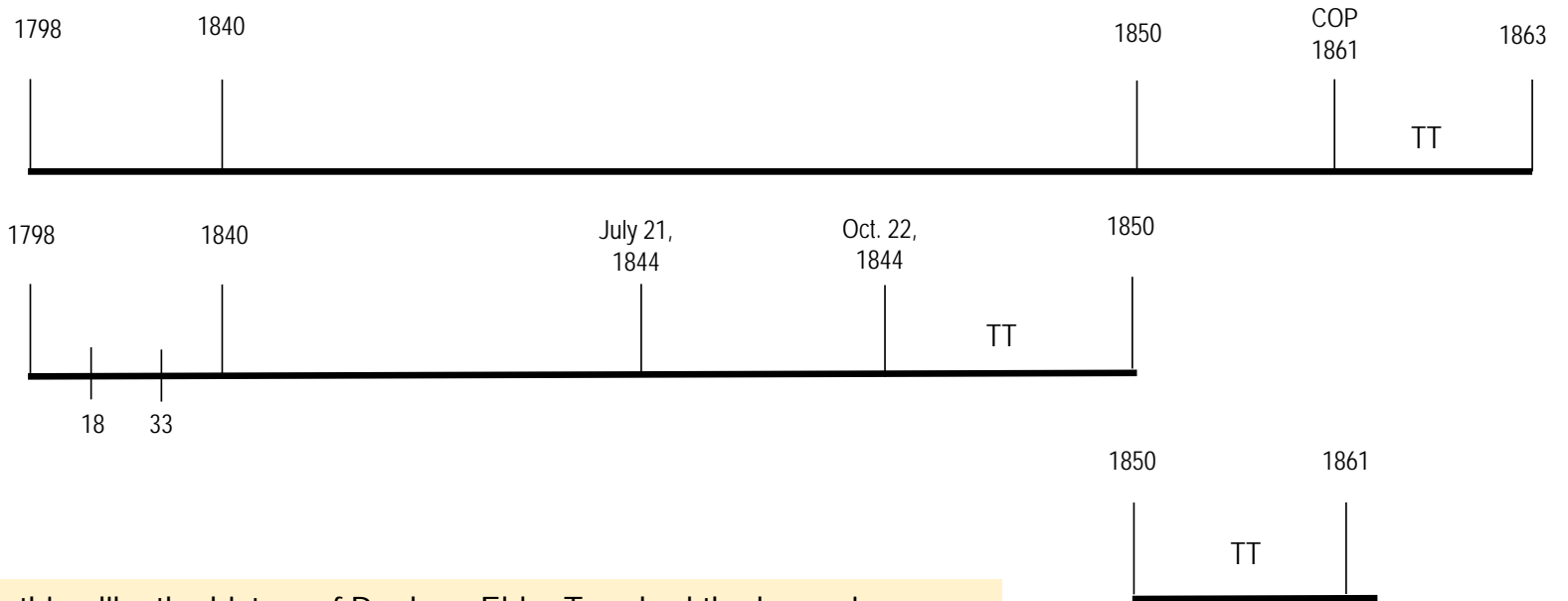
Henry Clay



In the presentations last year we went from country to country reviewing the same thing. We got stronger and more specific every time. We don't have the opportunity to do that this year so we're building upon what we cannot review. So it's important that we go back and watch previous presentations.

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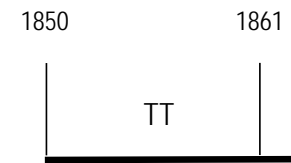
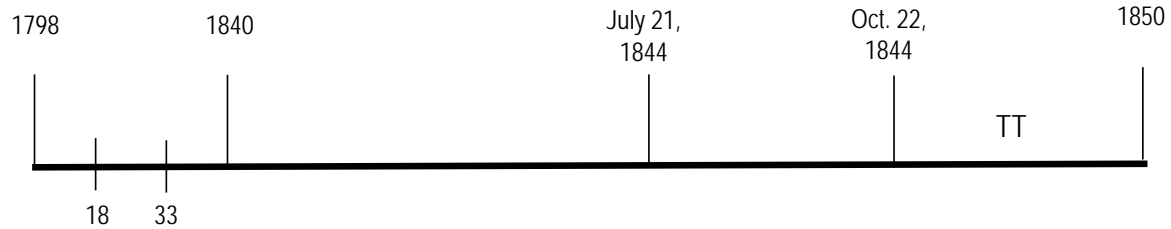
Henry Clay



When you consider something like the history of Pyrrhus, Elder Tess had the luxury in studying that history for about 2 years. There was an opportunity to study what was a complex history, with no further movement responsibilities and no teaching. It was two years of study before application was made. One mistake that is repeatedly made in the movement, it happens much less now than it used to happen, we are much too fast in making application. Much too fast. A prime example of that is how we used to understand World War I and World War II.

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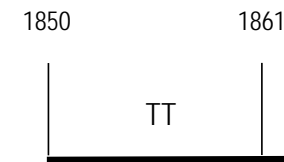
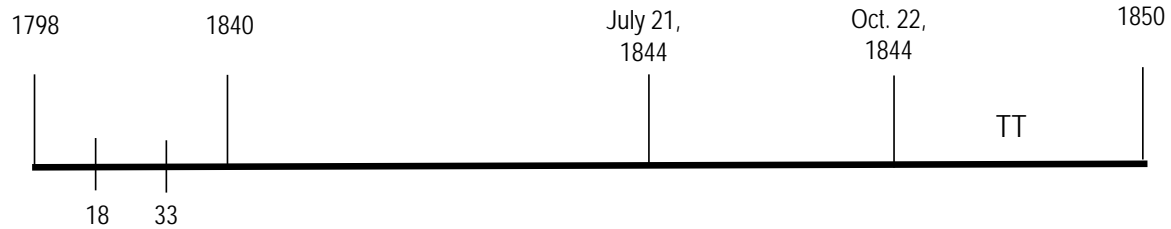
Henry Clay



What we are doing now is looking at Millerite history. But in these presentations we'll be focusing on the external political history. It is in many ways as complex as the history of Pyrrhus. But we're going to do it together. And that's why we need to understand the point that we must be slow to make application. What we are doing is going through all of that history as if we were looking at the Diadochi wars. There is noise, complicated events. Instead of Elder Tess studying it separate, we are studying and developing the prophetic application together and we're looking at some of that noise not to make application but to give context.

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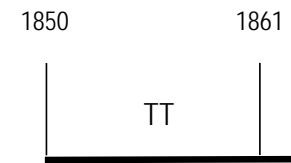
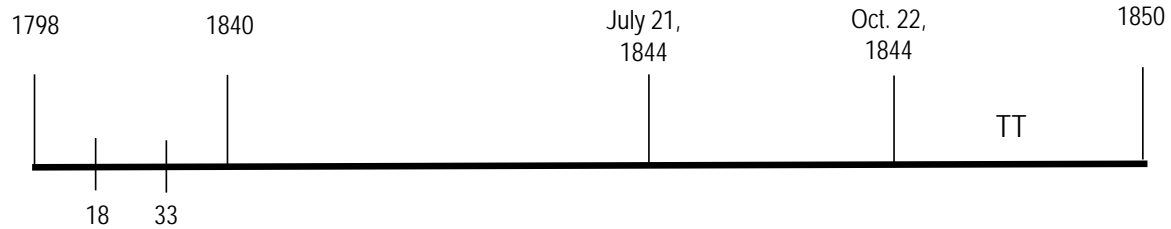
Henry Clay



What we'll be doing in this presentation and the next is just look at a lot of external events. And what we hope to see is just as we might look at the Diodochi wars, there is a prophetic application. So we're going to go through an overview of this history. There is already an agenda, some idea of what we need to get from this period so some of the noise has already been cut out. We might go back and look at that event and we might say people aren't fighting over slavery, their main disagreement was about establishing a national bank. So some noise has already been cut out. Hopefully we'll be able to see the picture that is developing.

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Henry Clay



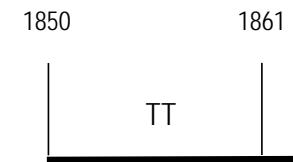
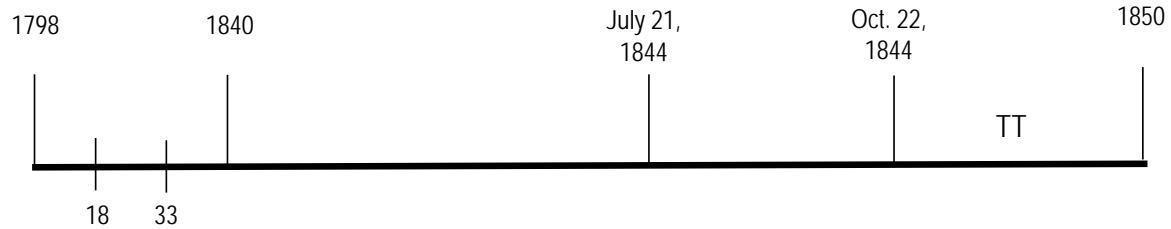
When Pyrrhus was first presented many people struggled. They said why are we looking at these worldly political events that aren't in inspiration? And prayerfully we don't make that same mistake now and that we can see that the political history of 1798 to 1863 is prophetic.

So in this presentation and the next it will be mostly history.

A few weeks ago a brother asked a question. He asked about the political parties in the United States, specifically the Whig party. We'll give a brief context.

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Henry Clay



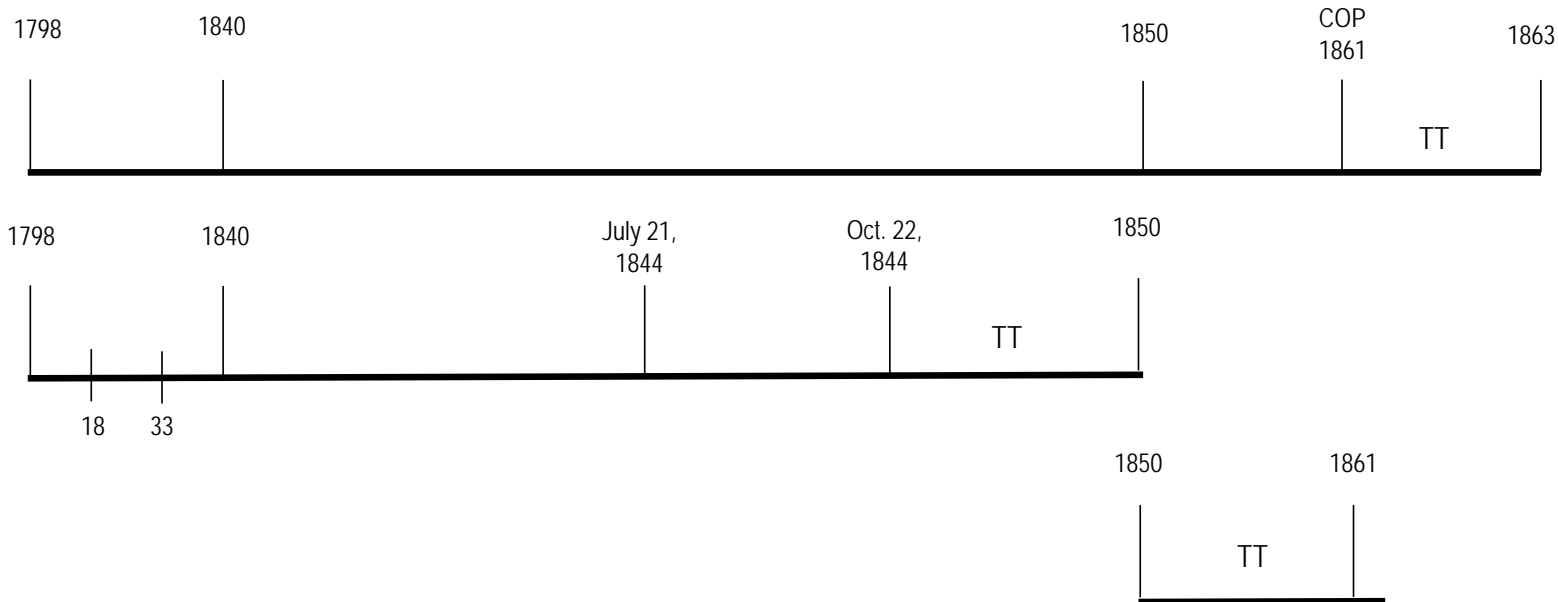
The founders of the United States, the writers of the Constitution never intended for there to be political parties. They never intended this polarization. In fact they feared that that is what would develop. But it inevitably did, particularly in the 1790s.

