

The Coming of the Civil War

Watch Crash Course US History #15

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https://youtu.be/fM1czS_VYDI

North vs. South

- Methodist and Baptist churches — severed by Slavery.
- Southern Churches — Methodist Episcopal Church South & The Southern Baptist Convention
- Did not support reform movements

Changing attitudes in the North

- Slavery - an offense against basic humanity.
- Protestants, — all people deserved to choose their own path and destiny.
- Prejudiced against African-Americans, but felt that slavery was evil

Uncle Tom's Cabin

- Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel about the pre-war south sold millions of copies in the United States and abroad.
- Convinced many of the evils of slavery as an offense against the American family.
- Tried to show slavery's corrupting influence, convincing northerners that Slavery would ultimately destroy the United States.



Discussion

- What effect do you think Uncle Tom's Cabin had on the North and what do you think was the reaction in the South?

Reaction in the South

- Southerners found Uncle Tom's Cabin to be insulting and full of lies.
- Many southerners believed that plantations were really large, happy families.
- Claimed most planters took a personal interest in the lives of their slaves. They contrasted this with northern factories, motivated by profit.
- Southerners were not going to let northerners tell them how to live their lives.



Differences

- The north was vastly more industrial and had a growing population.
- New technology had a greater impact on the north, including more trains and transportation options. 70% of railroad track was in the north.
- Despite investment in southern railroad, the south was still under-developed in this way.



The Telegraph

- Developed by Samuel F.B. Morse (Morse code), the telegraph allowed people to send messages over great distances.
- Telegraph wires were strung next to railroad tracks, so most of the increase helped the north.
- As the north gained more political power, the south feared they would lose any power they had in the national debate.



Discussion

- How were advancements in the Railroad and Telegraph going to be vital to the Civil War? Which section would benefit the most?

Texas

- 1821 - Mexico gains independence from Spain after a 13 year struggle.
- The new Mexican government granted lands to the wealthy in California, widening the gap between rich and poor
- Texas and New Mexico grew into trade centers in Northern Mexico.
- New England Sailors began sailing around South America to trade in California. Northern Mexican territories began trading more with the U.S. Than with the rest of Mexico.

Texas

- 1822 - Stephen F. Austin leads a group of American colonists to Texas. By 1825, 1,800 Americans had moved there.
- Texas had fertile land for cotton, and open range for cattle.
- Mexico encouraged the settlement, offering tax breaks and protection.
- By 1830, 7,000 Americans had settled in Texas.

Texas

- Americans in Texas wanted slavery to remain open to them. Mexico wanted to ban it.
- 1833 - Santa Ana takes over Mexico. Texans did not like the move away from democracy. Santa Ana does not like the semi-autonomous "Texians"
- October 1835, Texians clash with Mexican troops. The War for Texas Independence was begun.

Texas War

- Santa Ana led troops north to San Antonio, where the Texans had converted an old Mission, The Alamo, into a fort.
- Santa Ana's 4,000 troops attacked the Alamo for 13 days, the Texans numbered 200. March 6, Mexican forces broke through, killing 180 Texans inside.
- By April 21, the Texans were able to defeat Santa Ana's forces and make Texas independent.

Discussion

- Were the Texans Justified in seeking independence from Mexico to keep their slaves?

Annexation of Texas

- After winning independence, Texans voted in 1836 to join the United States.
- Southerners and Democrats supported annexation of Texas, hoping to carve one or more slave states out of the territory.
- Northerners and Whigs opposed the move, fearing increased power for the south.

Relations with Mexico

- Mexico did not like the idea of an annexed Texas. Warned that such action would lead to war.
- In 1844 President Tyler signed the annexation treaty, and the Whig controlled senate defeated it.
- By 1845, Congress approved the treaty, with the election of President James K. Polk.

Mexico

- in 1845, Mexico broke off diplomatic relations with the United States (First step to war!!).
- In addition to the annexation of Texas, there was a lingering dispute over the southern border.

- Polk tried to buy New Mexico and California from Mexico for \$30 million, but Santa Ana refused to see the U.S. Ambassador.

