

1846 to 1860

The Impending Crisis

The Events that Led to the Civil War

Under what President  
was the most land  
acquired for the  
United States?

Who was the only  
incumbent President  
in the 19<sup>th</sup> century  
not be nominated by  
his own party for a  
second term?

# 1845

John Tyler (10<sup>th</sup> President) was the first Vice President to become President as a result of the death of William Henry Harrison in 1841

He was widely disrespected

When he left office the annexation of Texas had started, but the fighting hadn't started



# James Knox Polk

Jacksonian Democrat

Determines in advance to be a one term President

His goals are U.S. Expansion (Manifest Destiny) and certain tariff agreements

# Polk and Annexation

Polk was born in North Carolina. He later lived in and represented Tennessee.

A Jacksonian Democrat, Polk served as the 17<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the House of Representatives (1835–1839) and Governor of Tennessee (1839–1841).

Polk was the surprise ("dark horse") candidate for president in 1844, defeating Henry Clay of the rival Whig Party by promising to annex Texas. His campaign slogan was "54°40' or fight."

Texas

Other Lands Acquired from Mexico

Oregon Territories





The war with Mexico ends with huge territory acquired.

Many of the famous people fought in this conflict

Texas become part of the U.S. (could be five states)

Treaty is made to settle the Northwest Boundary

Winfield Scott

Robert E. Lee

Pierre T. Beauregard

George B. McClellan

Ulysses S. Grant

George Meade

John Pemberton

Joseph E. Johnston

James Longstreet

Braxton Bragg

Winfield Scott Hancock

Albert Sidney Johnston

Joseph Hooker

Jefferson Davis

George H. Thomas



# Wilmot Proviso

August 1846 – David Wilmot (PA) proposes –  
neither slavery nor involuntary servitude  
can be introduced in lands acquired from  
Mexico.

Probably to settle some old scores with Polk  
and the southern democrats

Sen. John Calhoun introduced resolutions denying the right of Congress to exclude slavery property in the new territories.

1848 Polk urges the lame duck Congress to extend 36<sup>0</sup>30' to the Pacific Ocean

1848 election of General Zachary Taylor

Gold is discovered in California

Protect slavery

Prohibit slavery

Do nothing

1849

Taylor dies....Millard Fillmore becomes president

The Compromise of 1850

The Compromise became possible after the sudden death of President Zachary Taylor, who, although a slaveowner, had favored excluding slavery from the Southwest.

# The Compromise of 1850

On January 29, 1850, Henry Clay presented eight resolutions to the Senate.

He grouped the first six in pairs, each offering concessions to both sections.

In September of 1850, it passed and was brokered by Clay and Stephen Douglas.

There was strong opposition from Calhoun (SC)



# The Compromise of 1850

Texas surrendered its claim to New Mexico and other land for debt repayment

California's application for admission as a free state

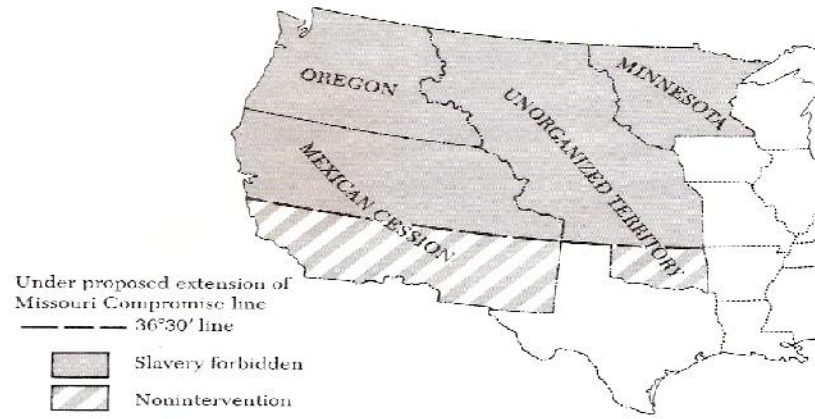
The South avoided adoption of the symbolically significant Wilmot Proviso – other land to be decided by popular sovereignty

The slave trade was banned in Washington D.C.

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

# TERRITORIES IN 1848-1850

Line Between Freedom and Nonintervention



Under Compromise of 1850  
----- Dividing line



# Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

In reaction to northern local jurisdictions blocking the recapture of fugitive slaves.

