

A political cartoon depicting a large, bearded man in a brown coat, holding a rifle in his right hand and a map in his left. He stands over a fallen man in the foreground. In the background, other figures are visible, including one holding a flag with stars and stripes. The scene is set against a backdrop of a cloudy sky and a landscape with mountains.

The 1850s: Road to Secession

The “Issue of Slavery” up to 1850

1787: 3/5ths Compromise attempted to settle issues of slavery and representation; Congress banned slavery in the territories north of the Ohio River (FSA also in U.S.C.)

1820: Missouri Compromise attempted to balance the power of North and South by admitting **Maine** as a free state and **Missouri** as a slave state



1845: Texas was admitted to the Union as a slave state

1846: the Wilmot Proviso attempted (and failed) to close slavery to the “Mexican Cession”; Free Soil Party forms

1849: California’s application for statehood forced the nation to deal with the issue of the expansion of slavery

1850: Compromise of 1850



“Free-Soilers”

While the Whigs threw their support behind Taylor, the Free-Soil Party grew suspicious over the silence on slavery:

- Pro-Wilmot Proviso
- Federal funding for internal improvements
- Federally funded homesteads for settlers
- Anti-tariff
- Wage earners who did not want slavery in Western territories



The Compromise of 1850

Henry Clay proposed a compromise built around five components (proposed as an omnibus bill):

1. California be admitted as a free state
2. Utah and New Mexico would decide the issue of slavery (Popular Sovereignty)
3. Slave trade banned in D.C.
4. Fugitive Slave Act be more strictly enforced
5. TX gets \$10m as compensation for losing land to NM

-Met with strong Southern opposition led by **Calhoun**, who dies before the debate is over

-**Daniel Webster** urged compromise from Northerners on the issue of fugitive slave enforcement (7th of March Speech)



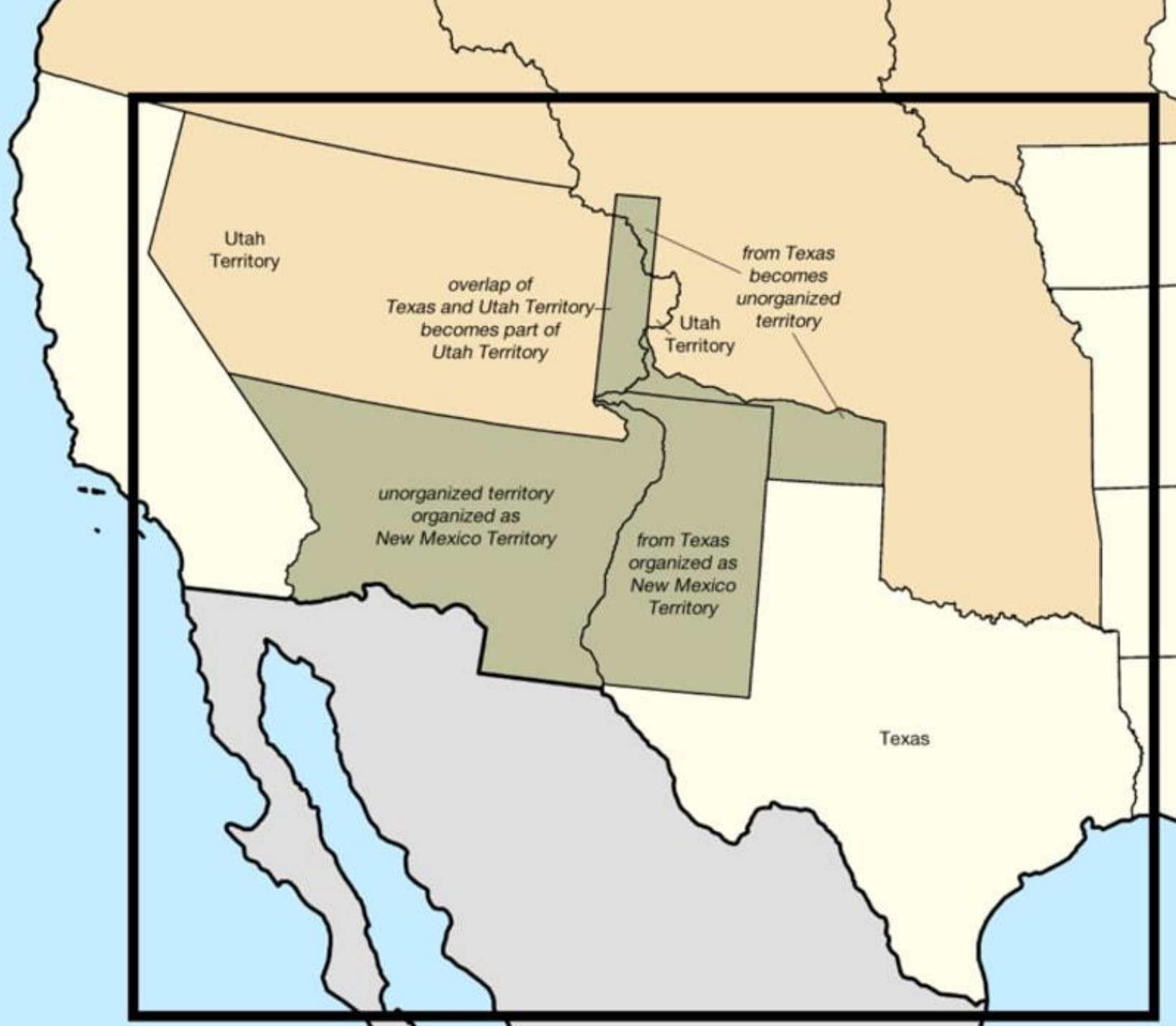
“Secession! Peaceable secession...There can be no such thing as peaceable secession...”
– Daniel Webster, 1850

