





# Bleeding Kansas

(1856)

a sequence of violent events involving abolitionists and pro-slavery elements  
several abolitionist organizations from the North organized and funded the settlement of several  
thousand people in Kansas so they could vote to make it a free state

Minister Henry Ward Beecher armed settlers with “ Beecher’s Bibles ”

thousands of armed Southerners (nicknamed “ Border Ruffians ”)  
arrived to vote for slavery

(few of them actually owned slaves; they were too poor!)

only half the ballots were cast by registered voters

proslavery forces won the election



proslavery members traveled north to an antislavery  
settlement  
burned a hotel, destroyed printing presses, and ransacked  
homes & stores

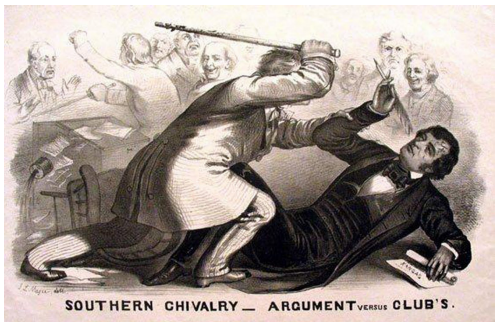
abolitionist John Brown led an attack  
on a proslavery settlement at Pottawatomie Creek  
dragged five proslavery men from their homes and  
hacked them to death

in all, approximately 55 people died

Kansas entered the Union as a free state in 1861

# Sumner-Brooks Incident

(1856 - occurred during Bleeding Kansas crisis)



MA Senator Charles Sumner  
made an antislavery speech in Congress,  
insulting SC Senator Andrew Butler

made several mocking references to  
Butler’s speech impediment (caused by a stroke)

two days later, SC Representative  
Preston Brooks (Butler’s nephew)  
confronted Sumner as he sat at his desk  
in the almost empty Senate chamber

“Mr. Sumner, I have read your speech twice over carefully.  
It is a libel on South Carolina, and Mr. Butler, who is a relative of mine.”

Brooks beat Sumner over the head with a  
thick cane topped with gold

Sumner, blinded by his own blood, staggered up the aisle and collapsed

Brooks continued to beat the motionless Sumner until his cane broke

Sumner became a martyr in the North

and Brooks a hero in the South

was symbolic of the conflict between the two sides of the slavery issue





# Dred Scott Decision

(1857)



Dred Scott had been the property of Dr. John Emerson who died in 1843

Scott sued for his freedom because he had

**previously lived in areas**

**where slavery was illegal**

multiple appeals brought the case to the US Supreme Court

Chief Justice Roger B. Taney delivered the majority opinion:

slaves are **property**, not citizens

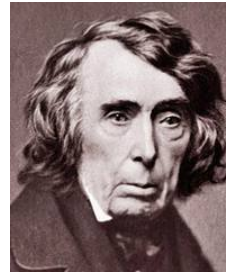
as property, they are protected by the **5th** Amendment, which says property cannot be taken away without

“**due process**”

slaves (property) could not bring a lawsuit against anyone in court

essentially **made slavery legal**

anywhere in the country



Scott was returned to his original owners and granted his freedom

died 18 months later from tuberculosis

# Lincoln-Douglas Debates

(1858)

a series of **7** debates for the **Illnois Senate seat** between

Republican candidate **Abraham Lincoln** and

incumbent Democratic Senator **Stephen Douglas**

at the time, U.S. senators were elected by **state legislatures**, so Lincoln and Douglas were really campaigning for their respective parties to win control of the Illinois state legislature

the main issue discussed in all seven debates was **slavery**



## Freeport Doctrine

*named this because it happened at the Freeport, IL debate*

Lincoln tried to trip Douglas up, forcing him to back either popular sovereignty (as in his Kansas-Nebraska Act) or the Dred Scott decision (slavery can't be excluded from the territories)

Douglas said slavery could be prevented from any territory if **the people living there refused to pass laws that supported slavery**

Douglas was reelected but alienated Southern Democrats would eventually be key to his loss in the 1860 presidential election



# John Brown's Raid

(1859)



Brown and 18 men were armed with 200 rifles supplied by northern abolitionist groups attacked Harper's Ferry armory for weapons plan was to arm local slaves and head south, starting a revolution

armory was surrounded by US troops under the command of Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee (!)

Brown and his men were told they would be spared if they surrendered

Brown refused; troops stormed the building

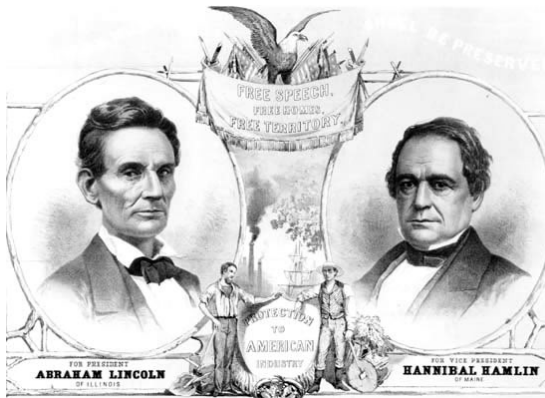
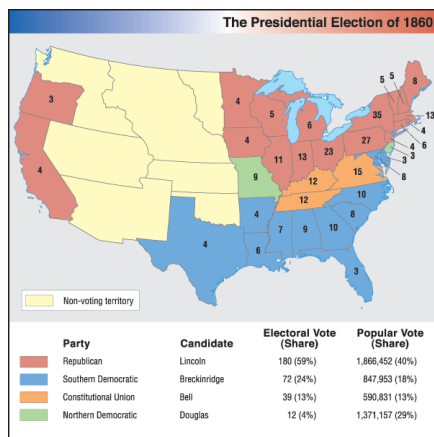
10 of Brown's men were killed (including his 2 sons)

four troops were killed by Brown's men, nine were wounded

Brown later hanged for treason and became a martyr



# Election of 1860



Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas

John Breckinridge, and John Bell

election was noteworthy for exaggerated sectionalism of the vote

Lincoln not even on the ballot in nine Southern states

Lincoln captured less than 40% of the popular vote but 180 electoral votes

November 6 - Lincoln officially wins Presidency

December 24 - South Carolina secedes from the Union