

# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I

	PAGE
SECTIONALISM AND THE PUBLIC LANDS, 1835-1845 . . . . .	19
1. Key to the political history of the public lands . . . . .	19
2. Conditions in the West . . . . .	20
a. The pioneer point of view . . . . .	20
b. Claim Associations . . . . .	21
3. Fundamental difference in the attitude of the old states and the new . . . . .	23
4. Pre-emption . . . . .	23
a. The old states . . . . .	24
(1) Economic, social and political considerations . . . . .	24
(2) The problem of immigration . . . . .	24
(3) Liberal views . . . . .	25
b. The beginning of pre-emption and graduation . . . . .	25
(1) Benton's first bill . . . . .	26
(2) Opposition from the old states . . . . .	26
5. Distribution of the proceeds of the sales of public lands . . . . .	26
a. The problem of the surplus revenue . . . . .	27
b. Clay's report, 1832 . . . . .	27
c. Opposition from Benton and the Democrats . . . . .	28
d. Supported by those who favored a high tariff and national aid to internal improvements . . . . .	29
e. Southern opposition — Calhoun . . . . .	30
6. Cession of the public lands to the states in which they were situated . . . . .	31
a. Calhoun's purpose . . . . .	31
(1) Opposition to Clay's distribution scheme . . . . .	31
(2) His desire for a political alliance with the West . . . . .	32
b. Calhoun's bill, 1837 . . . . .	33
c. Sectional debate . . . . .	34
d. The sentiment of the country . . . . .	35

## CHAPTER II

THE INFLUENCE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS IN THE ELECTION OF 1840 . . . . .	38
1. The difficulty of estimating the importance of the public land issue in the campaign . . . . .	38
2. The Democratic platform . . . . .	38
3. The evasive tactics of the Whigs . . . . .	38
4. Efforts of the Democrats to put the Whigs on record . . . . .	40
a. Benton's resolutions, 1839-1840 . . . . .	41
b. Dissension in the Whig ranks . . . . .	41
5. The campaign of 1840 a land-mark in the history of the public lands . . . . .	42