**GUIDED READING EXERCISE**

**Chapter 14—The House Divided, 1846–1861**

* **How did the issue of slavery drive the United States toward civil war in the mid-nineteenth century?**

***Download and save this document so you can return to it to take notes and later use it for studying.*** *As you read the chapter, fill in the chart below to remind yourself of the political, regional, legal, and social ramifications of slavery that drove the United States toward civil war in the mid-nineteenth century. Keep in mind that some events may fall into more than one category. If you copy and paste from the text, make sure you place quotation marks around the copied material; if you are able to describe the factors in your own words, however, you should do so.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Area of American life** | **Impact of slavery** |
| **Society and culture** |  |
| **U.S. expansion** |  |
| **Law and legislation** |  |
| **National and regional politics** |  |

*After you have read the chapter, use your notes to compose an essay that answers the following question:*

* **How did the issue of slavery drive the United States toward civil war in the mid-nineteenth century?**

*Be sure to include an opening, introductory paragraph in which you state your thesis. Then use the body of your essay to provide evidence from the chapter to support that thesis. When thinking about how to organize this essay, you might want to consider how changes in federal legislation related to slavery fueled the divisions that led to the creation of regionally based political parties. Also consider how northern and southern reactions to the political and social events ultimately led to civil war. End by writing a clear conclusion to your essay.*