The Compromise of 1850

Legislative Item

Victory for?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• California admitted to the Union as free state | Clear victory for the North |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Popular sovereignty to determine slavery issue in Utah and New Mexico territories | Moderate victory for both sides |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texas border dispute with New Mexico resolved• Texas receives \$10 million | Moderate Southern victories |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slave trade, but not slavery itself, abolished in the District of Columbia | Moderate Northern victory |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong federal enforcement of new Fugitive Slave Act | Clear victory for the South |



Utah Territory

overlap of Texas and Utah Territory becomes part of Utah Territory

from Texas becomes unorganized territory

from Texas organized as New Mexico Territory

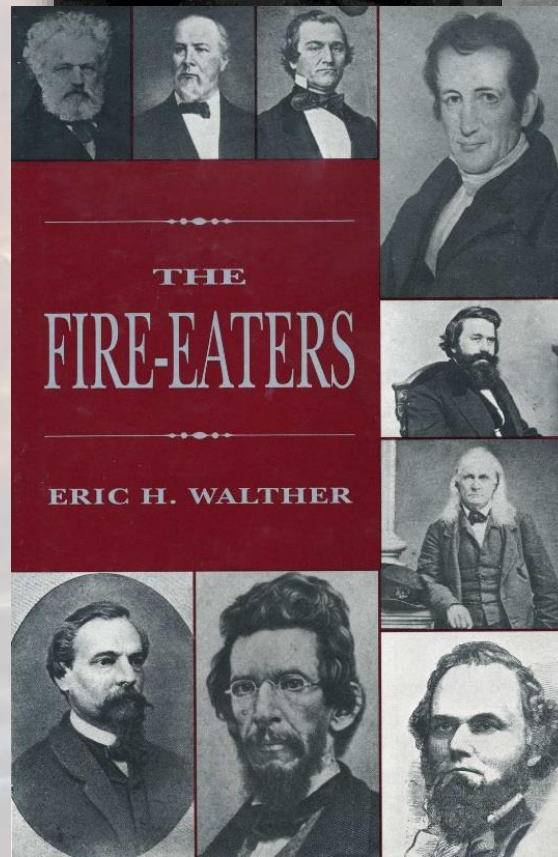
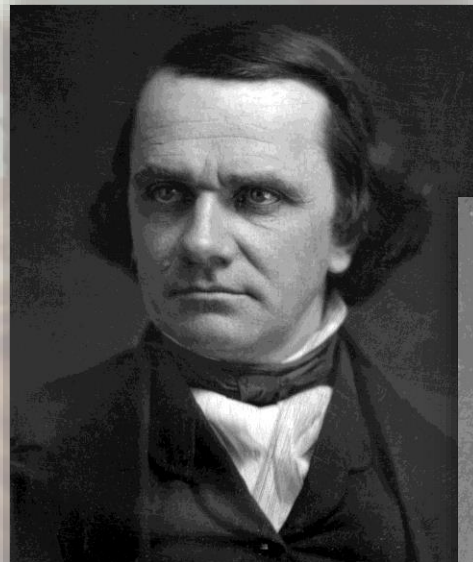
unorganized territory organized as New Mexico Territory