**Southern States wanted States Rights except when it came to the Federal Government recapturing their fugitive slaves. Then northern states rights were violated**

Local jurisdictions must assist in the recapture. The Federal Government has to enforce and pay for recapture

# Southern Economy

They blamed the north - it became litany of  
“degrading vassalage.”

Economic development was declining compared to  
the north

They ridiculed the north’s investment in education

The north following the lead of Adam Smith,  
classical economists considered free labor more  
efficient than slave labor because the free worker  
is stimulated by the fear of want and the desire for  
betterment

1852

Uncle Tom's Cabin is published (Harriet Beecher Stowe) as a book – Serialized *The National Era* in 1851 and 1852.

Last Presidential Election for the Whig Party – Millard Fillmore's efforts to enforce the fugitive slave alienated the anti-slavery Whigs.

Franklin Pierce Elected

Jefferson Davis becomes his Sec. Of War

# 1854 Kansas Nebraska Act

Lecompton – official capital of Kansas  
–proslavery - minority

Topeka – unofficial – anti-slavery

Bleeding Kansas

Deathblow to the Whigs from the  
ashes of the Whig party grew the  
Republican Party

Lincoln and Douglas verbal confront each other for the first time

The spirit of seventy-six and the spirit of Nebraska, are utter antagonisms. . . . Little by little. . . we have been giving up the old for the new faith. Near **eighty years ago** we began by **declaring that all men are created equal**; but now from that beginning we have run down to the other declaration, that for **some men to enslave others is a "sacred right of self-government."** These principles cannot stand together. . . . Our republican robe is soiled, and trailed in the dust. Let us repurify it. . . . Let us re-adopt the Declaration of Independence, and with it, the practices, and policy, which harmonize with it. . **If we do this, we shall not only have saved the Union; but we shall have so saved it, as to make, and to keep it, forever worthy of the saving.** A. Lincoln

Lincoln did not formally become a Republican for another year or more, after the Whig party had crumbled beyond salvation.

Lincoln's belief that the national government had a right and duty to exclude it from the territories, and his conviction that this "cancer" must eventually be cut out, became hallmarks of the Republican Party.



1855 Franklin Pierce

As a Northerner he favored the south

Praises the south for minding their own business and criticizes the north as meddling...denounces the Topeka government as revolutionary and asks Congress to authorize Kansas for statehood

Emancipation of Slaves has swept  
Europe and the Americas

Except for Cuba (1886) and Brazil  
(1888) and Suriname (1863)

Whigs, Democrats, Know  
Nothing (movement and  
called the American Party),  
Republicans

# Election of 1856

## **Fremont (Republican) vs. Buchanan (Democrat)**

Buchanan becomes President after the south threatens succession.

Early voting in Maine, huge majority for Fremont – Virginia militia is put on alert (desired effect is achieved) Buchanan pledges to make 36.30 the center piece of his campaign

December 1856

Northern States are very  
concerned about Southern  
States leaving the Union and  
a potential conflict

# Dred Scott v Sandford

Taney violated his own principles in an effort to save the country

March 6, 1857 two days after Buchanan is sworn in is 15<sup>th</sup> President

Roger B. Taney - 11 days before he is 80 years old

Wanted to keep the southern culture



Gave up his own slaves in 1819

Practiced judicial self restraint

Was Attorney General under  
Jackson

Was considered a fine successor  
to Marshall, opinions lucid and  
pointed



Slaves Are Property

Prigg v. Pennsylvania

# Rights of Blacks

“No black man has any rights that a white man is bound to respect.” *(reiterated what he stated 25 years earlier under Jackson as AG).*

Flawed logic

“He may have all of the rights and privileges of the citizens of a State, and yet not be entitled to the rights and privileges of a citizen in any other State” Taney

Article 4

SECTION. 2.

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

# Missouri Compromise is Unconstitutional

Taney's logic here is also very flawed, i.e., territory meant other property, he did not quote from any of the framers of the Constitution, cited no previous court decision. Declaring the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional was not based on anything but his own wishful thinking. He never challenged the Northwest Ordinance. He never said specifically why the Missouri Compromise restriction was unconstitutional.

## Article 4 – Section 3

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Taney might as well have  
told the Republicans to  
commit unconditional  
surrender

# Post Dred Scott

Taney stayed as Chief Justice for another seven years, ruling on many occasions that Lincoln's actions were unconstitutional. Lincoln ignored Taney and did what he felt was essential.