Historians divide this political history into parts

- 1st Party system 1792-1824
- 2nd Party system 1828-1854
- 3rd Party system 1854-1890's

Henry Clay

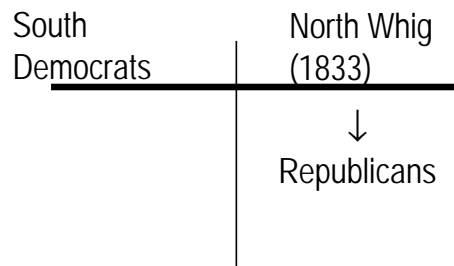
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• First party system 1792 to 1824 we won't discuss much the political parties in that history. They were still forming this two-party system

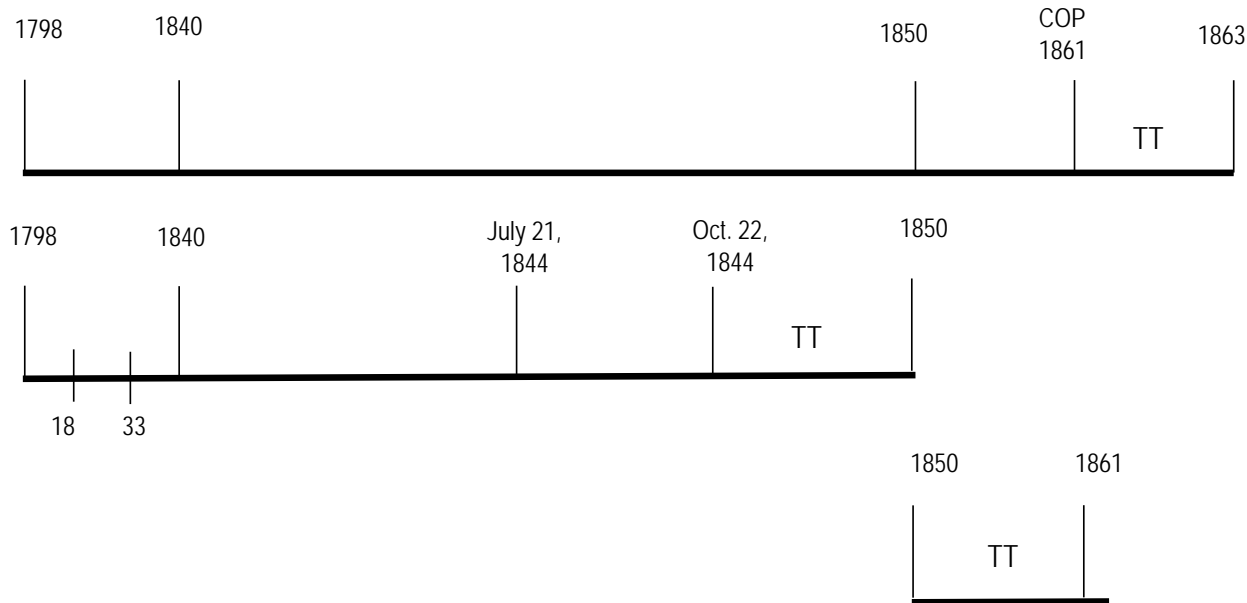
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Henry Clay



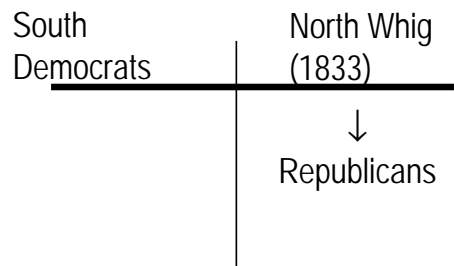
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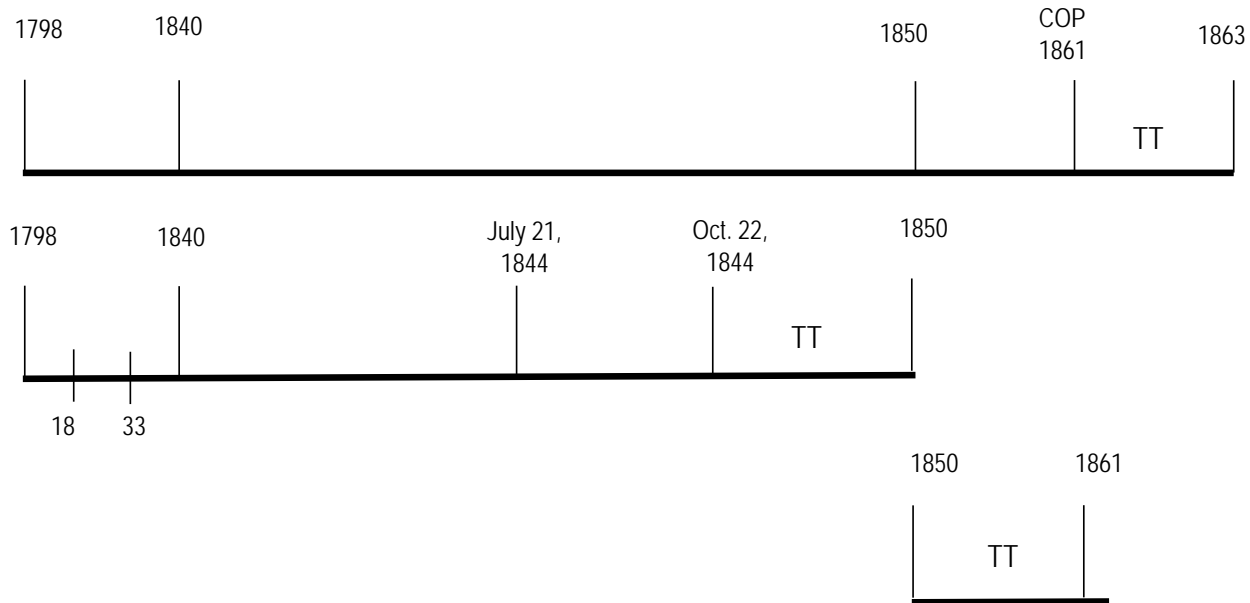
• **Second party system 1828 to 1854**
 Much of what we'll discuss is in this time period and there are two primary political parties. You have the Democrat party as opposed to the Whig party. Democrats versus Whigs. In the mid-1850s that Whig party is going to collapse. The subject of slavery was part of that collapse. It largely morphed into the Republican party. Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president. But in his early days he was a Whig. In 1840 he's traveling the United States fighting for the Whig candidate. So today there are Democrats and Republicans. To simplify we would say Democrats good guys, Republicans bad guys. So when we talk about the Whig party it's the predecessor of the Republican party, that's the first thing we need to keep in mind.

Henry Clay



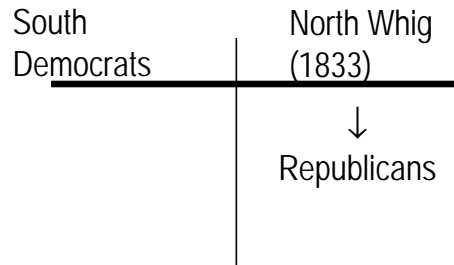
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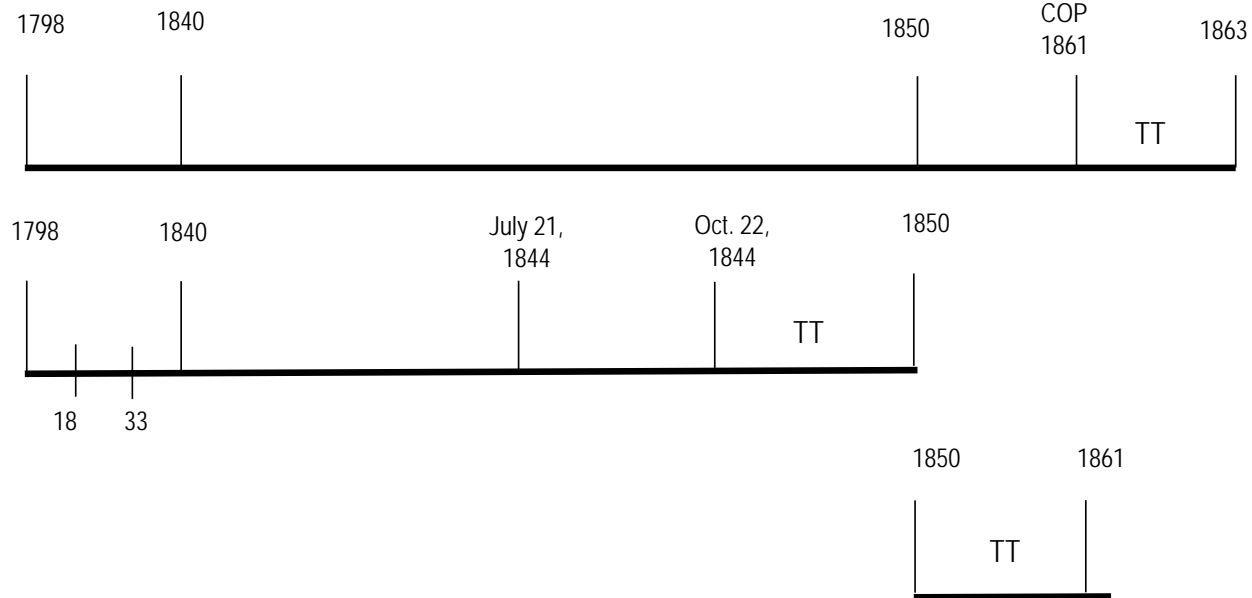
• **Second party system 1828 to 1854 *cont.***
 The second thing we cannot forget is that they changed their position on civil rights, to be vague between the Civil War and today. To not be specific they changed their position between the Civil War and Ronald Reagan. So when we go back to that history Democrats are southerners, not entirely like today, but they represent those kinds of interests. And the Whig predecessor to the Republicans represented northern interests. So Democrats represent Republicans today. When we're talking about the period of 1828 to 1854 the Whig party would be today's Democrat party. The Whig party officially formed in 1833. We will discuss more of that history soon.

Henry Clay



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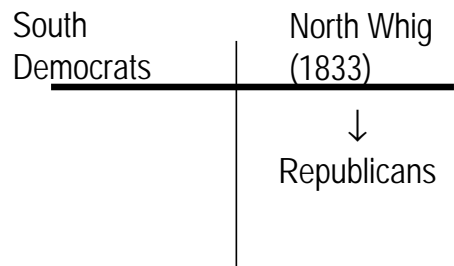


- The third party system is 1854 into the 1890s That was the forming of the Republican party

A brother had asked about the Whig party. And the man that we're going to discuss more than any other is **Henry Clay**.

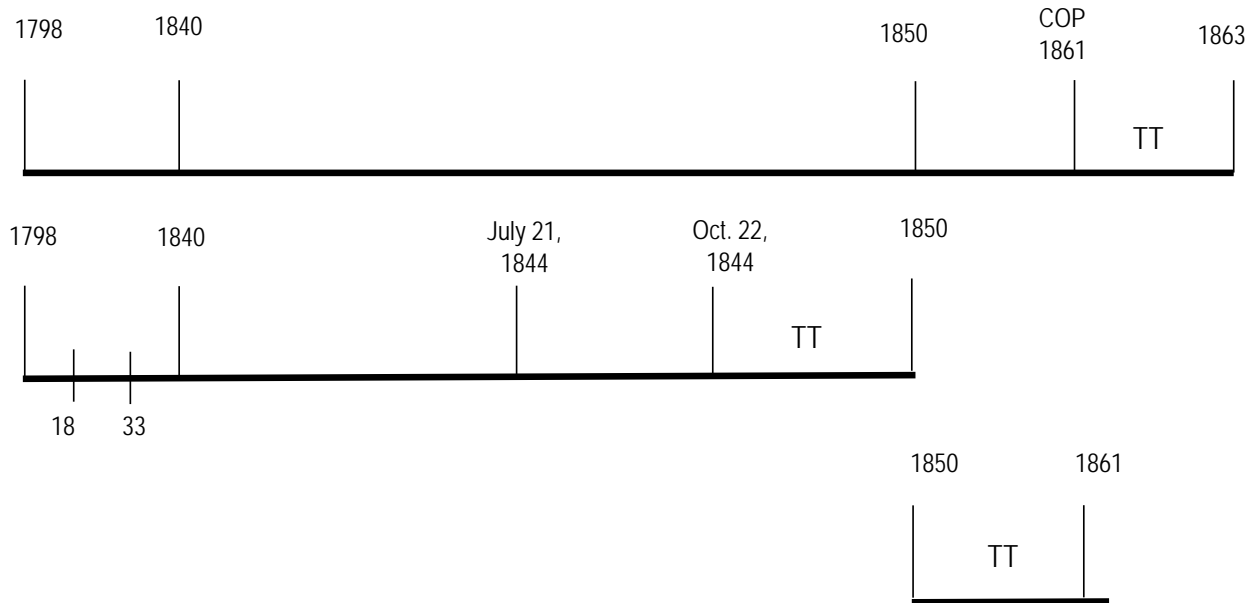
We've given an overview of the forming of the two-party system and we've cut out a lot of noise. We're going to now briefly discuss the history prior to 1828. But most of what we will discuss will be 1828 to 1854.