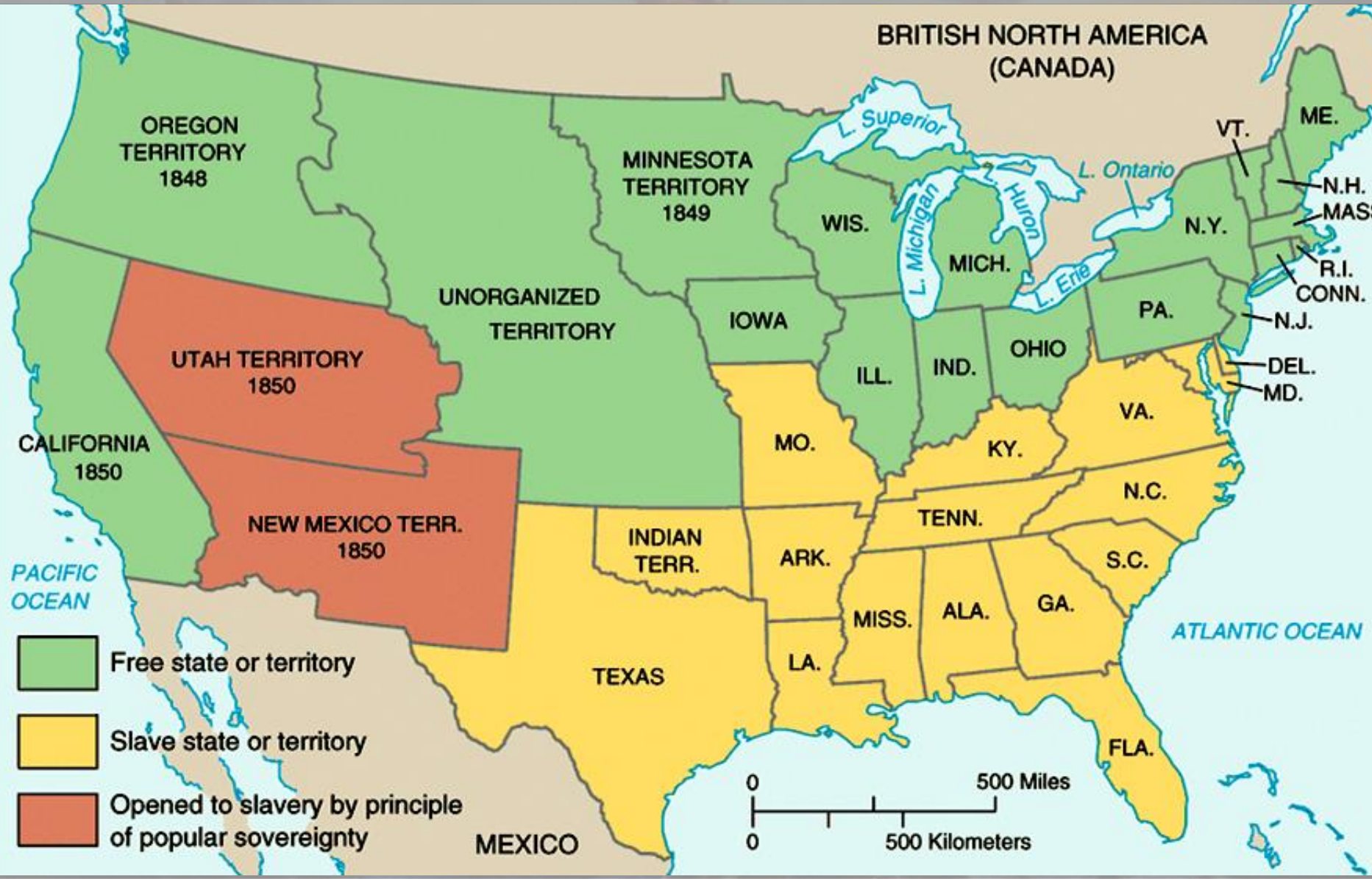
Texas

-Clay's omnibus bill was ultimately defeated

-**Stephen A. Douglas** took the bill's parts and attempted to pass them individually

-With the support of new president, **Millard Fillmore**, the compromise passed





- Free state or territory
- Slave state or territory
- Opened to slavery by principle of popular sovereignty

The “New” Fugitive Slave Act

-There was already a Fugitive Slave Clause in the Constitution...so what would be the need for a new one?

– Many Northerners weren’t enforcing

-The NEW Fugitive Slave Act:

– Legally bound citizens to identify anyone they knew to be a runaway slave

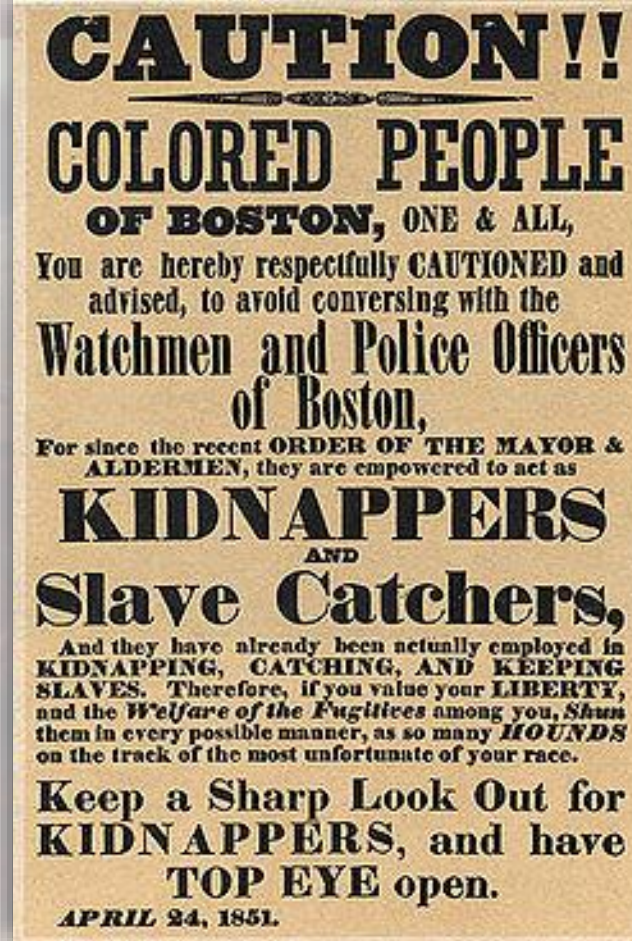
– Imposed a \$500 penalty on anyone who helped harbor or conceal runaways

– Denied runaways the ability to testify on their own behalf or be given a trial by jury

– Empowered any citizen of the North to act as a sheriff in encounters with runaways

– Someone could be convicted of violating the FSA and returned to the South if just **one** person swore before a judge that the person was a runaway

