

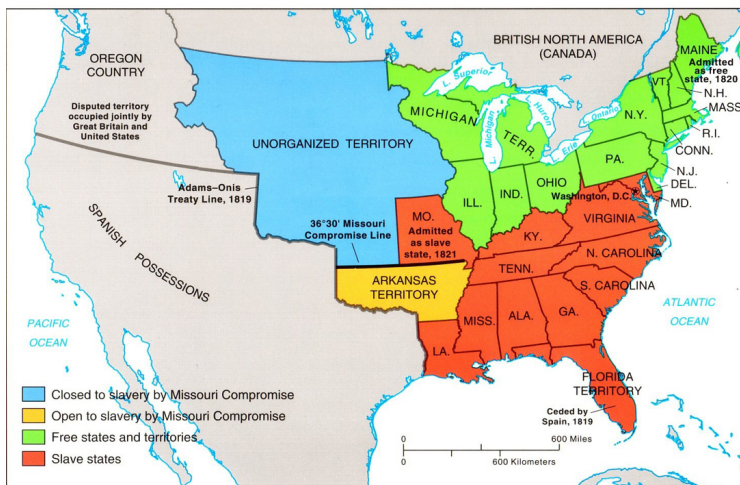
Missouri (Maine) Compromise (1820)

in the early 1800s, tensions began to rise between pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups across the country

by 1819 there were 11 free states and 11 slave states in the U.S. Congress

Missouri requested admission to the country as a slave state

this threatened to upset the delicate balance between slave and free states



Congress created a compromise:

Missouri entered the country as a slave state

Maine entered the country as a free state

the 36°30' line of latitude across the former Louisiana Territory became a boundary

any future states created above that line would be free

any states below that line would be slave

Mexican Session

(lands gained from the Mexican War - should they be free or slave?)

Wilmot Proviso (1846)

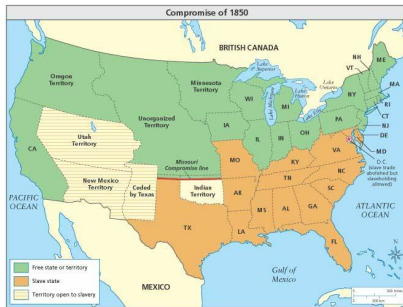
suggested outlawing slavery in any territory acquired the Mexican-American War
(named for Congressman David Wilmot, a Democrat from Pennsylvania - didn't pass)

“Provided, That, as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any territory from the Republic of Mexico by the United States, by virtue of any treaty which may be negotiated between them, and to the use by the Executive of the moneys herein appropriated, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime, whereof the party shall first be duly convicted.”

Compromise of 1850

CA admitted as a free state

other territory split (UT & NM) = **popular sovereignty**
let the voters of a territory decide whether they are to be free or slave



slave trade (not slavery itself) forbidden in DC

new, stronger Fugitive Slave Law
required citizens to assist in the recovery of fugitive slaves
denied a fugitive's right to a jury trial
cases handled by commissioners
were paid \$5 if an alleged fugitive were released
\$10 if they were sent “back” to slavery

Kansas-Nebraska Act

(1854)



Sen. Stephen A. Douglas of IL wanted to ensure a northern transcontinental railroad route that would allow his Illinois voters to profit from railroad terminals throughout the area

southern senators objected
(wanted a southern route)

to get the southern Congressmen to vote for it, he introduced a bill to organize the Nebraska Territory into 2 sections (Kansas and Nebraska) and that would be open to popular sovereignty
assumed that the northern area would oppose slavery and the southern one would permit it
basically repealed the MO Compromise

Bleeding Kansas

(1856)

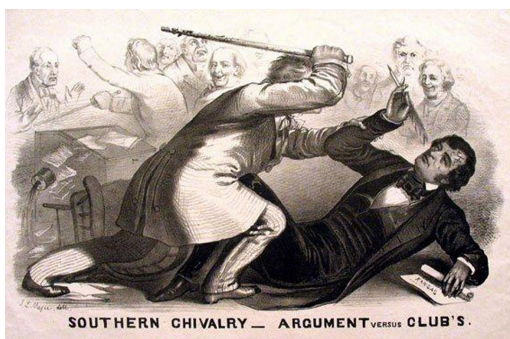
a sequence of violent events involving abolitionists and pro-slavery elements
several abolitionist organizations from the North organized and funded the settlement of several thousand people in Kansas so they could vote to make it a free state
Minister Henry Ward Beecher armed settlers with “Beecher’s 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
President Franklin Pierce continued to recognize the proslavery legislature



proslavery 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 in “Bleeding Kansas”
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, South Carolina Representative Preston Brooks (Butler's nephew) confronted Sumner as he sat writing at his desk in the almost empty Senate chamber

two days later, SC Representative Preston Brooks (Butler's nephew) confronted Sumner 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 with a gold head
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 extreme hatred the two sides of the slavery issue had for each other



Dred Scott Decision

(1857)



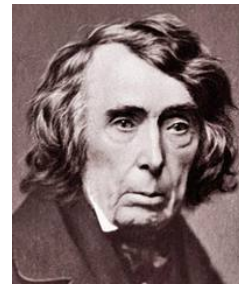
Dred Scott had been the property of Dr. John Emerson who died in 1843

Scott sued for his freedom because he had 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, and as such, they are protected by the Fifth Amendment, which says property cannot be taken away without “due process”

furthermore, slaves could not bring suit against anyone in federal 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 seven debates in Illinois 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 choose 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 by the refusal of the people living there 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 societies
 attacked Harper's Ferry (armory for weapons)
 plan was to arm local slaves and head south, starting a revolution

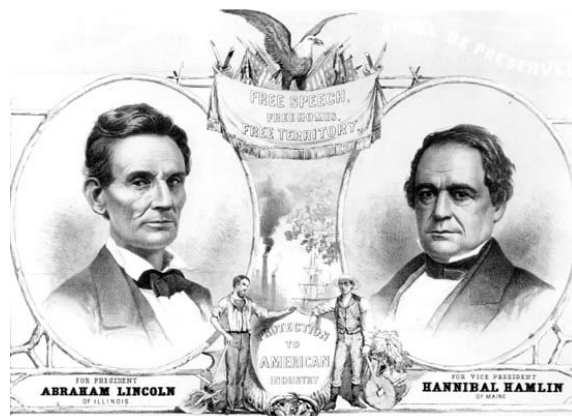
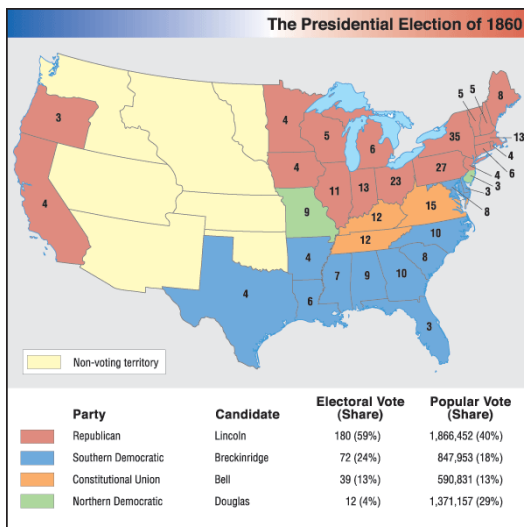
armory surrounded by US troops under the command of Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee (!)

Brown and his men 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)
 Brown's men killed four of the troops, wounded nine
 Brown later hanged for treason



Election of 1860



Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, John Breckinridge, 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