Events Leading to the Civil War

(1820-1861)

Chapter 17

This is how it all began...

Missouri Compromise

(1820)

Missouri Compromise (1820)

devised by Henry Clay, kept the balance of free states (12) and slave states (12) with the admission of Missouri (slave) and Maine (free). Also, an imaginary line was drawn across the southern border of Missouri at latitude 36°30'N—slavery is allowed south of this line and banned north of this line (this is the area obtained in the Louisiana Purchase, 1803).

MISSOURI COMPROMISE 1820



Compromise of 1850

(1850)

Compromise of 1850 (1850)

California admitted as a free state (# 31), upsetting the balance of states in Congress; new western territories (NM & UT) will decide whether or not to allow slavery (popular sovereignty); and a strict Fugitive Slave Act is passed as part of the compromise. [For Texas: Its western border is revised, it must give up any claims to New Mexico Territory, and all of its debts are absorbed by the United States.]

Upsets the balance of free (15) and slave (15) states with the addition of California as a free state.

Effect

Neither side satisfied--four southern states threaten to secede. Northerners hate the Fugitive Slave Act.

COMPROMISE OF 1850



MISSOURI COMPROMISE 1820



Uncle Tom's Cabin

(1852)

Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852)

Written by Harriet Beecher Stowe to describe the evils of slavery and the injustices of the Fugitive Slave Act.

Fugitive Slave Act--Stowe agonizes as some northerners help slaves escape while others try to recapture them.

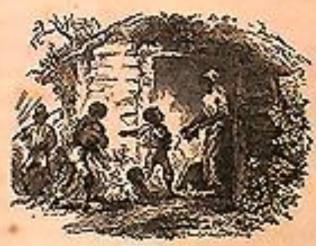
Effect

Abolitionist movement grew in the North as the book was a bestseller. South became very defensive about slavery.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN;

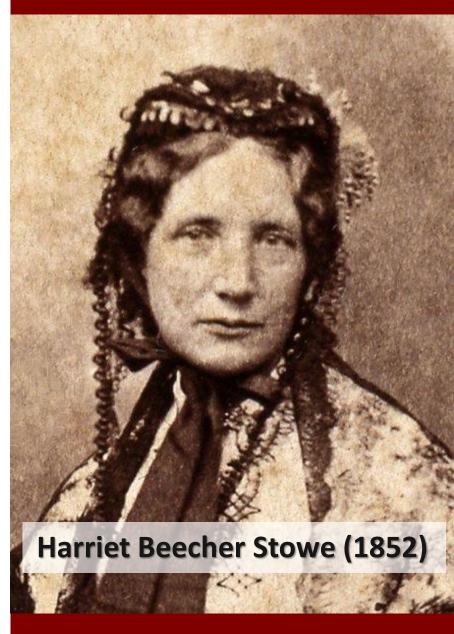
LIFE AMONG THE LOWLY.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWN



VOL. I.

BOSTON: JOHN R JEWETT & COMPANY. CLEVELAND, OBIO: PEWETT, PROCTOR A WORTHINGTON. 1852.



Harriet Beecher Stowe Uncle Tom's Cabin

Kansas-Nebraska Act

(1854)

Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

The Missouri Compromise (1820) was repealed in favor of popular sovereignty in the new territories of Kansas and Nebraska.

An attempt to deal with slavery in the former Louisiana Purchase with two new territories--KS & NE. (Plus: A chance to build a transcontinental railroad.)

Effect

The Republican Party is formed to keep slavery out of the territories and more northerners openly oppose the Fugitive Slave Act.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT 1854



COMPROMISE OF 1850



"Bleeding Kansas"

(1854-1856)

"Bleeding Kansas" (1854-1856)

Kansas Territory became a battleground for proslavery (South) and antislavery (North) forces.

Territorial election to decide if Kansas is admitted as free or slave--both sides sent in "settlers" causing chaos.

Effect

Kansas remained free territory until admitted as free state in 1861--clashes between North and South intensify as blood is spilled for first time.