*Worcester v. Georgia* 1832 -In a popular quotation, President Andrew Jackson is supposed to have said: "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it!"

Taney died Oct 12 1864 the same day Maryland freed their slaves. Salmon Chase replaces Taney in December, 1864.

Admission of a black man to argue before the Court February 1865

# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## SECTION 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.



## February 1857

Lecompton Constitution – proslavery faction and Buchanan

Southerners are pushing for admission of Kansas as a proslavery state

Split the Democratic Party

Phony election, in part because the antislavery voters didn't show up to vote.

Buchanan supports the Lecompton Constitution. He and Douglas have a major rift

# Abraham Lincoln

At the beginning of the Civil War almost everyone felt that the Confederacy had a better president than the Union.

Much has been written about his humble origins, born in Kentucky, raised in Indiana, lived in Illinois.

He served in the Congress under the Whig Party for one term and was defeated.

His humor was well known – he met former President Martin Van Buren.

“If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?”

# Lincoln - Douglas Debates

He always felt slavery was wrong. “If slavery is not wrong then nothing is wrong.”

Nominated by the Republican Party to run for the Senate Seat against the incumbent Stephen Douglas

Gives the “House Divided” speech

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

“I believe this government cannot endure; permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved--I do not expect the house to fall--but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other.”

Lincoln on accepting the Republican Nomination

# The Debates



Freeport Doctrine

Race Baiting

Charleston: “I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races, that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office...”



Alton: “It is the same spirit that says, 'You work and toil and earn bread, and I'll eat it.' No matter in what shape it comes, whether from the mouth of a king who seeks to bestride the people of his own nation and live by the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principle.”



# Douglas Wins

Senators are chosen by the state legislature -

Before 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Upstate: Lincoln wins almost all the counties

Downstate: Douglas wins

Eight years after the census

Although Lincoln lost, the Republicans received more popular votes (50.6%) than the Democrats, signaling an important shift in the political character of the state.

# Other Activities

Homestead Act – Yankees moving

Buchanan and Douglas request

Congress to purchase Cuba  
(another slave state)

Whether or not southern superiority resulted from "the difference of race between the Northern people and the Southern people," as the Southern Literary Messenger would have it, the vaunted virtues of a free-labor society were a sham. "The great evil of Northern free society," insisted a South Carolina journal, "is that it is burdened with a servile mass of mechanics and laborers, unfit for self-government, yet clothed with the attributes and powers of citizens."

These articles are reprinted in Northern  
Newspapers

## One Southerner can Lick 10 Yankees

“The Southern people...come of that race . . . recognized as Cavaliers . . . directly descended from the Norman Barons of William the Conqueror, a race distinguished in its earliest history for its warlike and fearless character, a race in all times since renowned for its gallantry, chivalry, honor, gentleness, and intellect. **If matters came to a fight, therefore, one Norman southerner could doubtless lick ten of those menial Saxon Yankees.”**

Southern Literary Messenger

# John Brown's Raid

John Brown's Raid at the arsenal at Harper's

Ferry – scared the pants off the south...very  
indignant and concerned about the raid

South was concerned about a slave insurrection

North denounces it

With John Brown's hanging the south relaxes

None of his party was a slave and no  
insurrections

# Cooper Union

Lincoln moves away from abolition  
to forbidding further expansion in  
the territories – cites the Northwest  
Ordinance Act 1789

Denounces John Browns Raid

Reaches out to the south for  
reconciliation

Lincoln's nomination was a surprise  
to everyone

Held in the Wigwam in Chicago –  
Lincoln supporters overwhelmed  
the place

Seward as the favorite - lost on the  
first ballot

Lincoln was less radical than Senator  
Seward and Governor Chase

# The Democratic Party Self-destructs

1<sup>st</sup> Convention is held in Charleston SC.

