

# Events Leading to the Civil War (Chapter 16)

Event	Year	Description	Cause	Effect
<b>Compromise of 1850</b>	<b>1850</b>	California admitted as a free state (# 31), western territories to decide slavery (popular sovereignty), and strict <u>Fugitive Slave Act</u> passed as a compromise.	Upsets the balance of free (15) and slave (15) states with the addition of California as a free state.	Neither side satisfied--four southern states threaten to secede. Northerners hate the Fugitive Slave Act.
<b>Uncle Tom's Cabin</b>	<b>1852</b>	Written by Harriet Beecher <u>Stowe</u> to describe the evils of slavery and the injustice of the Fugitive Slave Act.	Fugitive Slave Act--Stowe agonizes as some northerners help slaves escape while others try to recapture them.	Abolitionist movement grew in the North as the book was a bestseller. South became very defensive about slavery.
<b>Kansas-Nebraska Act</b>	<b>1854</b>	The Missouri Compromise (1820) was repealed in favor of <b>popular sovereignty</b> in the new territories of Kansas and Nebraska.	Attempt to deal with slavery in the former LA Purchase with two new territories (KS & NE) and an opportunity to build a transcontinental railroad.	The Republican Party is formed to keep slavery out of the territories and some northerners openly oppose the Fugitive Slave Act.
<b>"Bleeding Kansas"</b>	<b>1854-1856</b>	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.	Kansas remained free territory until admitted as free state in 1861--clashes between North and South intensify as blood is spilled for first time.

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<b><i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i></b>	<b>1857</b>	The Supreme Court rules Constitution did not apply to blacks (property). Missouri Compromise (1820) ruled unconstitutional.	Scott sued for his freedom after his master's death, arguing that living in a free territory made him a free man.	Congress could not ban slavery in territories. South cheers decision, North is shocked, and Republicans run for national offices.
<b>Lincoln-Douglas Debates</b>	<b>1858</b>	A candidate (Douglas) revealed popular sovereignty could work for or <i>against</i> slavery.	Republican Abraham Lincoln challenges Democrat Senator Stephen Douglas to debates over slavery.	Douglas barely won the election, but debates cost him southern support. Lincoln became known throughout the nation.
<b>John Brown's Raid</b>	<b>1859</b>	Attempt to free slaves was defeated at 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.	Brown became a martyr to the North. The South was outraged by the northern reaction.
<b>Lincoln Elected President</b>	<b>1860</b>	Republican Abraham Lincoln wins presidency with 40% of the popular vote and zero support from southern states.	Democrats split over slavery as four candidates compete for votes. Lincoln seen as extremist by South.	Although Lincoln never called for ending slavery altogether, South Carolina plus 6 states quickly secede (including Texas).

**How did this begin?** Missouri Compromise (1820) 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. (Note: Territory obtained in the Louisiana Purchase, 1803).

**How does this end?** 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 accidentally killed during the surrender ceremony.)