Henry Clay



- 1st Party system 1792-1824
- 2nd Party system **1828-1854**
- 3rd Party system 1854-1890's

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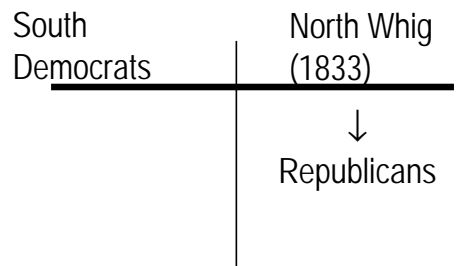


The structure of the reform lines were laid in place in a previous presentation. We have not reviewed that and reinforced it so in this camp meeting we will treat it as fact and then after this camp meeting will review it.

We'll begin looking at this history with the Constitution. Within the Constitution it does not name slavery specifically. They avoid saying the word, but its existence is implied. Without naming slavery they managed to reinforce and regulate it in three specific clauses of the Constitution.

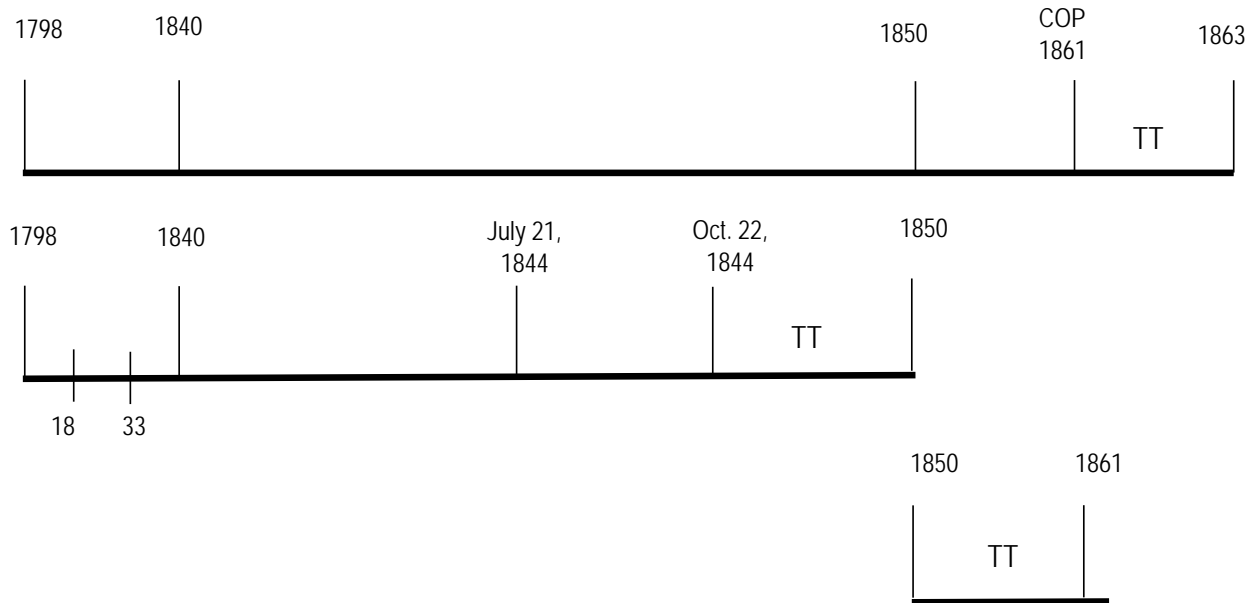
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Henry Clay



1 st Party system	1792-1824
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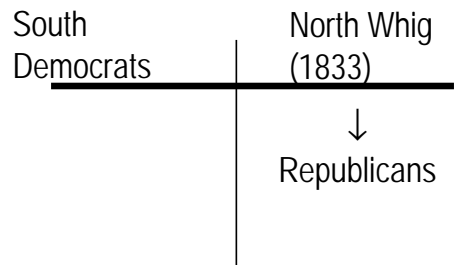
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1. The first we should be well familiar with, it's the 3/5 compromise. That's the clause that names a slave as 3/5 of a person. That clause is spoken of perhaps more than any other.
2. The second was the about the importation of the slaves.
3. The third is the fugitive slave law.

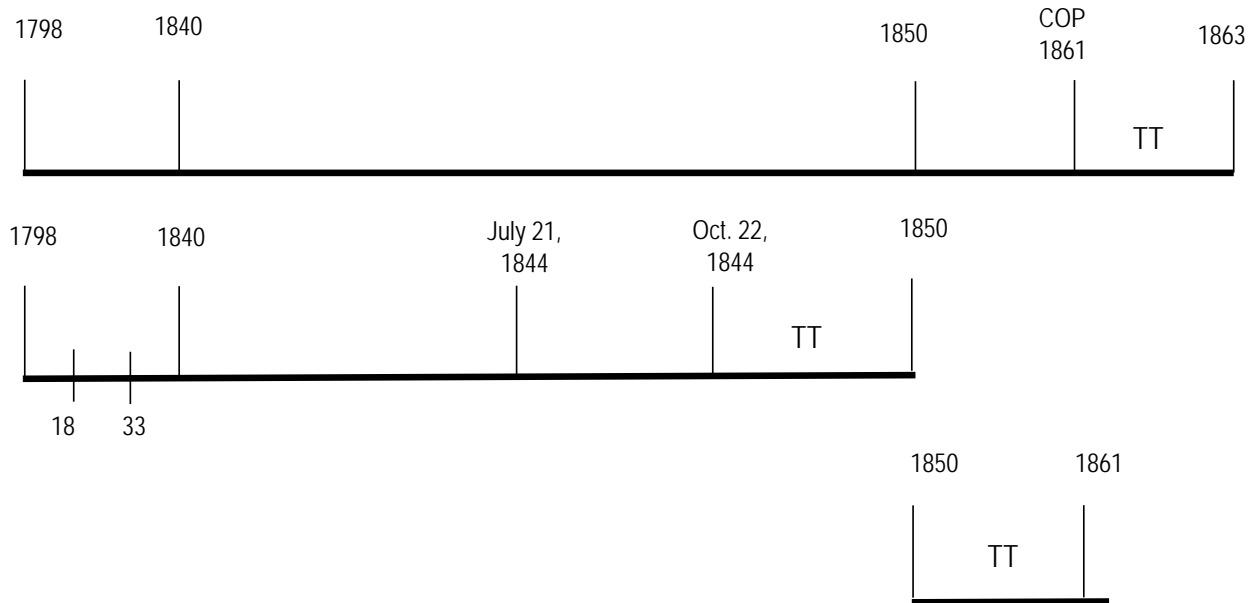
The presence of these clauses in the Constitution demonstrate the efforts for them to hold together the Union perhaps through ambiguous wording, but definitely through compromise. So there can be this idea that the Constitution is some type of perfect document. But it's not. We're going to be looking at a history of compromise. **We want to make the point at the beginning, the Constitution itself is a compromised document.**

Henry Clay



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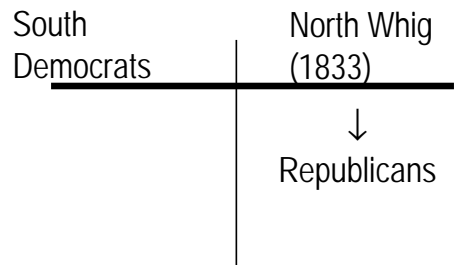


Looking at that third clause we'll read a quote:
 "No person held to service in one state", *that's their ambiguous wording for a slave*, "no person held to service in one state under the laws of that state if they escape into another state and that state does not have people held to service they cannot be discharged from such service or labor but shall be delivered up on the claim of the party to whom their service is due."

This is article 4 section 2 of The Constitution. **We want to be clear that the constitution was a compromised document.**

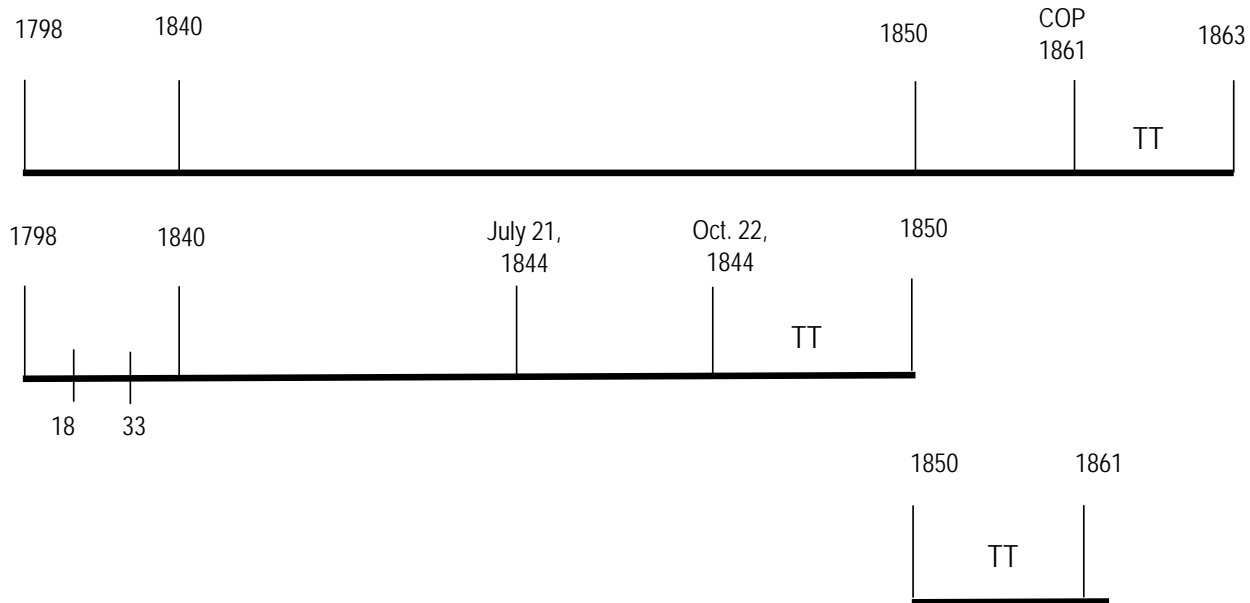
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Henry Clay



- 1st Party system 1792-1824
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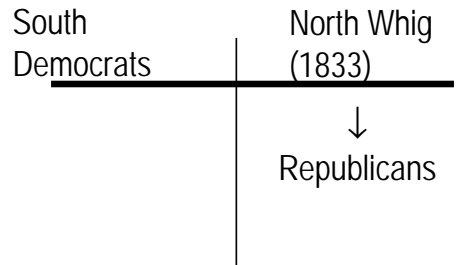
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We should all be familiar with the 1850 Compromise. What does that 1850 Compromise say? If a slave in a slave state escapes to a free state they do not become free but that free state must send them back into slavery to their owner.

