

The Union in Peril

Slavery becomes the dominant issue in U.S. politics, leading to the birth of new political parties, the election of Abraham Lincoln, and the secession of Southern states.

The Union in Peril

- SECTION 1 The Divisive Politics of Slavery
- SECTION 2 Protest, Resistance, and Violence
- SECTION 3 The Birth of the Republican Party
- SECTION 4 Slavery and Secession

Section 1

The Divisive Politics of Slavery

The issue of slavery dominates U.S. politics in the early 1850s.

SECTION

1 The Divisive Politics of Slavery

Differences Between North and South

Industry and Immigration in the North

- 1850s North industrialized; makes large amount, variety of products
- Railroads carry raw materials east, manufactures and settlers west
 - small towns quickly become cities
 - telegraph wires provide fast communication
- Immigrants become industrial workers, fear expansion of slavery
 - slave labor might compete with free labor
 - could reduce status of white workers unable to compete

Continued . . .



SECTION

1

continued Differences Between North and South**Agriculture and Slavery in the South**

- South predominantly rural, mostly plantations and small farms
- Economy relies on cash crops; manufacture under 10% of U.S. goods
- Few immigrants; free, enslaved African Americans meet labor needs
- In 3 states, blacks are majority; in 2, are half of population
- Whites fear restriction of slavery will change society, economy

SECTION

1

Slavery in the Territories

The Wilmot Proviso

- **Wilmot Proviso**—no slavery in territory acquired from Mexico
- North: slave territory adds slave states; no jobs for free workers
- South: slaves are property under Constitution; fear more free states

Statehood for California

- 1850, CA writes constitution; elects leaders; applies for statehood
- Pres. Zachary Taylor supports admission of California as free state
- Recommends to angry South that slavery be decided by each territory



SECTION

1

The Senate Debates

Clay's Compromise

- Some Southerners threaten **secession**, withdrawal of state from Union
- Henry Clay offers **Compromise of 1850** to settle disputes over slavery

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

1

continued The Senate Debates**Terms of the Compromise**

- Compromise has provisions to appease North and South:
 - California to be a free state
 - more effective fugitive slave law
 - **popular sovereignty**—residents of territory vote to decide slavery
 - government to pay Texas \$10 million for its claim to eastern NM
 - slave trade banned in D.C. but slavery permitted
- Clay gives speech begging North and South to compromise, save Union

Continued . . .

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SECTION

1

continued **The Senate Debates****Calhoun and Webster Respond**

- Clay's speech starts one of greatest debates in U.S. history
- John C. Calhoun presents Southern case for slavery in territories
- In famous speech, Daniel Webster calls for national unity

The Compromise is Adopted

- Senate rejects compromise; Clay leaves Washington
- **Stephen A. Douglas** reintroduces resolutions individually
- President **Millard Filmore** gives support; South decides to negotiate
 - Compromise of 1850 voted into law



Section 2

Protest, Resistance, and Violence

Proslavery and antislavery factions disagree over the treatment of fugitive slaves and the spread of slavery to the territories.

SECTION

2 Protest, Resistance, and Violence

Fugitive Slaves and the Underground Railroad

The Fugitive Slave Act

- **Fugitive Slave Act**—part of Compromise of 1850, has very harsh terms
- Alleged fugitives denied jury trial, right to testify on own behalf
- Federal commissioners paid more for returning than freeing accused
- People convicted of helping a fugitive fined, imprisoned, or both

Resisting the Law

- Northerners send fugitives to Canada, some use force in rescues
- **Personal liberty laws** forbid prison for fugitives, grant jury trials

Continued . . .



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2

continued Fugitive Slaves and the Underground Railroad**Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad**

- **Underground Railroad**—secret network of people who help slaves escape
- **Harriet Tubman** escapes from slavery, becomes conductor on 19 trips
- Fugitives go on foot at night, often no food, avoiding armed patrols
- Some fugitives stayed in North; others go on to Canada

Uncle Tom's Cabin

- Abolitionist **Harriet Beecher Stowe**'s *Uncle Tom's Cabin* stirs protest
- **Uncle Tom's Cabin** shows slavery as moral problem, not just political



SECTION

2

Tension in Kansas and Nebraska

Popular Sovereignty

- Douglas believes people want territories incorporated into Union
- Wants railroad west in Chicago; thinks expansion will help Democrats
- Feels popular sovereignty on slavery best way to organize new states
- Thinks slavery unworkable in prairie farms but seeks South's support

The Kansas-Nebraska Act

- Douglas's bill repeals Missouri Compromise; bitter debate ensues
- 1854 **Kansas-Nebraska Act** allows popular sovereignty on slavery



SECTION

2

Violence Erupts in “Bleeding Kansas”

The Race for Kansas

- Northern, Southern settlers pour into Kansas Territory
- Most settlers sent by antislavery emigrant aid societies
- In 1855, Kansas holds election for territorial legislature
- Proslavery “border ruffians” vote illegally, win fraudulent majority
- Proslavery government in Leecompton; antislavery rival in Topeka

“The Sack of Lawrence”

- Proslavery grand jury brands people of antislavery Lawrence traitors
 - posse of 800 burns, loots town

Continued . . .



