



Title: Building Democracy: The Story of Legislatures - Territorial Expansion through the Civil War

Description:

Welcome to Our American States. This is the third episode of a special 6-part mini series from the National Conference of State Legislatures called Building Democracy: The Story of Legislatures. As American territories were arguing for the case of statehood and to join into the union during the 1800's, another question arises, should they also abolish slavery? This episode covers what happened in American law and its freed slaves during this era.

Key Takeaways:

- America in the 1800s wasn't exactly the spaghetti Western Hollywood made it out to be. [0:35]
- Governor Claiborne felt out of his element in 1803 as many of his followers did not speak English. There was also a division over abolishing slavery -- to do so in Louisiana would mean alienating the local elite. [5:15]
- Allied indigenous nations attempt to resist the rapidly increasing number of white settlers. Tecumseh, the Shawnee leader of a powerful and growing confederacy of tribes - one that rivaled the US military, protests the Fort Wayne Treaty in 1810. [7:45]
- Representative James Tallmadge of New York proposes an amendment that would end the practices of slavery in both Missouri and Alabama. However, it gets stuck in the House and the Senate. [11:45]
- According to Senator Stephen Douglass of Illinois, allowing citizens/voters to choose slavery was in the interests of liberty [15:50]
- Delegates Frederick Brown and James Hanway, and more, pushed for an amendment that would ensure equal rights for all races. [19:50]
- Governor Humphries made a promise: slavery would never again exist within Mississippi's borders. However, that did not mean equal rights. [24:40]
- At least 226 black Mississippians held public office during Reconstruction Era [28:25]
- Governor Humphries and other white settlers were wrong. African Americans were fit for political equality, without the need of guardianship or protection. [28:55]
- Black freedom in America was short lived. [30:15].

Guest List:

[Bob Davidson](#) - The former Director of the Mississippi Senate Legislative Services office
[Mark Hirsch](#) - Historian with the Smithsonian National Museum of the Native American
[Burdett Loomis](#) - Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the University of Kansas.
[Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado](#) - Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Morehouse College.

Resources:

[Governor William C.C. Claiborne](#)

[Governor William Henry Harrison](#)

[Tecumseh](#)

[Fort Wayne Treaty](#)

[War of 1812](#)

[Senator Stephen Douglass](#)

[Jayhawkers](#)

[Governor Benjamin Humphreys](#)

[Black Codes](#)

[Reconstruction Era](#)

[John Lynch.](#)

[Terry's Purge](#)

[Henry McNeal Turner](#)