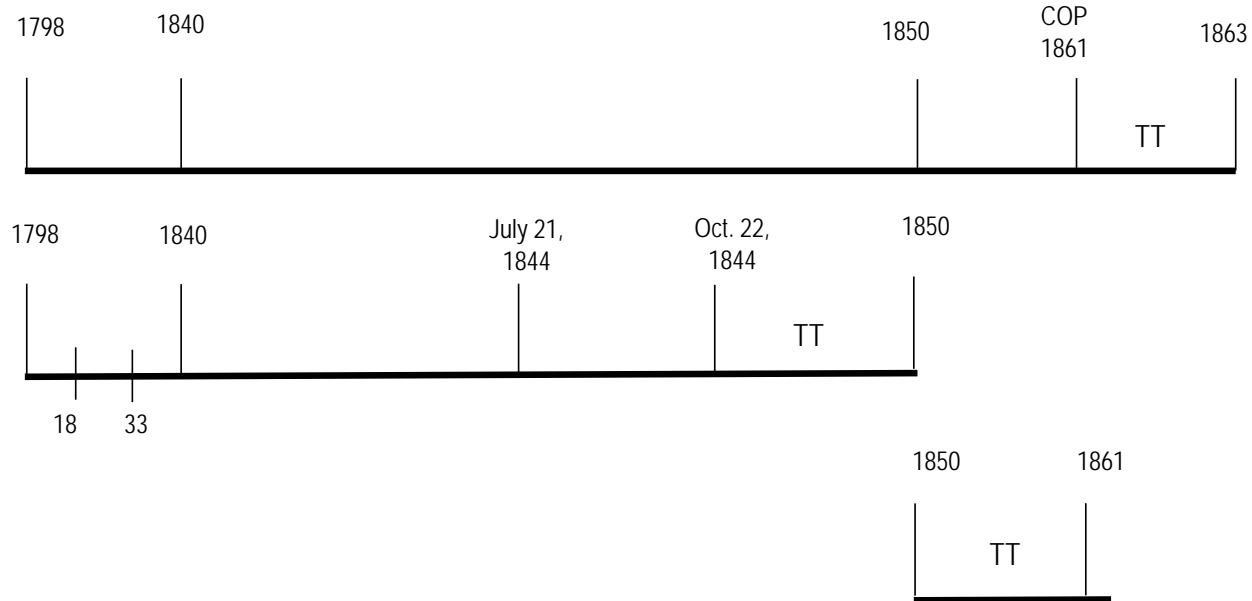
In 1861 when there is this split, the argument of the South is that you northern states have broken the laws and violated the Constitution. Who has the better arguments? The South had the better arguments. What we can tend to do is that when a conservative Republican today makes the argument that the founding fathers intended a Protestant country we go back to those founding fathers and we try to prove they never intended a Protestant America. We go back to the Constitution, we whitewash it and attempt to prove that the North had the better constitutional arguments. We can do that incorrectly.

Henry Clay



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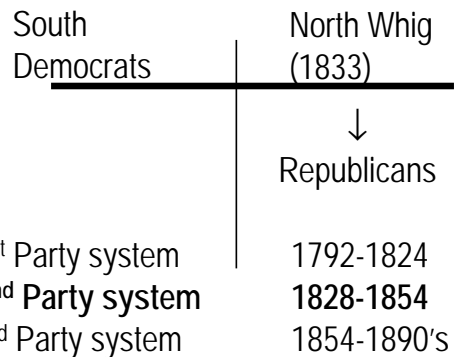


We've already spoken about how the South used inspiration, they had the better verses. But they also had the better laws.

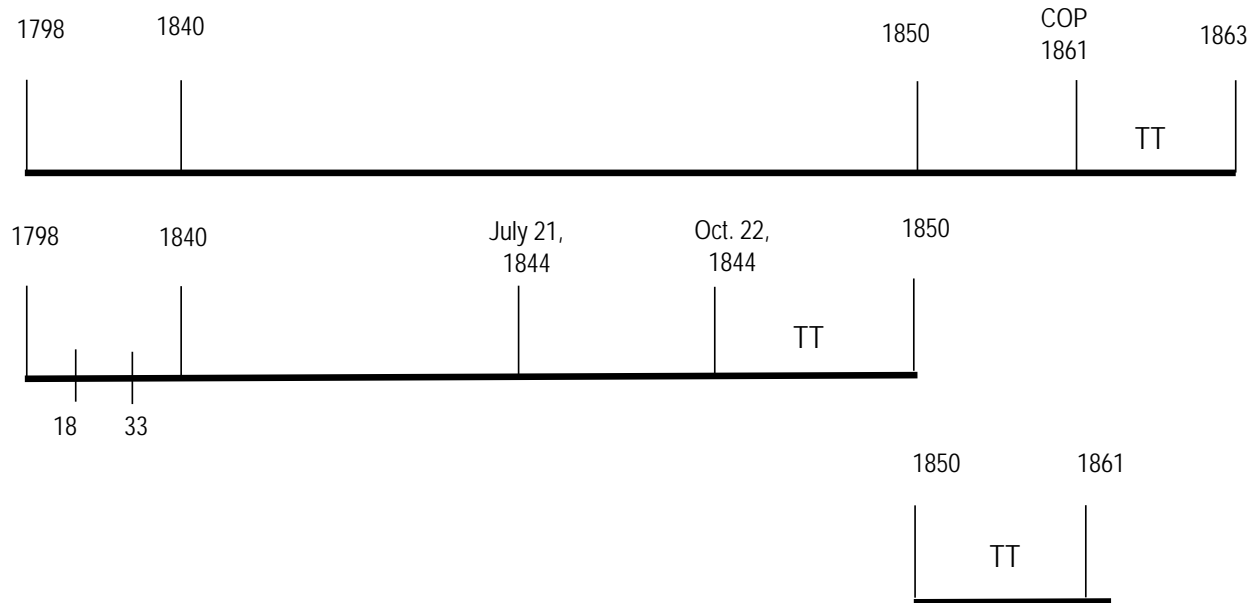
We will quote Barack Obama at the 2020 Democratic National Convention
 You can watch his full speech on YouTube and you'll find this statement in the first minute of that speech--
 Quoting him *"I am in Philadelphia where our Constitution was drafted and signed. It was not a perfect document . It allowed for the inhumanity of slavery and failed to guarantee women and even men who didn't own property the right to participate in the political process. But embedded in this document was a North star that would guide future generations. A system of representative government."*

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Henry Clay



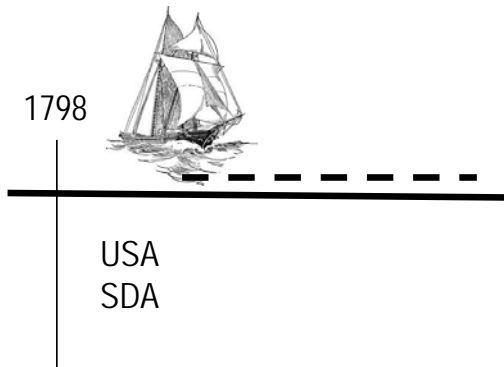
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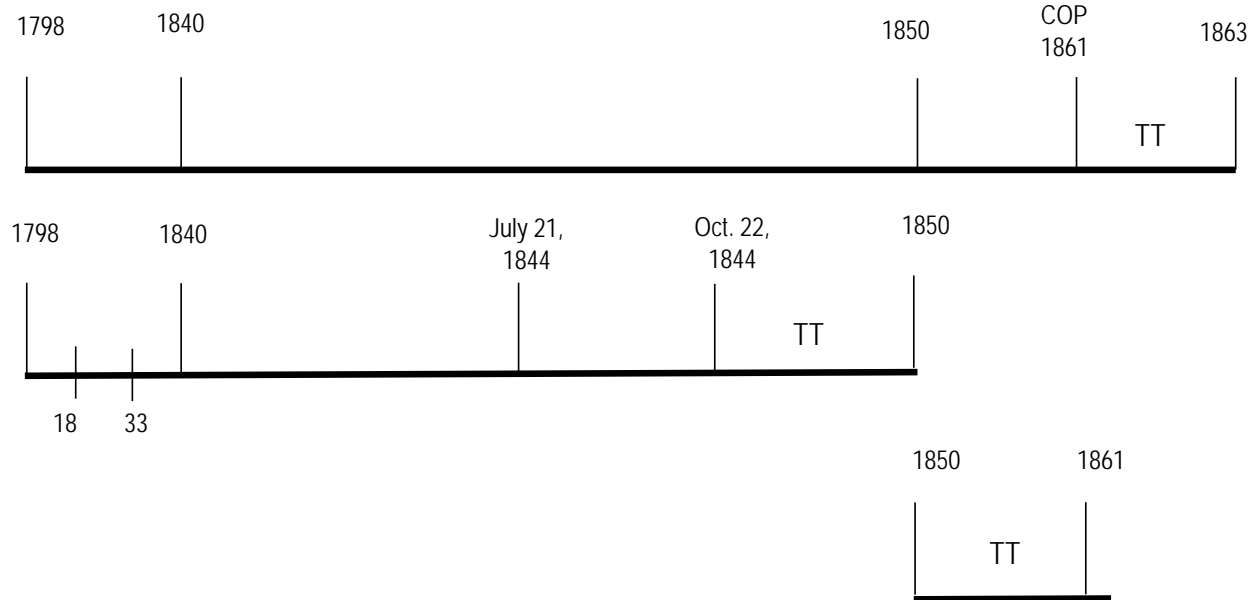
He then speaks about the amendments made to that Constitution, the improvements that were made. So the Constitution is not a perfect document. It wasn't when it came to black people and it wasn't when it came to women. When we look at the phrase *all men are created equal*, we don't go back into that history and try to defend the founding fathers and say that they really intended everyone. We know that they did not mean to include women and they did not mean to include black people. But we use that phrase today regardless of their intent. What we essentially say is: *We don't care what they meant*. So when they separate church and state, should we care what they meant by that? What they meant by wall of separation? I suggest we don't care. What Barack Obama alludes to in his speech, but regardless of the intents of the framers, regardless of the exact wording, **this was a document that was to grow and transform over time** from something very imperfect to something that more and more recognized and represented people's civil rights.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Henry Clay



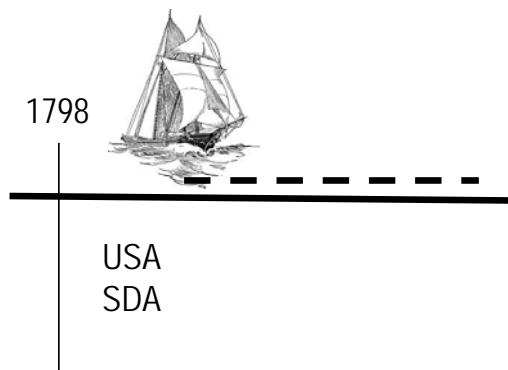
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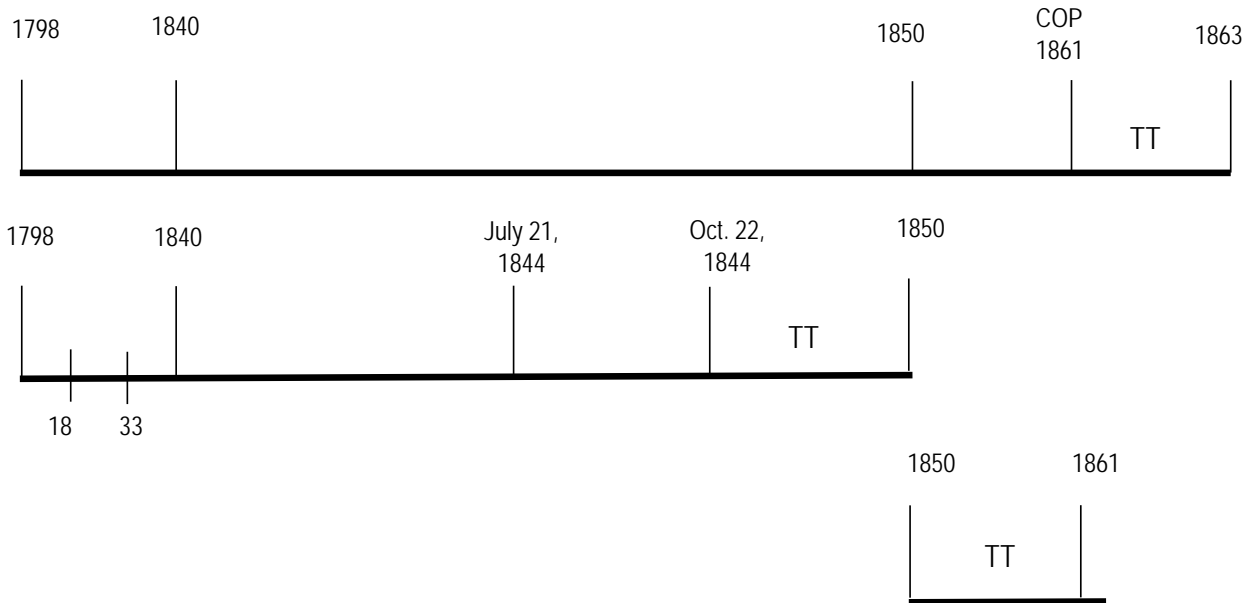
Let's remember the study of Acts 27, 1798 a ship set sail. This ship is both the United States and Adventism. Did we have everything together in 1798? No we didn't. **It was meant to grow and transform until we became closer to a true understanding of God's character.** What Ellen White refers to as the higher Constitution. She refers to a higher Constitution which infers a lower Constitution. And an Adventist's understanding of the higher Constitution was to change. Not once not twice but continually. **So it is with the United States.** That original flawed document should never have stayed the way it was. It was written in a time period of darkness and what the United States externally was supposed to do was recognize the changes that were to be made to that Constitution.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Henry Clay