– Federal commissioners were paid differently depending upon return or release



CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE
OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the
Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,

For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN**, they are empowered to act as
KIDNAPPERS
AND
Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in **KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES.** Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY**, and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS** on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

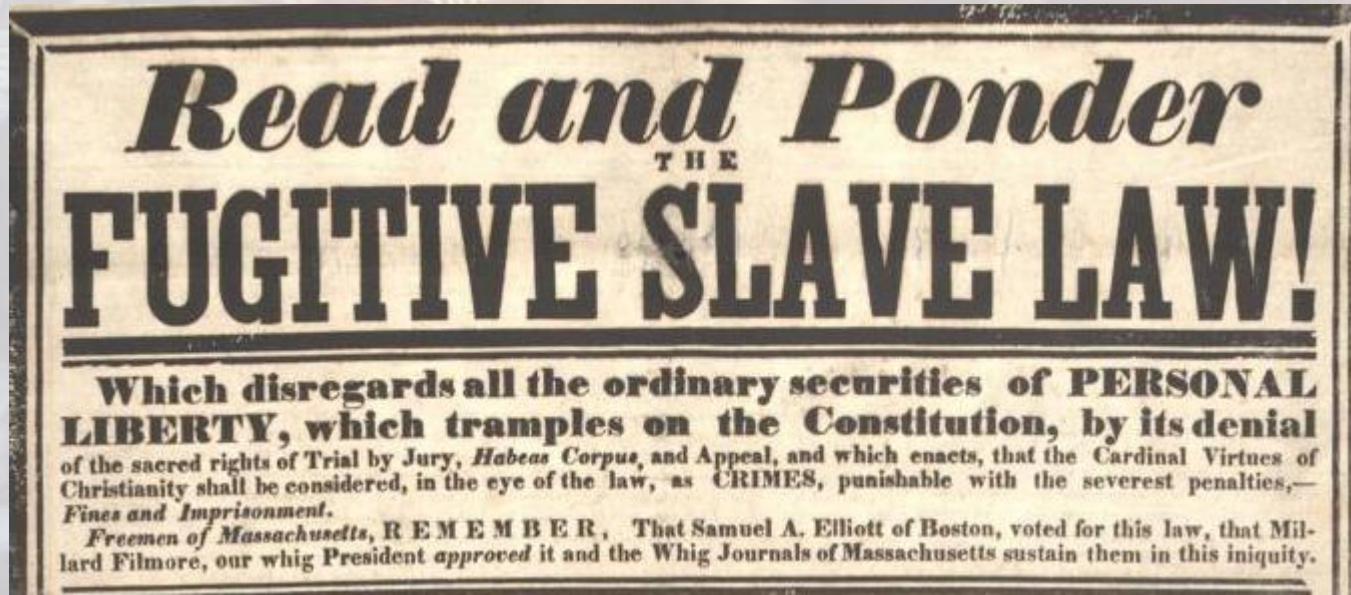
Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.

Northern Reactions to the Fugitive Slave Act

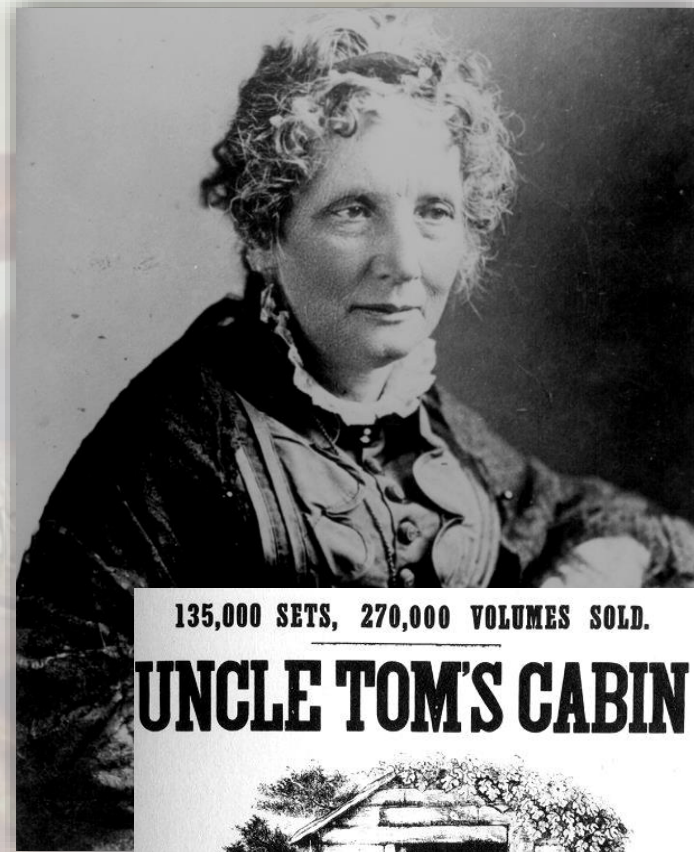
-Some states protest by passing Personal Liberty Laws

- Northern states refuse bounty hunters from using local and state jails to hold runaways while awaiting their hearing
- Some gave accused runaways the right to trial by jury



Uncle Tom's Cabin: 1852

- Author: Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Inspired by the cruelty of the Fugitive Slave Act
- Fiction novel framed slavery as both a **political** and **moral** struggle
 - Abolitionists seized on the public fascination with new calls to ignore the Fugitive Slave Act
- 1852: sold 300,000 copies
- By 1862: sold 2m copies



135,000 SETS, 270,000 VOLUMES SOLD.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN



FOR SALE HERE.