Discussion

- What should the U.S. Do next?

Skirmish on the Rio Grande

- Polk sent 3000 U.S. troops under Zachary Taylor into the disputed area with Mexico.
- Mexico sent its own troops. The two sides fought and several Americans were killed.
- Polk sought a declaration of war from congress against Mexico and got one.
- American expeditionary forces were also on their way to California.

The Bear Flag Revolt

- Before the official start of the Mexican war, American settlers in California revolted against Mexico, declaring their own republic.
- American forces easily captured New Mexico and went to back up the rebels in California.
- By 1847, the U.S. was in control of New Mexico and California.

Mexican War

- Taylor had taken the fight into Mexico.
- After a series of victories, Taylor dispatched General Winfield Scott to take Mexico City.
- By September 14, 1847, Scott had captured Mexico City and the war ended.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- Treaty that ended the war. Mexico in weak position.
 - Mexico gave up claim to Texas and it's northern territories (2/5 of its total land) to the U.S.
 - Recognized Rio Grande as border with Texas.
 - U.S. paid Mexico \$15 Million
 - U.S. agreed to pay claims made by American citizens against Mexico.
- 5 years later, U.S. would pay \$10 million for parts of what is today Arizona and New Mexico, The Gadsden Purchase.

Results of the war

- Mexican war, along with the division of the Oregon territory, gave the U.S. the continental borders we know today.
- Led to decades of poor relations with Mexico.
- Further opened the west to expansion and migration.
- Brought slavery debate to forefront.

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<https://youtu.be/tkdF8pOFUfI>

Discussion

- Why did we want California??
 - Manifest Destiny
 - Gold

Trade

Slavery

- Any states carved out of the winnings from Mexico would likely be slave states.
- This could affect the balance of power between the north and the south.
- Northerners feared the south would gain more power politically and economically.
- The **Wilmot Proviso** was an attempted amendment to declare the new territories as free territories. It was attached to bills relating to the new territories. It did not pass.

“Mexico will poison us”

- The Mexican war returned slavery to the front burner of our national discourse.
- The annexation of new lands brought up old questions about which lands would be open for slavery?
- These questions would ultimately lead to civil war.

Slavery in the territories

- The Missouri Compromise did not address slave status of areas while they were still territories.
- Northerners felt if they could ban slavery in the territories, it would be less likely to develop once the territories were states.
- Southerners felt that a person should be allowed to take his property anywhere he moved to.

The Ostrich years

- Both major parties nominated candidates who avoided the issue of slavery in 1848.
 - Governor Lewis Cass - Democrat
 - General Zachary Taylor - Whig
- Some party members were angered that the parties would not confront slavery. Many of these broke off and formed the “Free Soil Party”. The new party siphoned enough votes from Cass to give Taylor the victory.

Compromise of 1850

- California petitioned for admittance to the Union as a free state.
- Henry Clay proposed the following compromise:
 - Congress would admit California as free.
 - People of New Mexico and Utah would decide slavery for themselves.
 - Congress would abolish the slave trade in D.C.
 - Texas would give up claims to New Mexico for \$10 million.
 - Fugitive Slave Act - compelled any U.S. citizen to aid in the return of escaped slaves.

Calhoun

- John Calhoun argued against the compromise.
- He felt the south was in jeopardy of losing its freedoms because of increasing northern power.
- Believed that the North had controlling power because of its majority in the House of Representatives and the Electoral College.
- Southern states should have the right to leave the Union to protect their freedoms.
- If the government restricts freedom, why should southerners respect that government?

Webster

- Senator Daniel Webster had always spoken against slavery.

- ◆ Webster surprised many by coming out for each provision of the Compromise of 1850.
- ◆ He felt that Slavery would not be practical in New Mexico or Utah.
- ◆ Webster's support outraged abolitionists, but many northern business owners went along with him, because they did not want disruption of trade.



Discussion

- ◆ Would you have supported some, all, or none of the parts of the Compromise of 1850?