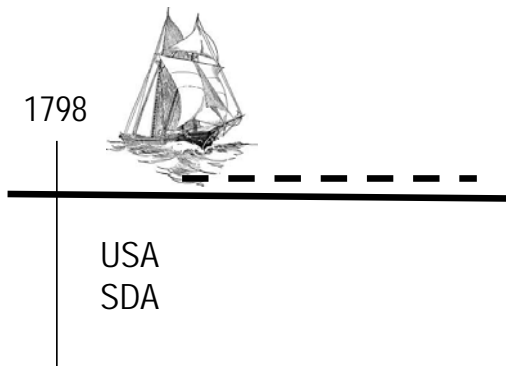
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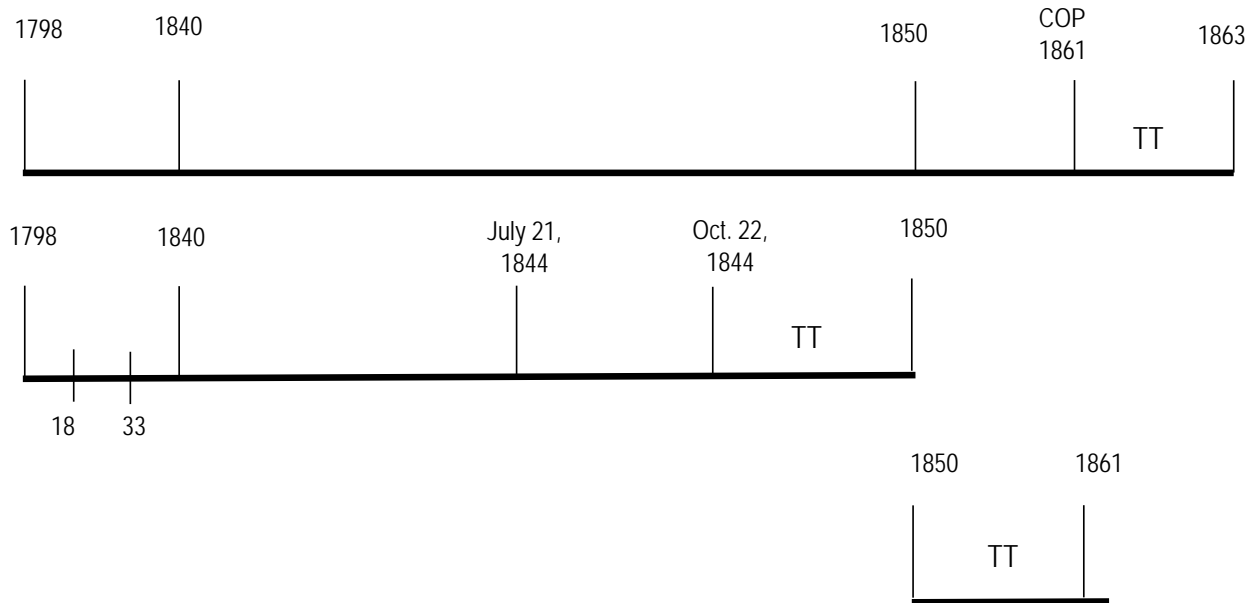
So in 1861 the strong argument of the South is ---It is written in the (*lower*) Constitution a fugitive slave act. In 1850 they're just trying to reinforce the Constitution and the rule of law. If you want to us an *it is written* argument *and I mean an incorrect it is written argument*, they have the better argument. What the north is saying is that we don't care because this document is designed to transform over time. In a period of darkness there was needed to be compromise but now there's a requirement placed on the United States.

What Barack Obama refers to as a North star was what was the spirit of this document, that could guide people for future generations. That light could guide them from then well through now. That North Star has in ways guided but the exact wording in the Constitution has had to change through that process.

Henry Clay



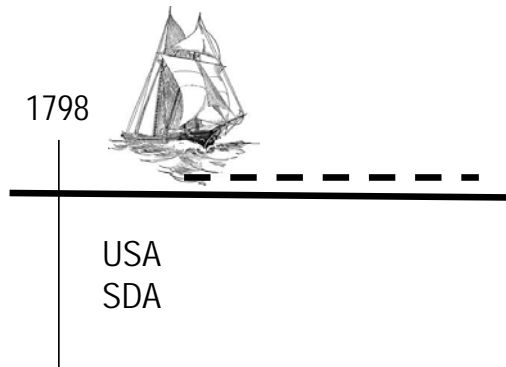
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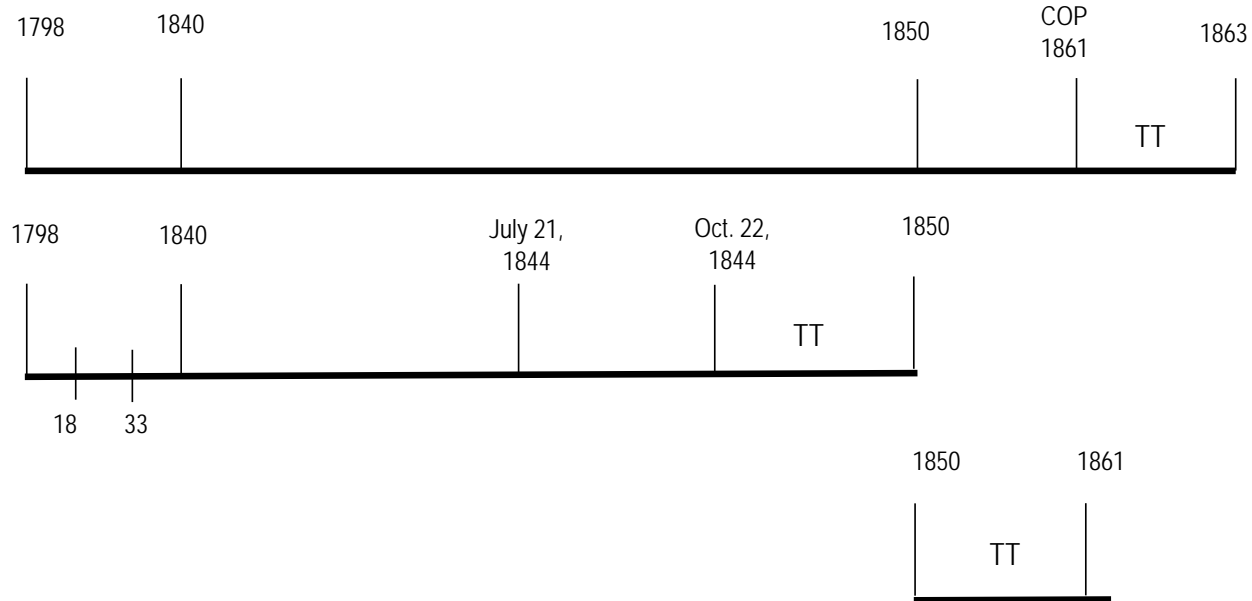
We discussed for a year now how the South used quotes of inspiration in this literal to literal fashion without saying that modern Israel cannot do what ancient Israel performed: genocide and slavery. But we need to see they did the same thing to the lower Constitution as well, literal to literal. What the north wanted to do was to allow this to transform over time, away from compromise. It becomes the responsibility of the north to make that happen.

So 1798 this ship set sail and moving away from the subject of the Constitution we're going to focus most of these studies around one man: Henry Clay.

Henry Clay



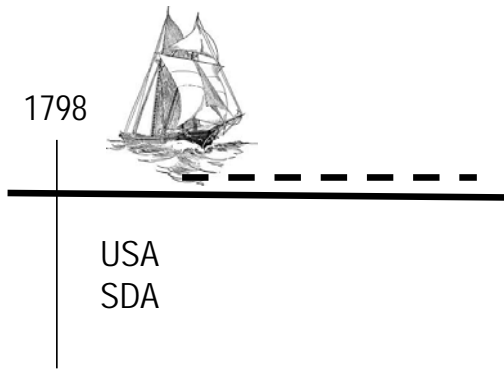
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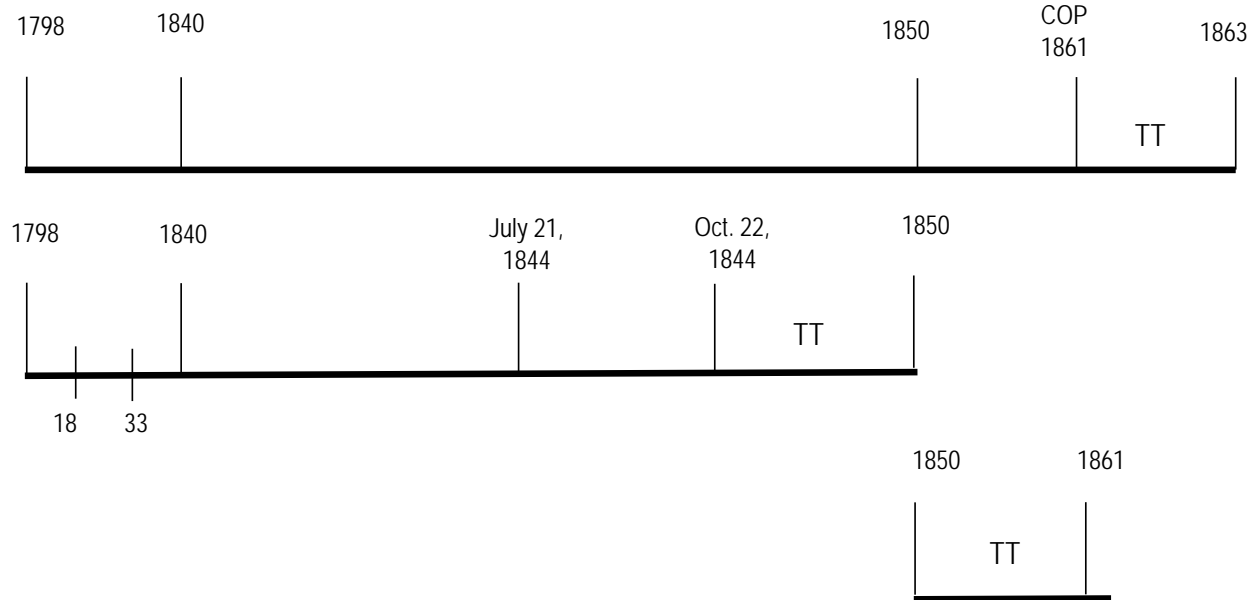
We will quote from Wikipedia:

- Clay is generally regarded as one of the most important political figures of his era. Most historians and political scientists consider Clay to be one of the most influential speakers of the house in US history.
- In 1957 a senate committee selected Clay as one of the five greatest US senators along with Daniel Webster John C Calhoun Robert Lofallete and Robert A Taft.
- A 1986 survey of historians ranked Clay as the greatest senator in US history.
- A 2006 survey of historians ranked Clay as a 31st most influential American of all time. Remarkable when you remember there have been 45 presidents.