AN EDITION FOR THE MILLION, COMPLETE IN 1 Vol., PRICE 37 1/2 CENTS.

“ “ IN GERMAN, IN 1 Vol., PRICE 50 CENTS.

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SUPERB ILLUSTRATED EDITION, IN 1 Vol., WITH 153 ENGRAVINGS,
PRICES FROM \$2.50 TO \$5.00.

“So this is the lady who started the Civil War.”
– Abraham Lincoln

The Greatest Book of the Age.

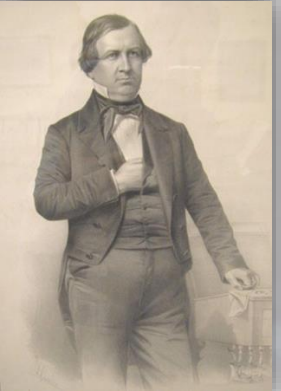
The Election of 1852



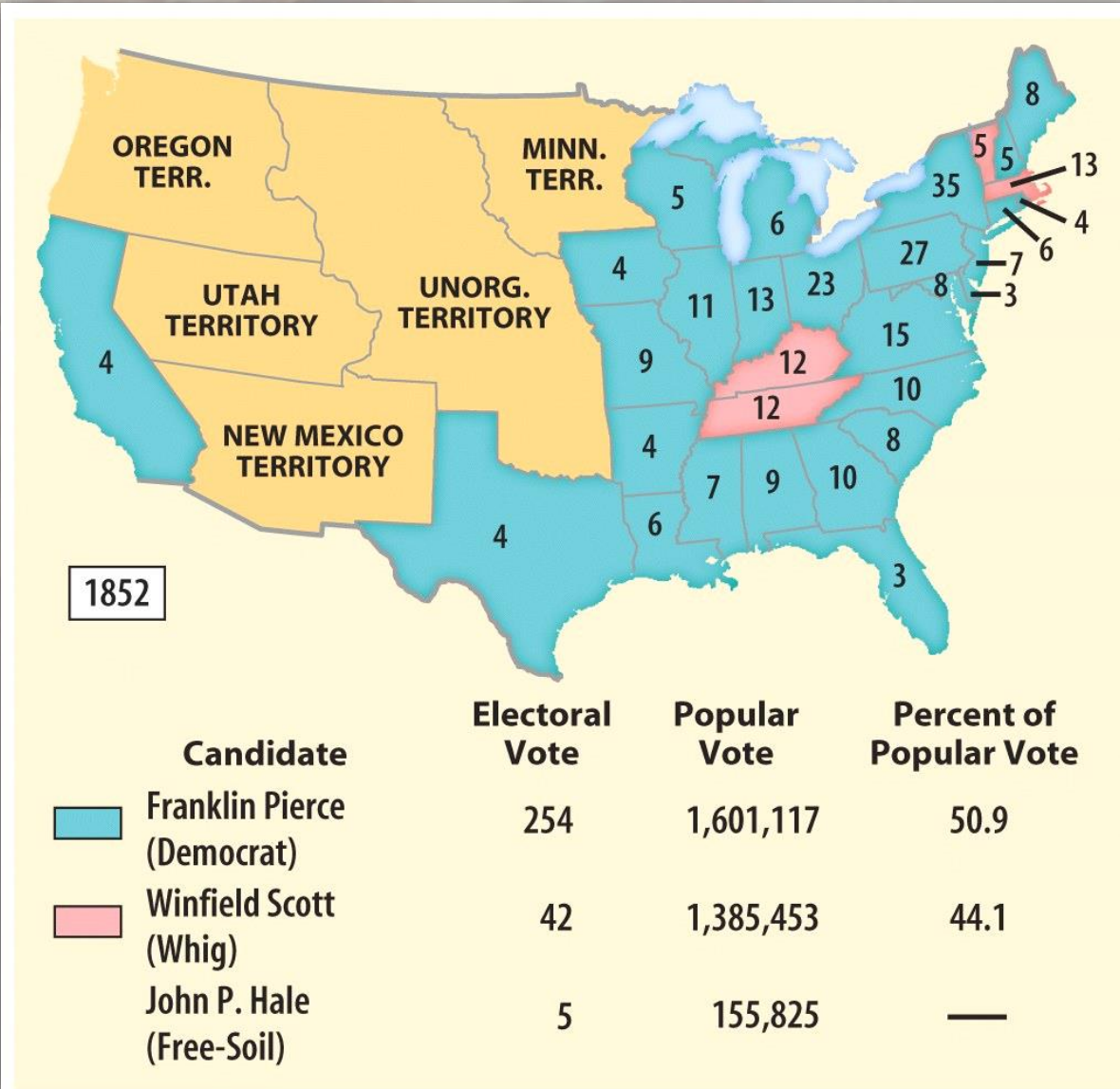
Franklin Pierce,
Democrat



Winfield Scott,
Whig



John Parker
Hale, Free Soil



The Kansas-Nebraska Act

-Douglas was obsessed with Westward expansion and RR building BUT Nebraska lay north of the Missouri Compromise line