Compromise approved

- ◆ Taylor threatened a veto of the compromise, pushing his own proposals.
- ◆ Taylor died in 1850, bringing the weak Millard Fillmore to the Presidency.
- ◆ The south was not happy with the compromise.



Decline of the parties

- ◆ 1852 - Whigs reject Fillmore and nominate General Winfield Scott.
- ◆ Many northern whigs were disgusted by their leaders' willingness to compromise on slavery.
- ◆ The old generation of Whig/Jacksonian leaders were dead or dying - Calhoun, Webster, Clay and Jackson.



Immigrant fears

- ◆ Nativism - movement to ensure that native-born Americans (not to be confused with Native Americans) got better treatment than immigrants.
- ◆ The Order of the Star Spangled Banner was formed as a secret society in 1849.
- ◆ This became the American Party, aka the "Know Nothing Party", in 1854.
- ◆ Party campaigned against catholic candidates and for a longer naturalization period for immigrants.



Kansas-Nebraska Act

- ◆ Pushed by Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois.
- ◆ Douglass was asking the congress to repeal the Missouri compromise and allow Kansas and Nebraska to decide the issue of slavery for themselves. Popular Sovereignty.
- ◆ Douglas knew that 2 new states in the west would benefit Chicago, in his home state.
- ◆ Douglas also wanted to run for president and needed the support of the south.
- ◆ He thought the Kansas-Nebraska Act would appeal to both sections of the country.



The Republican Party

- ◆ Douglas mis-calculated the Kansas Nebraska Act on nearly every front.
- ◆ His party in the north felt it was a sellout to the south, and many became enraged.
- ◆ As meetings formed to protest the Kansas-Nebraska Act, a new party was formed, starting in Michigan, the Republican Party.
- ◆ The party gained support from former Whigs, Free-Soilers, and anti-slavery Democrats

Conflict mounts

- ◆ Pro and Anti-Slavery groups tried to organize to tip the Kansas elections to their side.
- ◆ In the Northeast, anti-slavery groups organized Emigrant Aid Societies to encourage followers to move to Kansas.
- ◆ Pro-slavery groups crossed over from Missouri to vote in territorial elections, as well as to raid anti-slavery communities.

- By 1855, two competing capital cities emerged: Topeka for the anti-slavery side and Lecompton for the pro-slavery side.

Bleeding Kansas

- 1856 - A group of southerners (border ruffians), supported by the federal marshal, looted newspaper offices and homes, and burning down a hotel in Lawrence, Kansas.
- In response, John Brown led a group and attacked the pro-slavery settlement of Pottawatomie, killing 5 men in front of their families.
- This violence continued throughout the summer.

Blood spilled in Congress

- Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner delivered a speech in the senate denouncing southern states and their tactics in Kansas.
- He also made personal insults against South Carolina Senator Andrew Butler.
- Two days later, Representative Preston Brooks (Butler's Nephew) approached Sumner's desk and beat him with his cane.
- Sumner was badly injured, Brooks resigned but was re-elected.

Politics resumes

- After the violent summer in Kansas and the capitol, Democrats nominated diplomat James Buchanan for president.
- Republicans nominated John Fremont, a mexican war hero.
- The American Party nominated Millard Filmore, former president.
- None of these men had any ties to the Kansas Nebraska Act or Bleeding Kansas.

Buchanan Wins

- The Democrats ran in support of the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act.
- Republicans ran against slavery, arguing that Kansas should be admitted as a free state.
- Buchanan pledged to stop agitation on the issue of slavery, winning him the south and a few key northern states.

Supreme Court

- Buchanan and others hoped the Supreme Court would decide the issue of slavery.
- Dred Scott v. Sanford - slave sued his master.
 - Supreme Court ruled that slaves were not citizens: no right to sue.
 - Living in a free state did not free a slave from slavery, even if he had lived there for years.
 - Missouri Compromise unconstitutional - Slaves are property and the government cannot deny a person the rights to his property without due process.

Duck and Cover

- Buchanan supported the Supreme Court decision.
- He hoped the national government would never again need to deal with slavery.
- Congress had no power to ban slavery anywhere.