Henry Clay

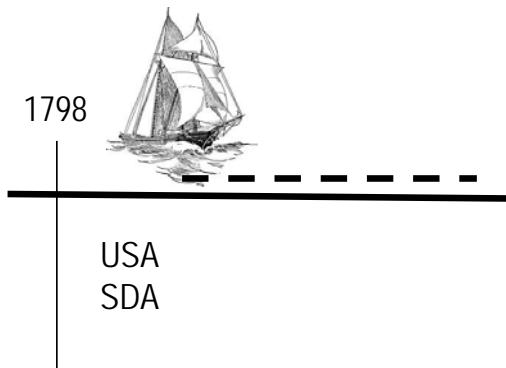


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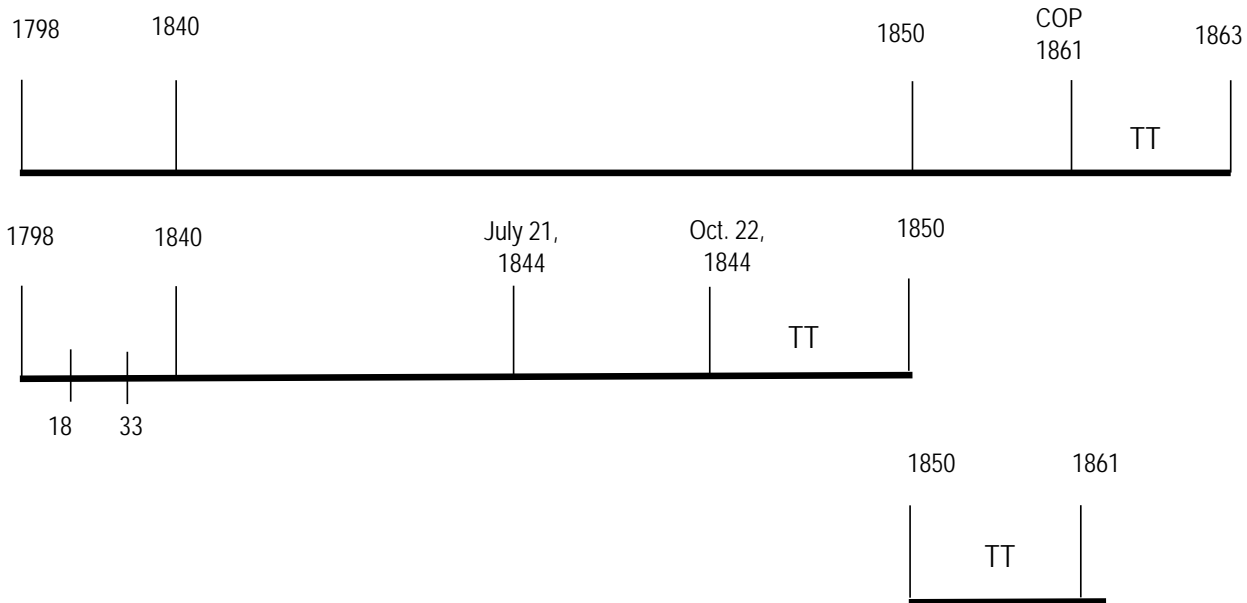


- A 1998 poll of historians ranked Clay as the most qualified unsuccessful major party Presidential nominee in US history.
- In 2015 political scientist Michael J Miller and historian Ken Owen ranked Clay as one of the four most influential American politicians who never served as president, alongside Alexander Hamilton, William Jennings Brian and John C Calhoun.
- Noting Clay's influence over the United States in the last 30 years of his life biographer James Clotter writes that perhaps prosperity should no longer call it the Jacksonian era and instead term it the Clay era.

Henry Clay



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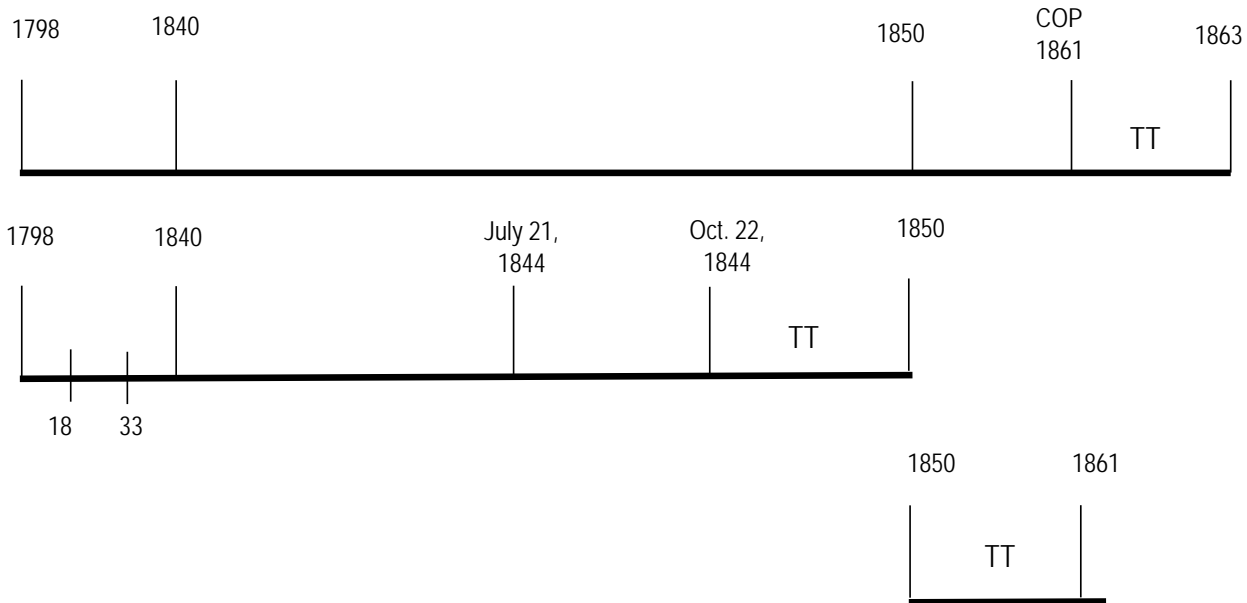


He died in 1852 so that 30 years would be 1822 to 1852. Prior to looking at this history Elder Tess had never heard of him. She knows the name Alexander Hamilton, the names of William Jennings Brian and John C Calhoun are familiar but had never heard of Henry Clay. This 30-year time period, portions of it is known as the Jacksonian era after the President Andrew Jackson who was thought to define that era. And what his biographer argues is that it should be called is the Clay era. He was largely the founder, founded the Whig party in 1833. He formed that party.

Henry Clay

South Democrats	North Whig (1833)
	↓
	Republicans
1 st Party system	1792-1824
2 nd Party system	1828-1854
3 rd Party system	1854-1890's

α Modern



We're going to discuss Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln professed to his friends in 1861 that he was an old-fashioned Whig.

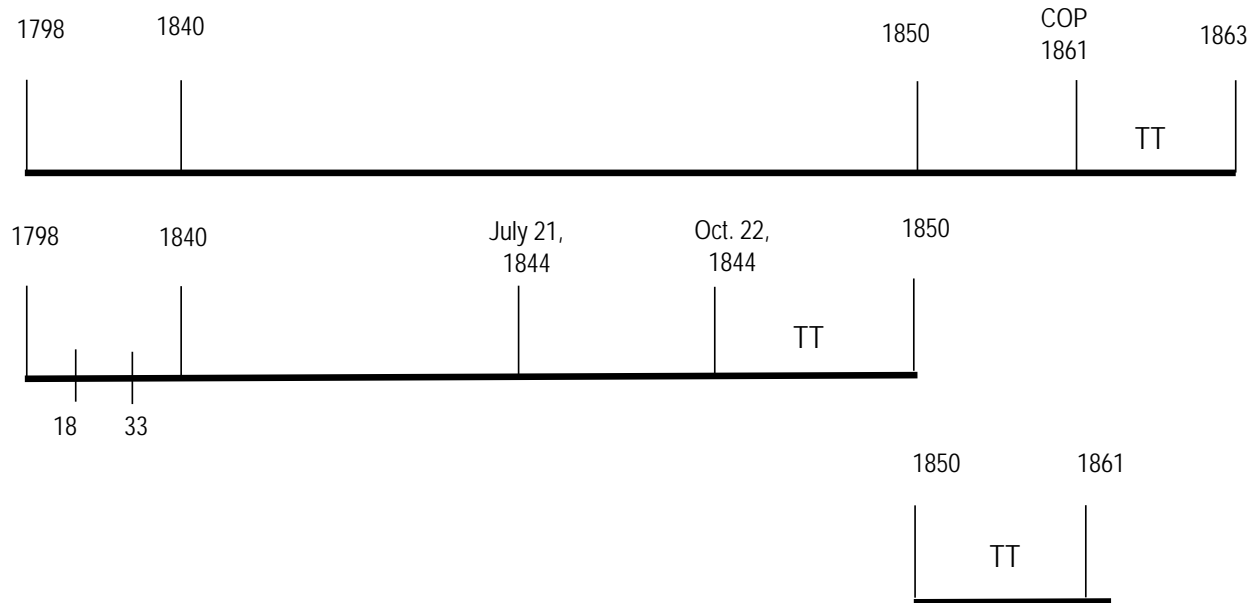
Quoting Lincoln: "A disciple of Henry Clay".

Henry Clay was Abraham Lincoln's role model. Henry Clay gave his first political speech in 1798, he would have been about 22 years old. He was fighting against the Alien and Sedition Acts which we've discussed before. July 24, 1798 he spoke at a gathering in Kentucky in front of about 1,000 participants. He spoke alongside a revolutionary colonel, he was such a great orator that the crowd carried them away on their shoulders.

Henry Clay The Great Compromiser

South Democrats	North Whig (1833)
	↓
	Republicans
1 st Party system	1792-1824
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α Modern



So his first political speech in 1798, we can look him up on the internet. He has a nickname. He was known in his own day through today as **The Great Compromiser**. It was meant as a compliment. His ability to hold that Union together led many people to argue that if he had been alive in 1861 there would have been no Civil War. Others argued quite strongly that he's responsible for it. But his ability to compromise was considered to be the force that held the Union together.

Henry Clay
The Great Compromiser

John C Calhoun

South Democrats

North Whig (1833)

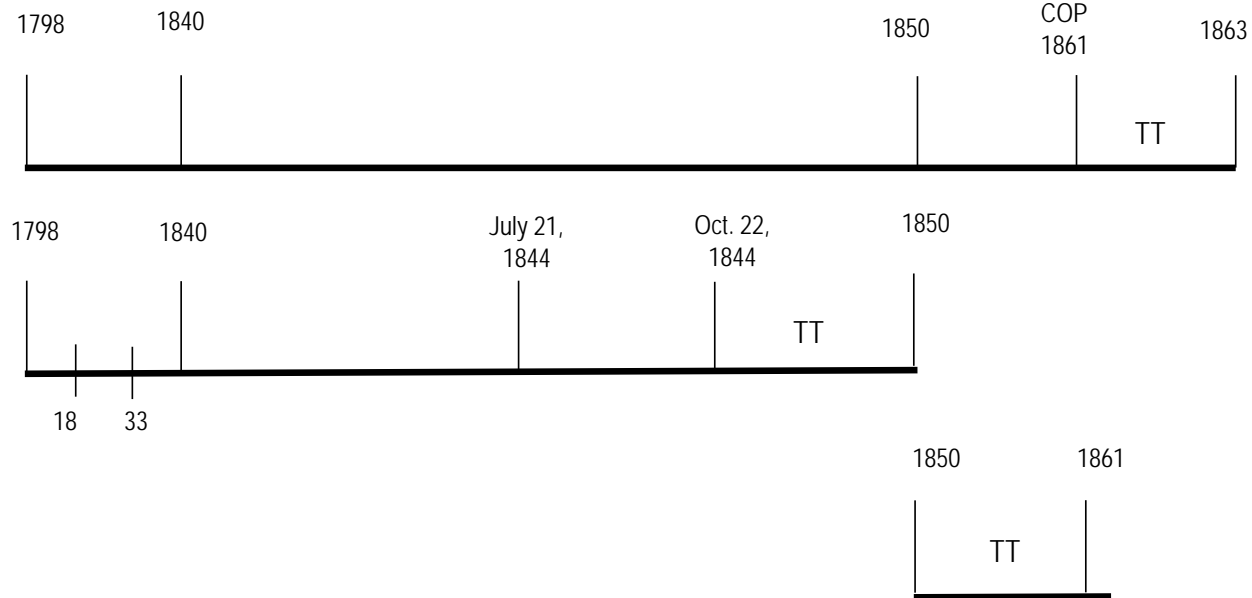


Republicans

1st Party system
2nd Party system
3rd Party system

1792-1824
1828-1854
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α Modern



We've already heard the name John C Calhoun. If you wanted to make an old western movie and you needed a bad guy you would be hard pressed to find one worse than John C Calhoun. There will be no attempt in these presentations to say anything positive about him. He was quite openly in defense of the South and slavery. Before Andrew Jackson died he made the following statement, *he had one regret, he had not shot Henry Clay and he had not hanged John C Calhoun*. So he wasn't fond of either of them. Because despite Andrew Jackson not being anti-slavery, John C Calhoun was militant in his defense of the institution.