- Douglas proposed popular sovereignty again to settle the debate

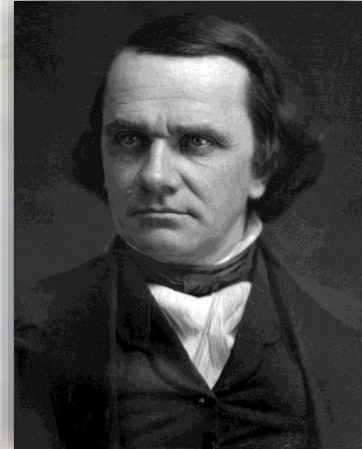
1854: **Kansas-Nebraska Act** passed:

1. Repeals the Missouri Compromise (gained Southern support) and opened the Kansas-Nebraska territory to **popular sovereignty** →
2. Initial purpose was to open up thousands of new farms and make the Transcontinental RR possible
3. Supported strongly by Southern Congressmen and President Pierce

Slavery *could* feasibly **not exist** in prairie states:

- None of the crops reliant on slavery could grow
- However, repealing the Missouri Compromise would cause a “storm” in Congress

WHAT IS THE RESULT?



Stephen A.
Douglas

“Bleeding Kansas”

- “Border Ruffians” from Missouri (slave state) crossed over pushing the tide toward a pro-slavery govt
- Pro-slavery government established in Lecompton
- Anti-slavery government established in Lawrence
- 21 May 1856 → pro-slavery forces attacked Lawrence destroying printing presses and buildings (the “Sacking of Lawrence”)
- 24 May 1856 → anti-slavery zealot John Brown and his followers hacked five ruffians to death with broadswords (Pottawatomie Massacre)





-  Attacks by free-state forces
-  Attacks by proslavery forces
-  Present-day Kansas

Henry Ward Beecher and other abolitionist ministers raised money to purchase Sharps rifles for use by antislavery forces in KS. Rifles, said Beecher, are “a greater moral agency than the Bible” in the fight against slavery

The guns came in crate labeled “Bibles” so they would not arouse suspicion. Soon all guns sent to “Free-Soilers” were called Beecher’s Bibles



THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE “WAR CHRISTIANS.”

THE REV. H. WARD BEECHER,
IN HIS SPEECH AT NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT,
IN 1856, SAID.—

“The people will not levy war nor inaugurate a revolution even to relieve Kansas until they have *first* tried what they can do by voting. If this peaceful remedy should fail to be



Political Upheaval

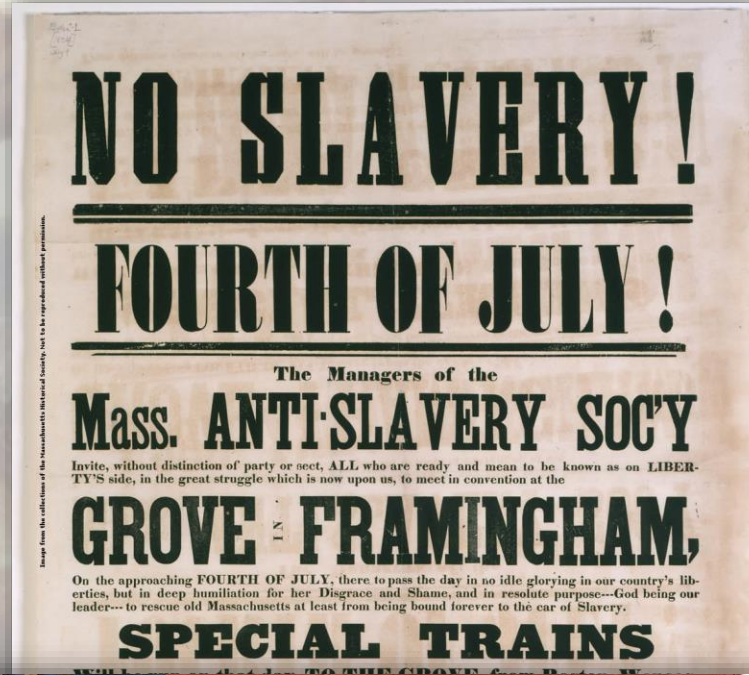
-The Kansas-Nebraska Act marked the death of the Whig Party

Alternatives?

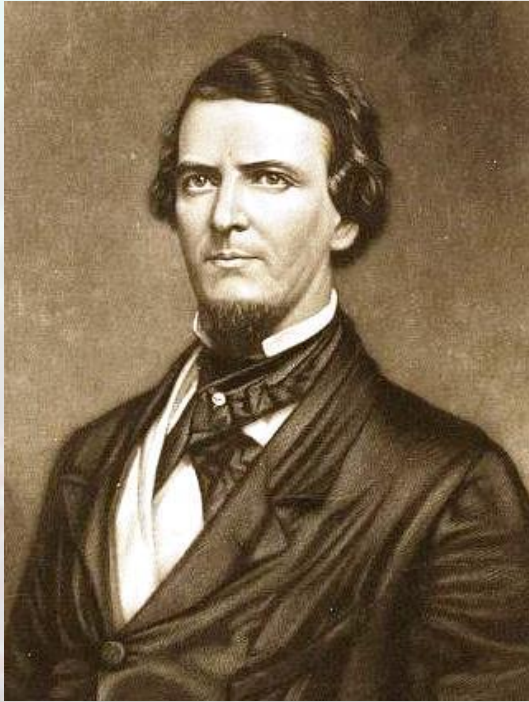
- “Free-Soilers” → opposed expansion of slavery and advocated for free land in the West
- The American Party (“Know-Nothings”)
 - Nativist: anti-immigrant
 - Anti-Catholic: anti-German/Irish Catholics
 - Republican