The Lecompton Constitution

- 1857 - pro-slavery groups in Kansas write a pro-slavery constitution for statehood.
- Both options on the ballot would have protected slavery, so most Kansans refuse to vote.
- President Buchanan endorses the Lecompton Constitution, angering the north.
- Congress returned the constitution, temporarily stymieing Kansas statehood.

Illinois, 1858

- Senator Douglas had to run for re-election. His opponent was Abraham Lincoln.
- They met in a series of debates that would become known as The Lincoln-Douglas Debates.
- The state legislature would ultimately pick the senate seat, but these debates brought Lincoln more notoriety, with most who watched claiming that Lincoln was the better debater.

John Brown

- October 16, 1859 - John Brown and a group of men, attacked and raided the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.
- They were going to attempt to incite a slave revolt that would lead to a moral renewal.
- John Brown was captured and convicted of treason, sentenced to hang.
- Northerners saw Brown as a martyr, while the south was angered at the northern response.

Things Fall Apart

- The Democratic party had been a national party, but in the lead-up to the election of 1860, the party divided.
- Southern Democrats left the party convention, had their own, and nominated John Breckinridge for President, who was committed to expanding slavery in the territories.
- Northern Democrats nominated Stephen Douglas, who believed in Popular Sovereignty on the question of slavery in the territories.

Election of 1860

- Moderate southerners, who had been Whigs and American Party members, formed the Constitutional Union party, nominating John Bell, a moderate slaveholder, for President.
- Republicans rejected the more extreme William Seward, in favor of the more moderate Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was firmly against expansion of slavery into the territories.

Beyond Repair

- In the election, with no national parties, the north and south were simply too far apart.
- In the north, Lincoln and Douglas were the leaders, in the south, Bell and Breckenridge. Lincoln's name was not even on many southern ballots.
- In the end, Lincoln won nearly all of the free states, with Douglas only winning part of New Jersey, and Missouri.
- Bell won Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, while Breckenridge won Delaware, Maryland and the rest of the south.

Election of 1860

Lincoln Wins

- Lincoln wins in 1860 without a single southern state, and with only 39% of the popular vote.
- Lincoln had 180 electoral votes, the precise number he needed to win.
- A majority of the American public voted for another candidate.

Deep-South Secession

- Many southerners were outraged that a president could be elected with no southern support.
- Secessionists argued that since the states had voluntarily joined the union, they could voluntarily leave it as well.
- November 20, 1860, South Carolina voted to secede from the Union. Six other deep-south states would follow suit in the coming weeks.
- Those seven states met in Montgomery, Alabama, setting up The Confederate States of America in February 1861.
- Jefferson Davis, a former Senator and Secretary of War, becomes President of the CSA.

Union Response

- ◆ President Buchanan felt that secession was illegal, but that he would not use force to prevent the move.
- ◆ Compromises were floated, and rejected.
- ◆ Some argued to let the south go in peace.
- ◆ Lincoln, not yet sworn in, believed that he had a duty to uphold the laws of the United States, and did not focus on the slavery issue.

First shots

- ◆ Despite South Carolina's secession, United States troops still occupied Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor.
- ◆ Confederate forces had forced a supply ship sent to restock the fort, back to port.
- ◆ Lincoln was torn between his pledge not to aggress against the south, and his oath to defend federal property.

Fort Sumter

- ◆ Lincoln told the governor of South Carolina that he was sending supplies and not weapons to the fort.
- ◆ Jefferson Davis ordered the fort to surrender or they would be taken by force.
- ◆ The fort refused to surrender, and on April 12, 1861 Confederate forces began to fire on the U.S. Outpost.

Open Rebellion

- ◆ By firing on federal property, the states of the C.S.A. Were now in open rebellion toward the United States.
- ◆ Lincoln felt he had to respond to defend the Constitution.
- ◆ Lincoln called for volunteers to fight in the conflict. Southerners saw this as an act of war.

More secession

- ◆ Upper-south states of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas now voted to secede as well.
- ◆ 84 years after it had been founded, the United States had now split in two, over the issue of slavery.

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USA and CSA