Dred Scott v. Sandford

(Supreme Court ruling)

(1857)

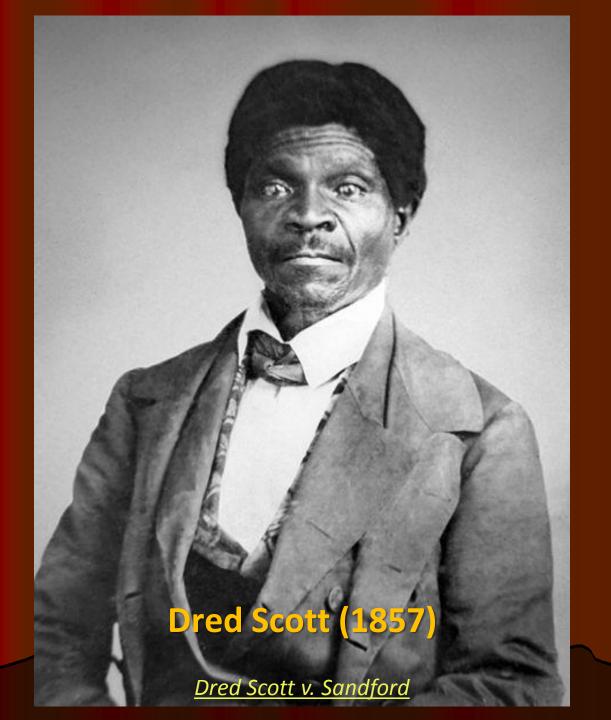
Dred Scott v. Sandford (Supreme Court ruling) (1857)

The Supreme Court ruled the Constitution did not apply to blacks (that they are not citizens and considered as property) and the Missouri Compromise (1820) is ruled unconstitutional

Scott sued for his freedom after his master's death, arguing that living in a free territory made him a free man.

Effect

Congress could not ban slavery in territories. South cheers decision, North is shocked, and Republicans run for national offices.



Lincoln-Douglas Debates

(1858)

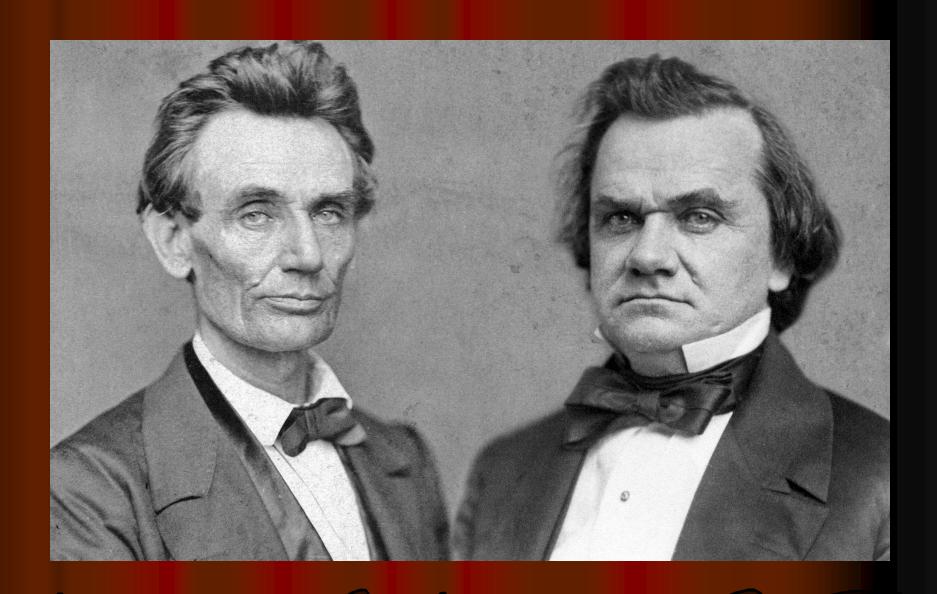
Lincoln—Douglas Debates (1858)

One candidate (Stephen Douglas) revealed popular sovereignty could work for or *against* slavery, jeopardizing his standing in the South in the presidential election of 1860. Other candidate (Abraham Lincoln) gains national attention.

Republican Abraham Lincoln challenges Democrat Senator Stephen Douglas to debates over slavery in election for senate (Illinois).

Effect

Douglas barely won re-election, but debates cost him southern support. Lincoln became known throughout the nation.