-The founding of the Republican Party

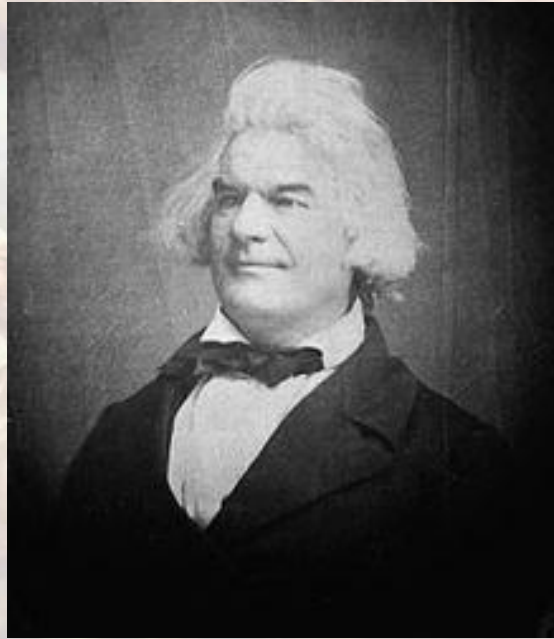
- Northern Whigs
- Northern Democrats
- Free-Soilers
- “Know-Nothings”
- Other opponents of the Kansas-Nebraska Act



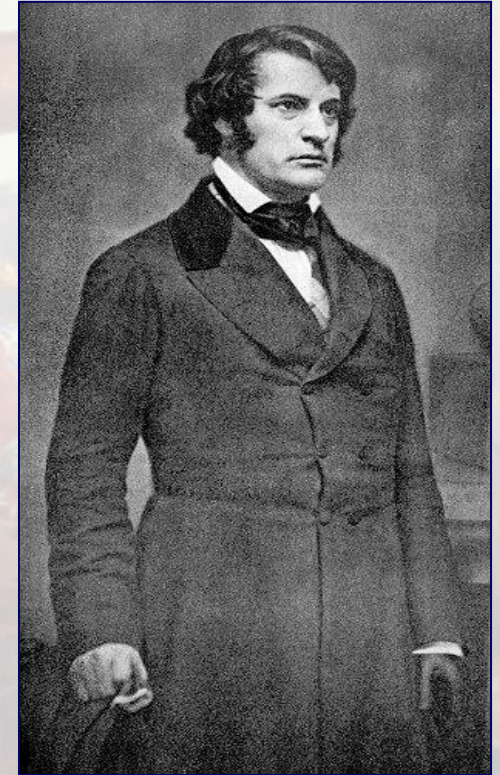
“The Crime Against Kansas” Speech



**Representative Preston
Brooks**
(Butler's 2nd Cousin)
(D-SC)



Senator Andrew Butler
(D-SC)



**Senator Charles
Sumner**
(R-MA)

"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."



ASSAULT ON SENATOR SUMNER, BY P. S. BROOKS.

