

# The 1850s: Road to Secession

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# **Problems of Sectional Balance in 1850**

- ★ **Gold Rush of 1849 scared California residents into wanting statehood**
- ★ **Should California be a free state or slave state**
- ★ **Free -Soilers and Abolitionists want a ban on slavery**
- ★ **Southern “fire-eaters” threatening secession.**
- ★ **Underground RR & fugitive slave issues:**
  - **More Slaves bought their freedom than escaped**
  - **Slave Owners still angered by North**

# Southern Argument

- Article 4 Section three of Constitution requires states to send slaves back to the owners
- The North is not honoring the law

# The Big Three

## Clay, Calhoun & Webster

- Read 395 & 396 what is each of the Big three's opinion on what should happen with California and the new territory won from Mexico?