John Brown's Raid

(1859)

John Brown's Raid (1859)

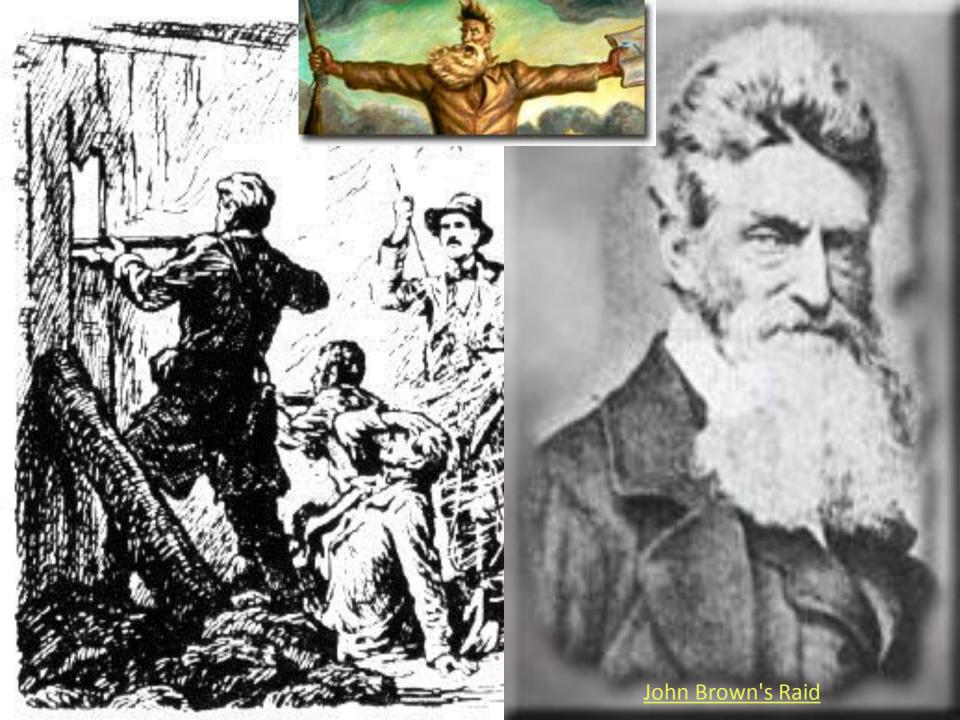
Attempt to free slaves was defeated at the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, VA. John Brown captured (by Robert E. Lee), convicted of treason, and hanged.

Brown thought a slave rebellion would sweep through the South and destroy slavery once and for all.

Effect

Brown became a martyr to the North.

The South was outraged by the northern reaction.



Lincoln Elected President

(1860)

Lincoln Elected President (1860)

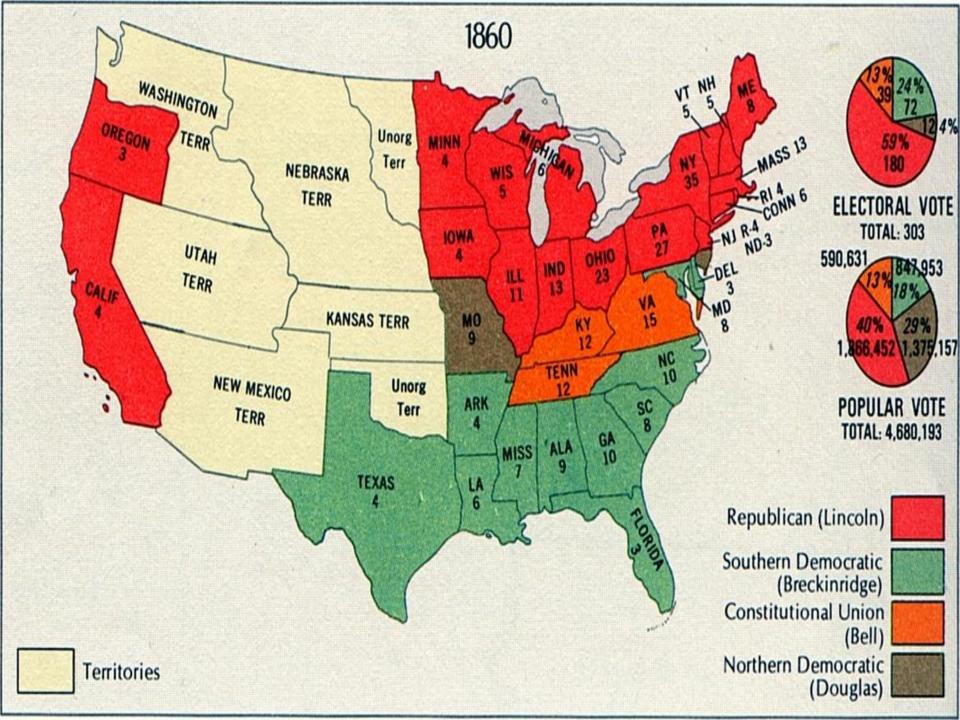
Republican Abraham Lincoln wins presidency with 40% of the popular vote and zero support from the southern states.