Henry Clay
The Great Compromiser

John C Calhoun

South Democrats

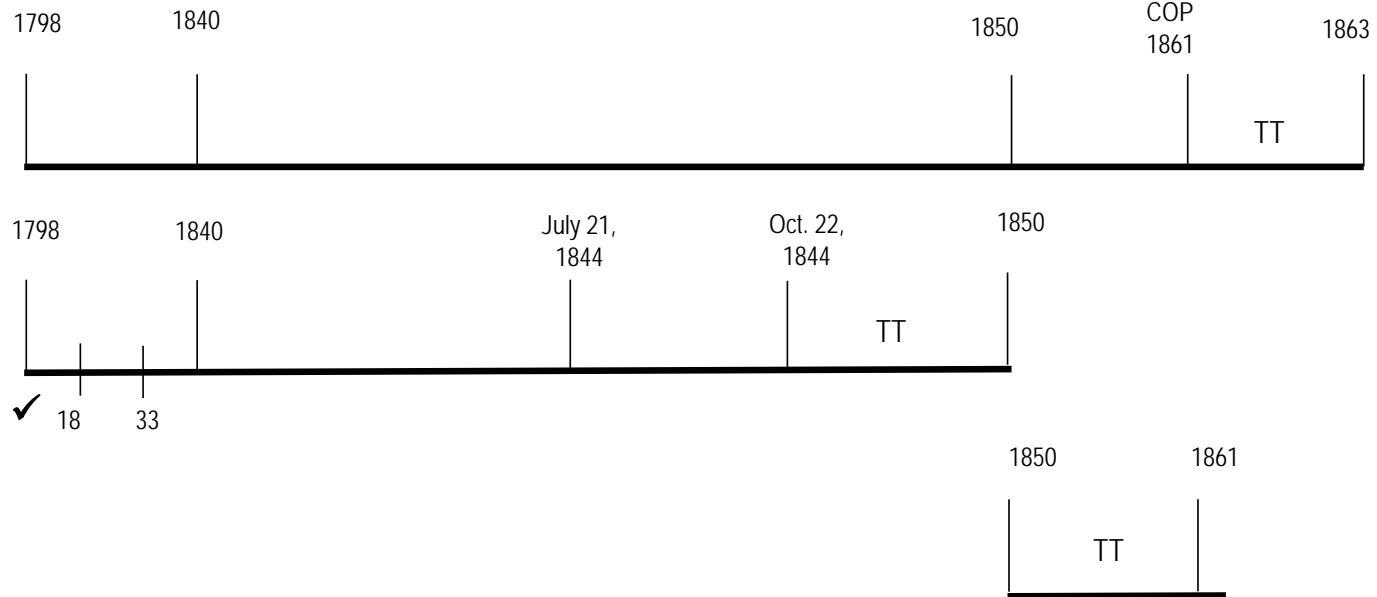
North Whig (1833)

↓
Republicans

1st Party system
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So Henry Clay is held responsible for three particular famous compromises. We said we were going to focus on the second two-party system from 1828 to 1854 and we're coming to that.

First we needed to discuss 1798, the Constitution, the responsibility of the United States to transform the written words of the Constitution and also introduce Henry Clay to politics. So we discussed 1798.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Henry Clay
The Great Compromiser

John C Calhoun

South Democrats

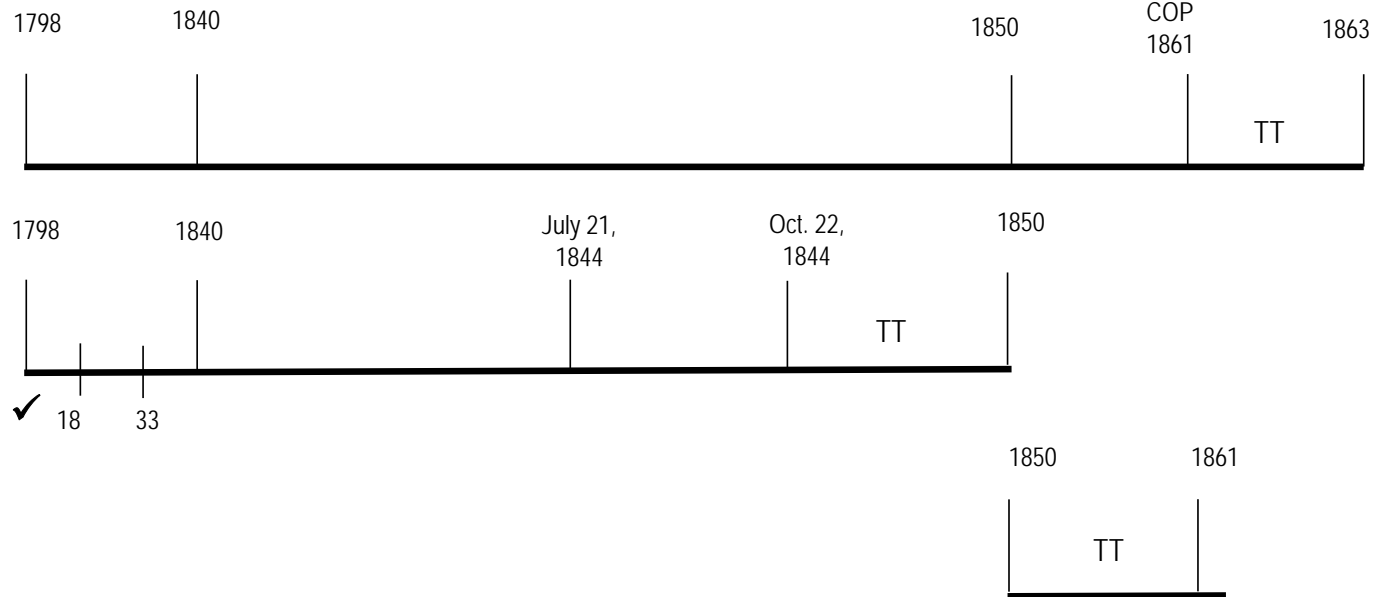
North Whig (1833)

↓
Republicans

1st Party system
2nd Party system
3rd Party system

1792-1824
1828-1854
1854-1890's

α Modern



The first of the three key compromises attributed to Henry Clay is **the Missouri Compromise**. From the beginning there was this tension between slave and free states. That became a particular issue when territories wanted to become states. A crisis developed when Missouri territory applied for statehood. They applied for statehood in 1818 and predominantly they wanted to enter as a slave state. This became war in Congress because, we're speaking generally, the northerners did not want another slave state. So the house was controlled slightly by the North and they wrote a bill that would allow Missouri to become a state but they included a clause that would have gradually ended slavery in the state. That bill went from the house to the Senate, the Senate was balanced between North and South but the South won in that argument and they stripped it of that clause. At which time the North removed all support for the bill and it was deadlocked or a stalemate.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Henry Clay
The Great Compromiser

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South Democrats

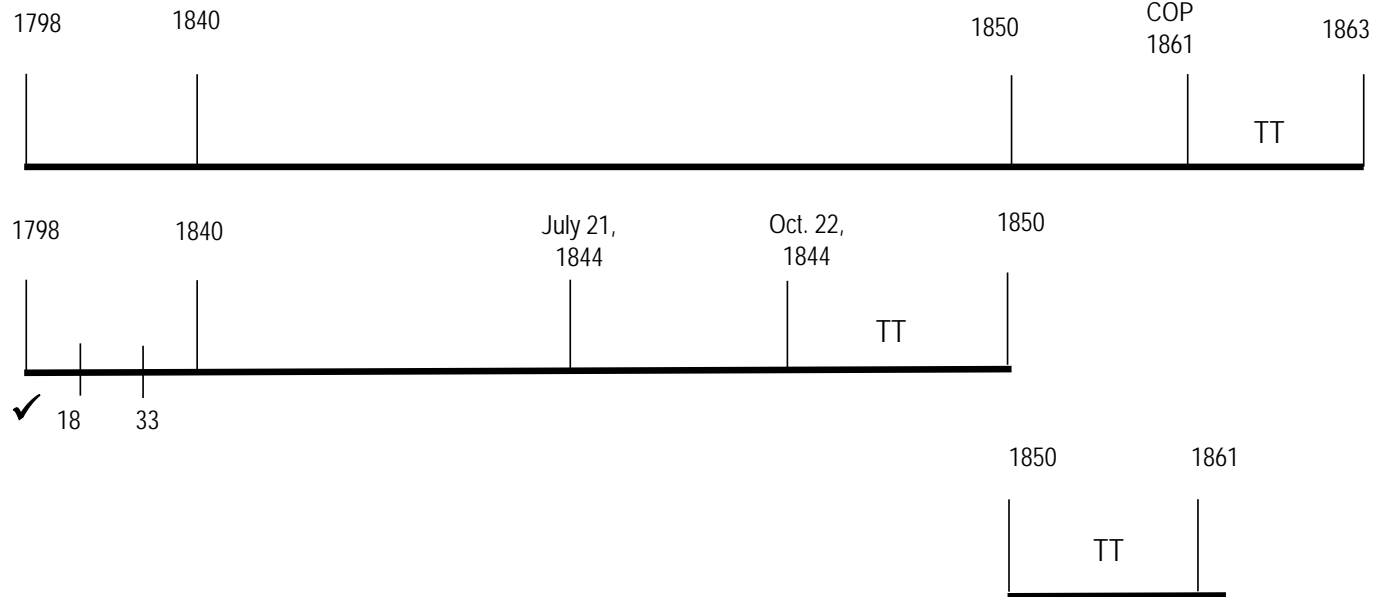
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In 1819 Maine applied for statehood. So to simplify that process Henry Clay led out in the following compromise: *We'll keep the balance*. In 1820 it was ratified or realized. Maine becomes a free state, Missouri becomes a slave state. So they would allow Missouri as a slave state as long as Maine could join as a free state. Then they set the parallel 3630 as the dividing line between enslaved and free states. So if you've heard of that imaginary line through America, north of 3630 was to be free states and south of 3630 would be allowed to be slave states. That was part of the compromise of the Missouri Compromise. Clay led in forming that compromise, he said it avoided catastrophe, it earned me praise through the country as a compromiser of whom *Union is his motto and conciliation is his maxim*. So when people call him The Great Compromiser they mean to praise him, because he was conciliatory to the South and he held together the Union. Others were aware of the danger.

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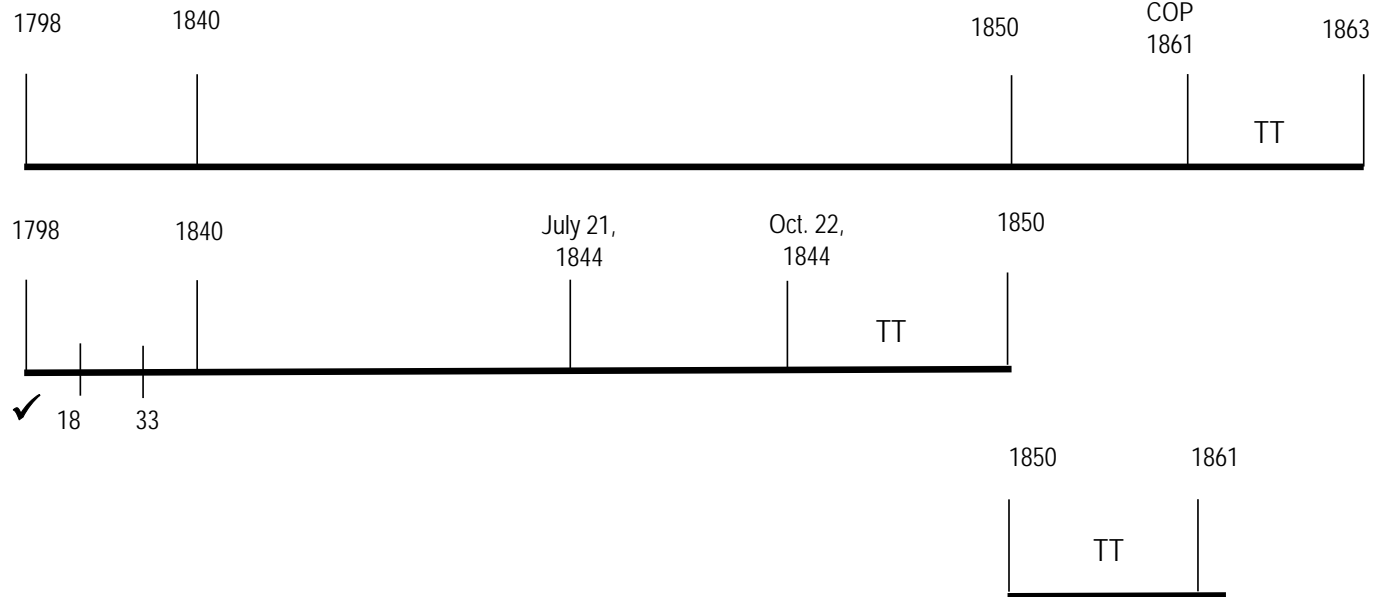
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Thomas Jefferson wrote to a friend of his in 1820, he said that the question over Missouri's admission to the union was like a fire Bell in the night. What he means by that is that concept that your fast sleep and your jolted to being awake with that cry of fire. He says it awakened me and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the death nail of the Union.