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SECTION

2

continued Violence Erupts in “Bleeding Kansas”**“The Pottawatomie Massacre”**

- Abolitionist **John Brown** believes God wants him to fight slavery
- Brown, followers violently kill 5 men in “Pottawatomie Massacre”
- Territory called **Bleeding Kansas** for incidents that kill some 200

Violence in the Senate

- Senator Charles Sumner verbally attacks colleagues, slavery
- Congressman Preston S. Brooks beats Sumner for insults to uncle
- Southerners applaud Brooks; Northerners condemn him



Section 3

The Birth of the Republican Party

In the mid-1850s, the issue of slavery and other factors split political parties and lead to the birth of new ones.

SECTION

3 The Birth of the Republican Party

New Political Parties Emerge

Slavery Divides Whigs

- Northern, Southern Whigs split over slavery in 1852 elections
- Democrat **Franklin Pierce** elected president in 1852
- Whig Party splinters after Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854

Nativism

- **Nativism**—belief in favoring native-born Americans over immigrants
- Nativists form American Party (1854), known as **Know-Nothing Party**
- Middle-class Protestants afraid of Catholicism; split over slavery

SECTION

3

Antislavery Parties Form

Forerunner of the Republican Party

- Liberty Party pursues abolition through laws; affects 1844 election

The Free-Soilers

- **Free-Soil Party** opposes extension of slavery into territories
- Many Free-Soilers not abolitionists; support restrictions on blacks
- Object to slavery's impact on white wage-based labor force
- Convinced of conspiracy to spread slavery throughout U.S.

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

3

continued Antislavery Parties Form**Republican Party**

- 1854, unhappy Whigs, Democrats, Free-Soilers form **Republican Party**
- **Horace Greeley**, abolitionist, helps found Republican party
- Republicans oppose slavery in territories; other opinions varied
- Main competition for voters is Know-Nothing Party

The 1856 Election

- Republicans select **John C. Frémont**—mapped OR Trail, led troops in CA
- Democrat **James Buchanan** elected; secession averted



Section 4

Slavery and Secession

A series of controversial events heighten the sectional conflict that brings the nation to the brink of war.



SECTION

4 Slavery and Secession

Slavery Dominates Politics

Dred Scott Decision

- **Dred Scott**, slave who had lived in free areas sues for freedom
- 1857, Chief Justice **Roger B. Taney** hands down decision
 - slaves do not have rights of citizens
 - no claim to freedom, suit begun in slave state
 - Congress cannot forbid slavery in territories

The Lecompton Constitution

- Proslavery Kansas government writes constitution, seeks statehood
- Referendum votes down constitution; President Buchanan endorses it
- Stephen Douglas gets second referendum; voters reject it again



SECTION

4

Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Lincoln Challenges Douglas

- 1858, Republican **Abraham Lincoln** runs for Douglas's Senate seat
- Because Lincoln unknown, challenges Douglas to 7 debates

Positions and Arguments

- Douglas: slavery backward, not immoral;
Lincoln: slavery immoral
- Douglas thinks popular sovereignty will undo slavery
- Lincoln thinks legislation needed to stop spread of slavery
- Both men distort other's views, make them seem extreme

Continued . . .



NEXT

SECTION

4

continued Lincoln-Douglas Debates**The Freeport Doctrine**

- Lincoln: how to form free states if territories must allow slavery
- Douglas's **Freeport Doctrine**—elect leaders who do not enforce slavery
- Douglas wins seat; doctrine worsens regional split between Democrats
- Lincoln's attacks on “vast moral evil” of slavery draw attention

SECTION

4

Passions Ignite

Harpers Ferry

- John Brown plans to start a slave uprising, needs weapons
- 1859, leads band to federal arsenal in **Harpers Ferry** to get arms
- U.S. Marines put down rebellion, capture Brown

John Brown's Hanging

- Brown is hanged for high treason, December 1859
- Many Northerners admire Brown; Southerners fear future uprisings



SECTION

4

Lincoln Is Elected President

The Republican Convention

- Overflowing crowds attend presidential convention in Chicago

Seward and Lincoln

- Senator William H. Seward expected to win nomination
- Lincoln wins nomination; seen as more moderate than Seward
 - tells South will not meddle with slaves; South feels threatened

The Election of 1860

- Democrats split over slavery
- Lincoln wins with less than half of popular vote
 - gets no Southern electoral votes



SECTION

4

Southern Secession

The Shaping of the Confederacy

- South Carolina and 6 other states secede:
 - want complete independence from federal control
 - fear end to their way of life
 - want to preserve slave labor system
- Feb. 1861 **Confederacy** or Confederate States of America forms
- Confederacy permits slavery, recognizes each state's sovereignty
- Former senator **Jefferson Davis** unanimously elected president

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NEXT

SECTION

4

continued **Southern Secession**

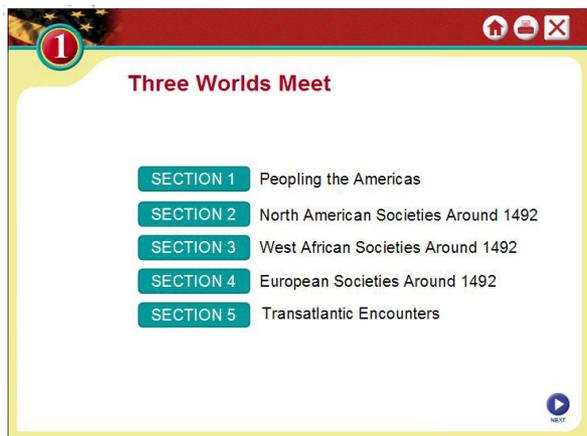
The Calm Before the Storm

- Buchanan calls secession illegal, says also illegal to stop it
- Mass resignations from government in Washington, D.C.



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