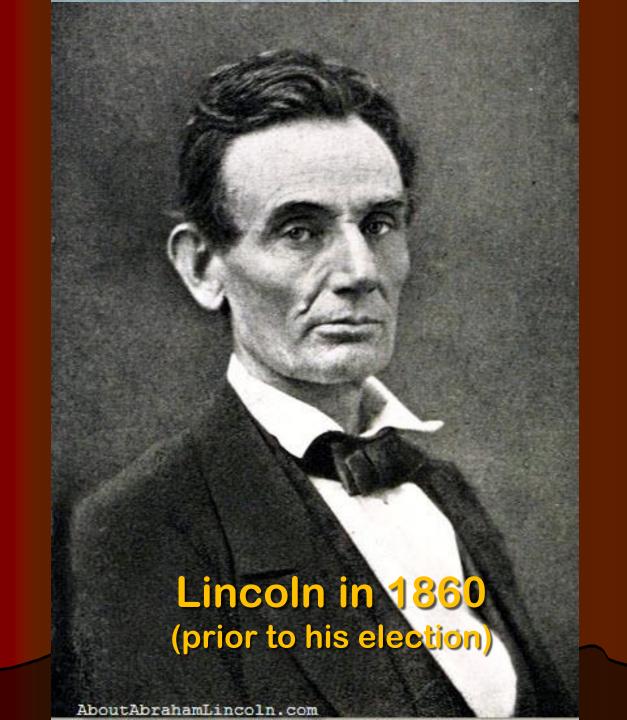
Cause

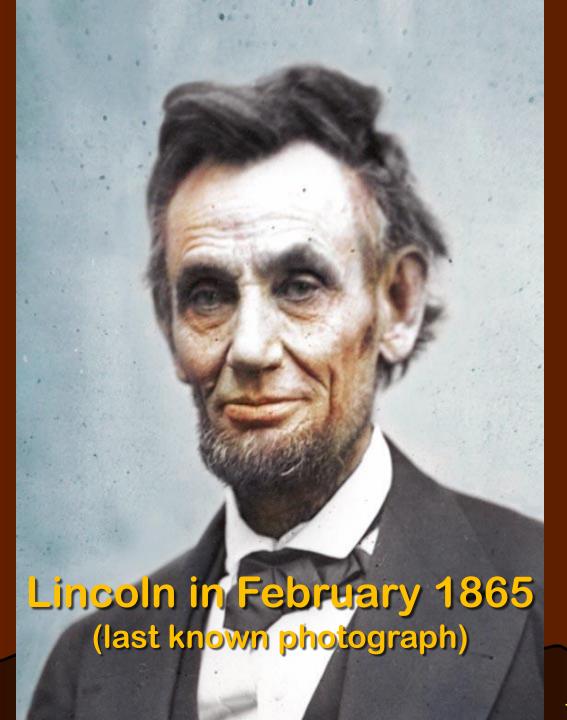
Democrats split over slavery as four candidates compete for votes. Lincoln seen as extremist by South.

Effect

Although Lincoln never called for ending slavery altogether, South Carolina plus 6 states quickly secede (including Texas).







1860 Path to War

This is how it ends... for now!!

Fort Sumter, South Carolina

(1861)

Fort Sumter, South Carolina (1861)

is the Union fort guarding Charleston Harbor, and the Civil War begins in early April when Confederate forces fire upon the fort after demanding that it be abandoned—

Lincoln refused.

The fort was surrendered after a 34-hour bombardment with no casualties.
(Note: Two Union soldiers were killed during the surrender ceremony.)