Speaking of the compromise, *it is hushed for the moment but this is just a reprieve it is not the final sentence*. So in 1820 Thomas Jefferson knows what has just happened. The war developing between the forces for slavery and the forces against slavery

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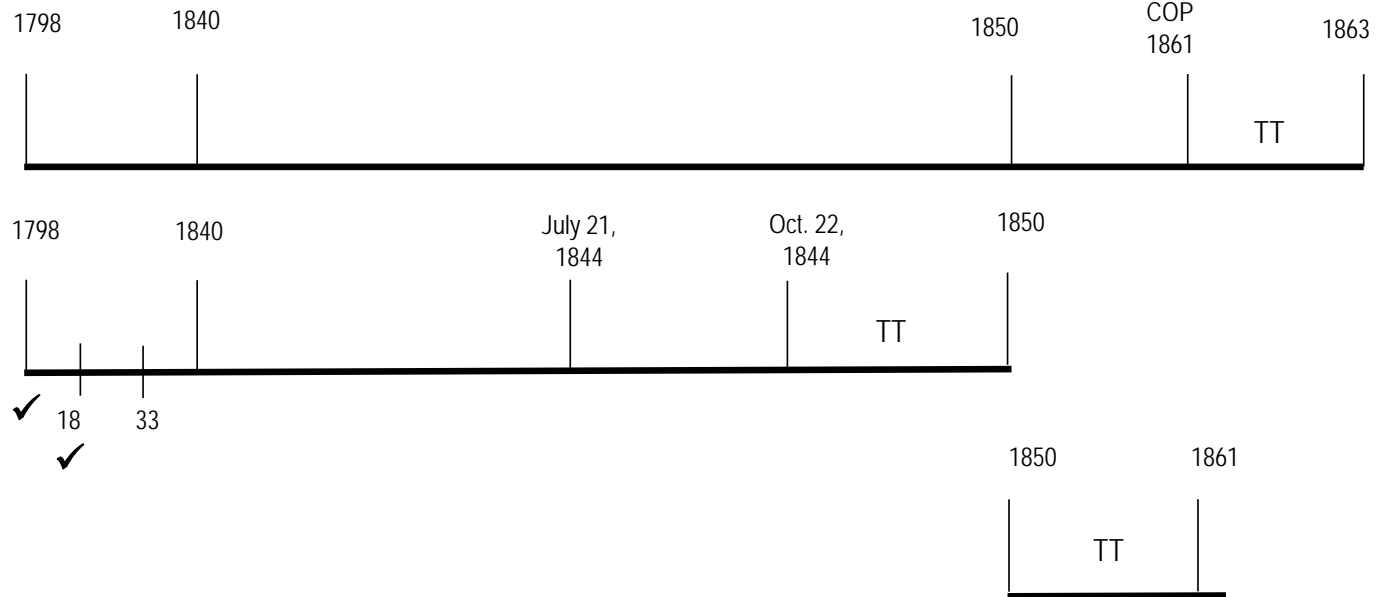


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This Missouri Compromise, that 3630 parallel was violated and repealed in the 1850's and led directly into the Civil War. But remember that Henry Clay is a Whig and he formed it. In 1833 the Whig party became the Republican, it's moderate centrist anti-slavery. Today's parallel would be the Democrat party and he led in that compromise.

Henry Clay led in three compromises and we have discussed the first one. In our next we'll discuss the second and the third.

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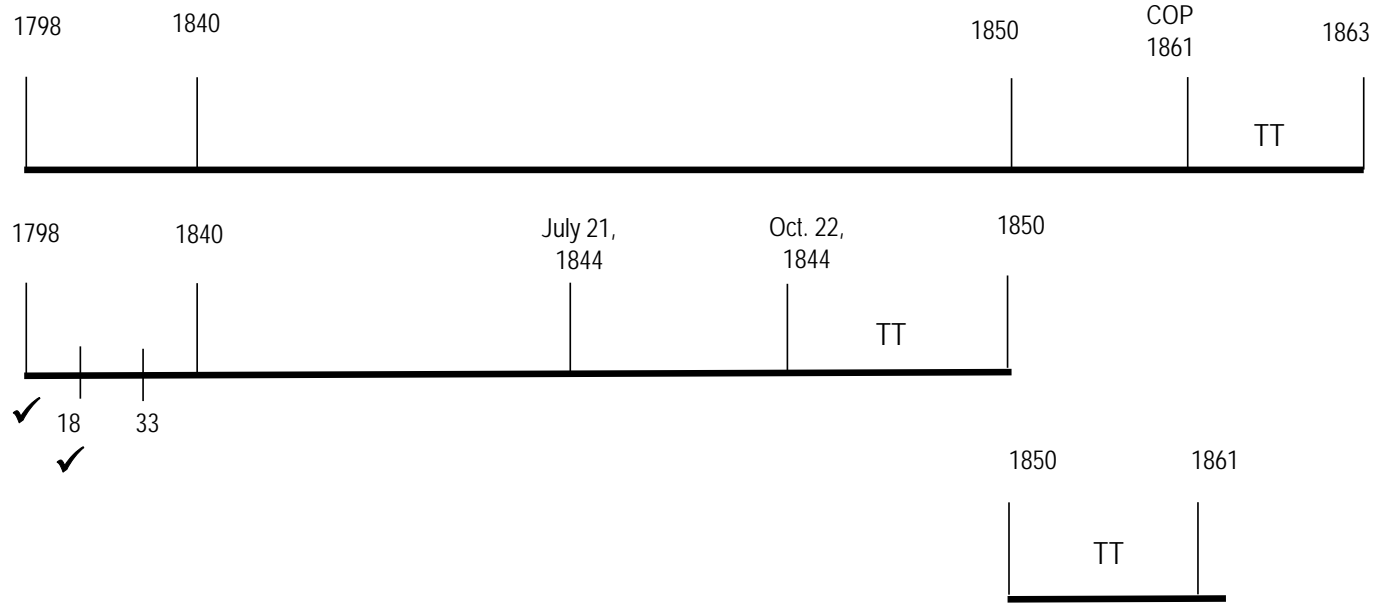
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So just to review we are wading through a complicated history. For that reason some people may disagree with the emphasis placed on certain events just as some did with the Diadochi wars. But we're hoping to see evidence of that underlying structure. We're not going to make a date for date application but to first see in their history, on their way marks, how their crisis developed and who bears responsibility. 1798 you have a Constitution that has the North Star. The concepts of it if used correctly could guide America forever but the argument is how readest thou. The South reads inspiration literal to literal. The South and many northerners read the Constitution literal to literal. but it was a flawed document that was meant to transform over time. We're focusing on Henry Clay, he formed the Whig party and we will be mostly talking about the Whig party versus the Democrat party. Their Democrats would be today's Republicans. The Whig and then the Republican party would be today's Democrats.

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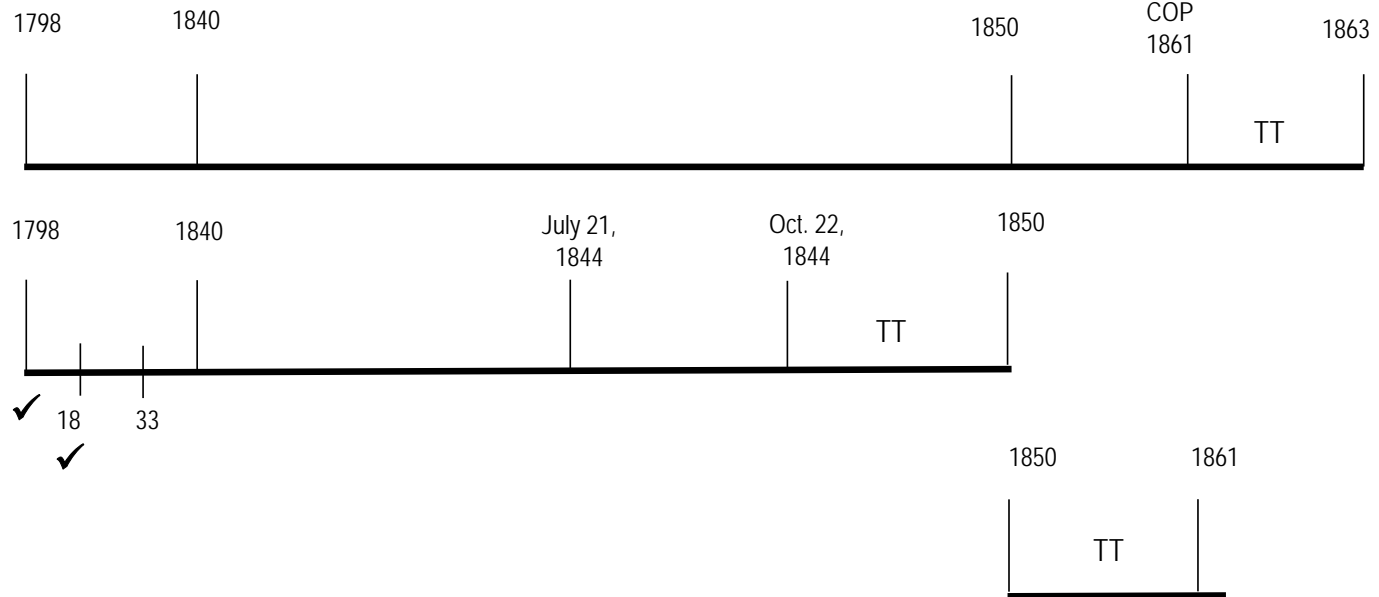
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We discussed how historians today view Henry Clay, how he guided the political events in America to such a degree, he's seen as more impactful than about 15 US Presidents in history. We traced his beginning in 1798, the first of three key compromises beginning with the Missouri Compromise that becomes an issue in 1818.

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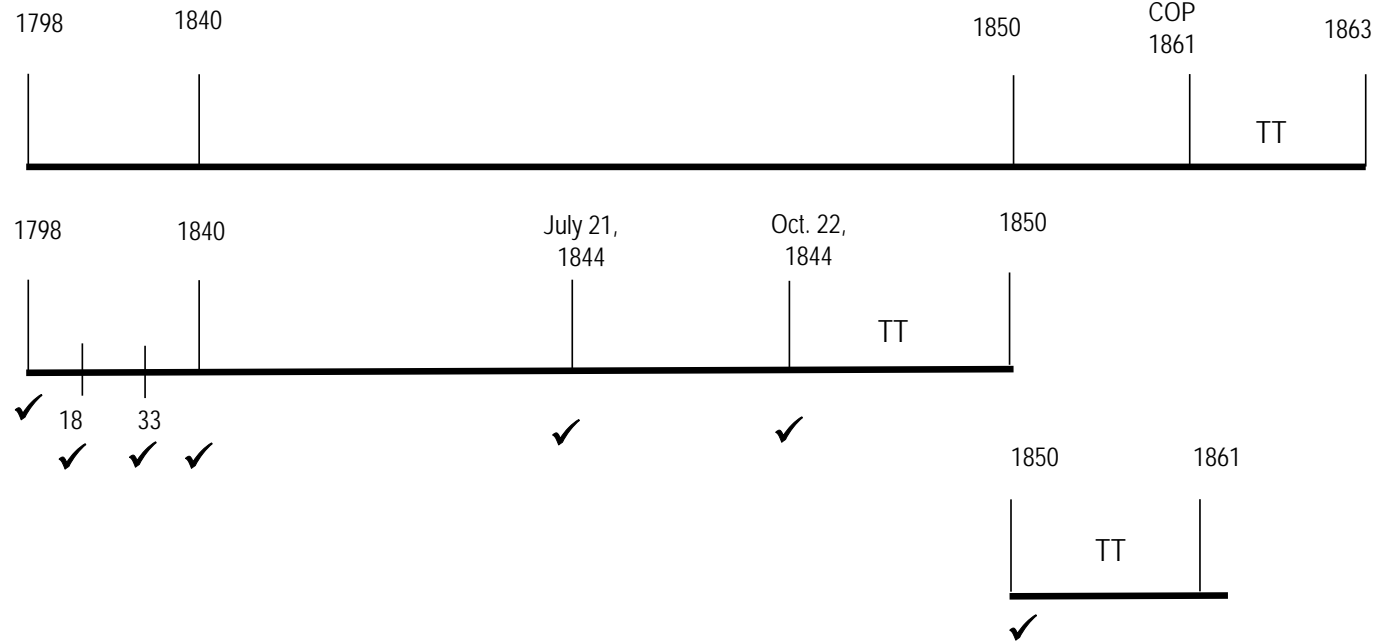
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In our next study we'll discuss the second compromise he's responsible for. That was a compromise tariff of 1833 and I think many of us are already familiar with the fact that he's responsible largely for the Compromise of 1850. If we've watched the last few presentations in Portugal he was the Whig presidential candidate in 1844. The Whig party gained their first president in 1840. 1840 being a transformative election in US history and especially in the 1844 election. It changed the course of US history, more than almost any other election. So we can see he's an important person to focus on and understand. While we see that we're dealing with historical political events, they are prophetically significant for us today.