It dissolves with no candidate

The Northerners hold the next one in Baltimore. Stephen Douglas is the candidate. The Southerners choose John Breckinridge (Kentucky), current Vice President on the platform of the slave code



## Election of 1860

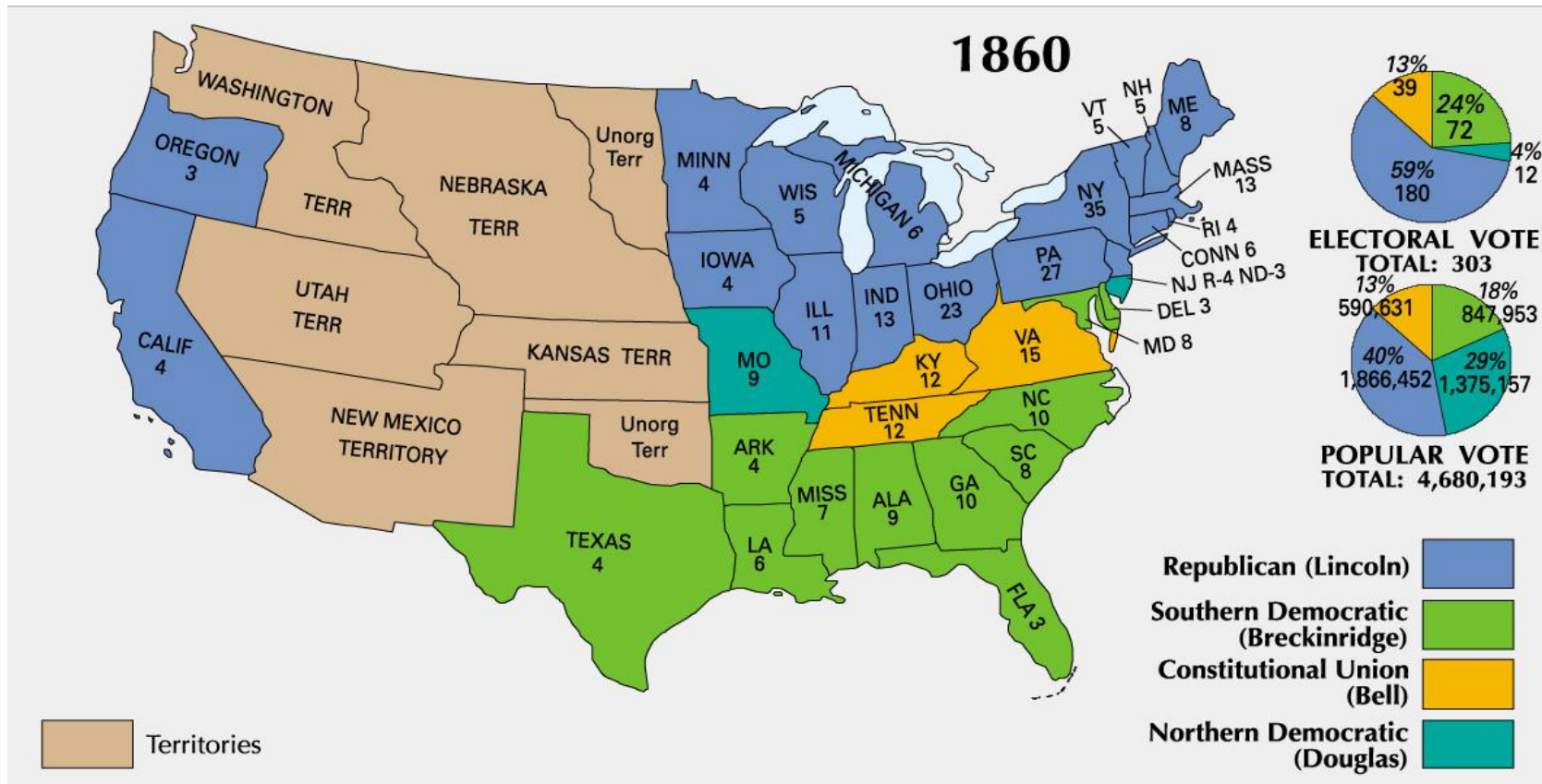
Lincoln's election was not surprise

Dred Scott decision made the Republican  
Party victory possible

Republicans were united.

The Democrats had two candidates

John Bell on the Constitutional Union Party



Lincoln- Hamlin	180	1,886,908
Breckenridge-Lane	72	848,019
Bell-Everett	39	590,901
Douglas-Johnson	12	1,380,202

## Secession

December 20, 1860 – South Carolina secedes

Many Southern leaders did not want to start secession until the north made an overt move

Preemptive

By February 1, 1861 – Six More States secede