The Caning of Charles Sumner: 22 May 1856



The Election of 1856



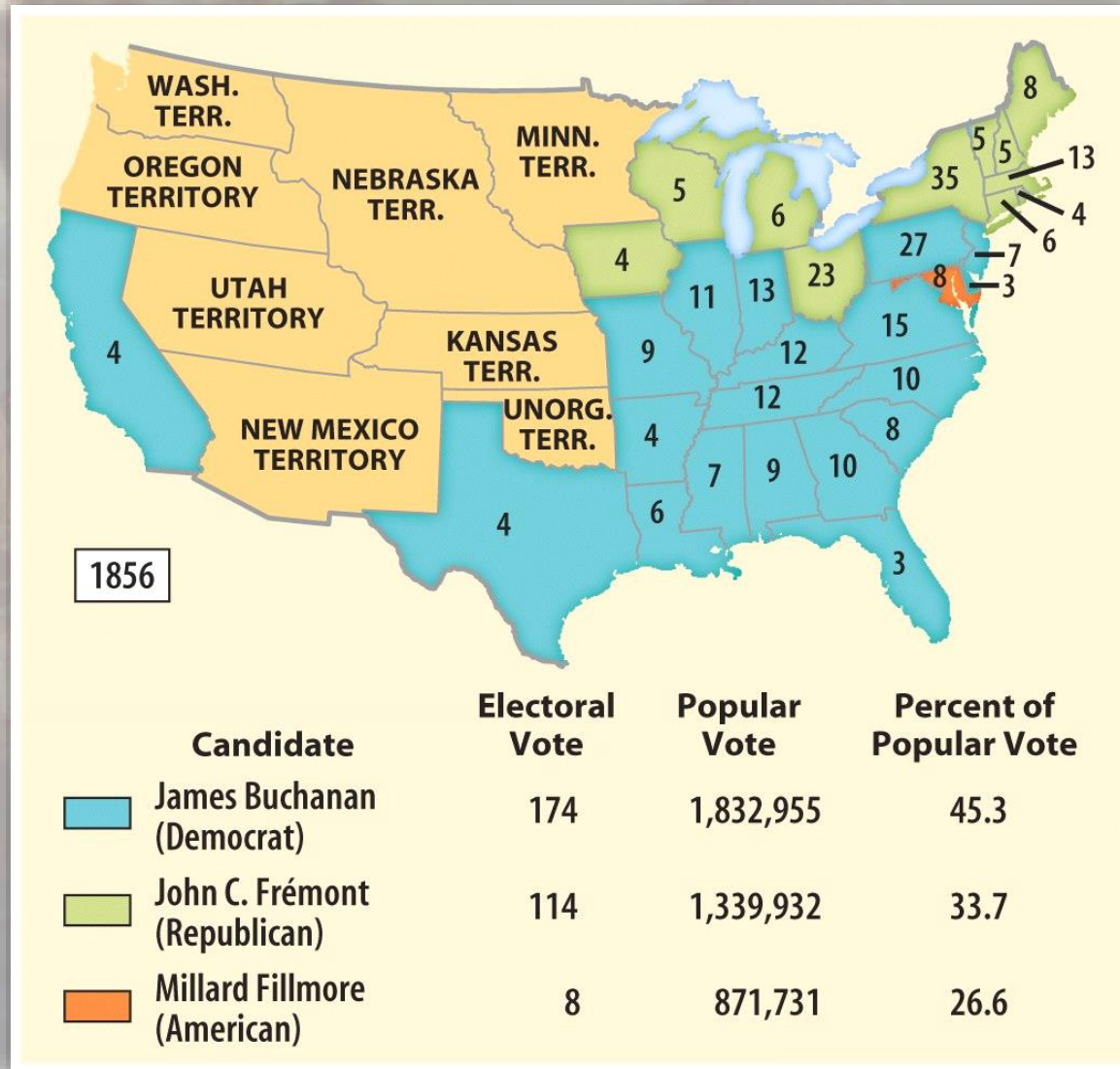
James Buchanan,
Democrat



John C. Fremont,
Republican



Millard Fillmore,
Whig/American
Party



Dred Scott Decision: 1857

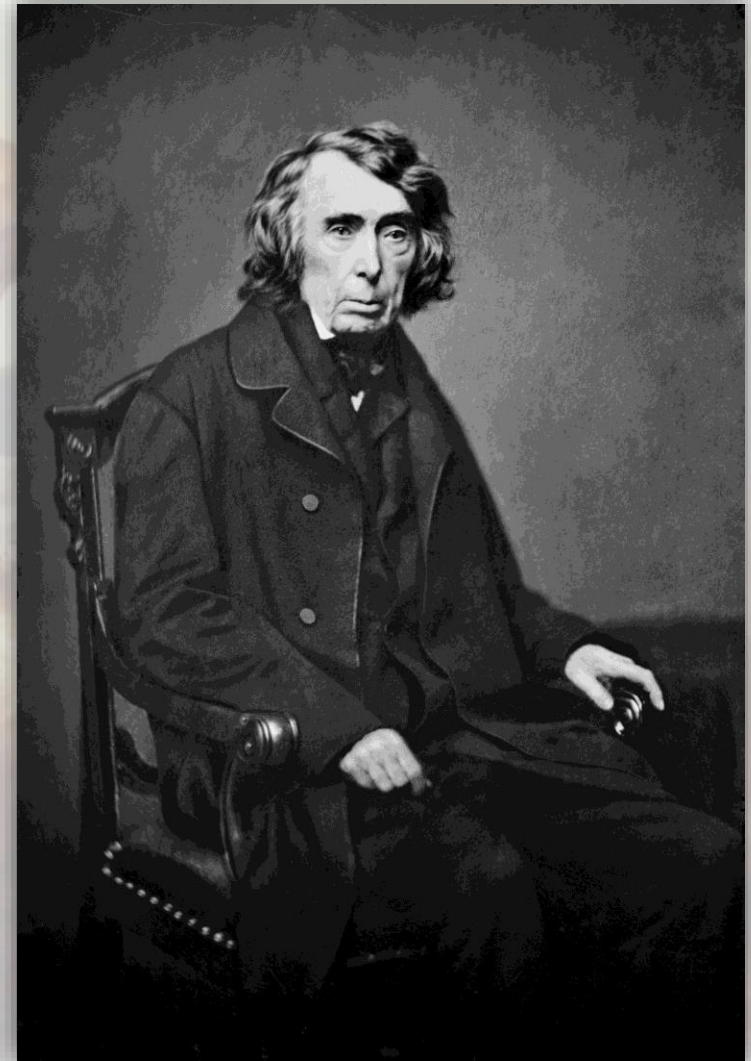
- Slave of a Missouri surgeon (Emerson family)
- Traveled into Illinois and Wisconsin before returning to Missouri
- Upon the death of his owner, Scott sued Mrs. Emerson's brother for freedom due to the Missouri Compromise Line



Was a slave, once taken into
a free territory, free?

Chief Justice Taney's
decision:

- Slaves had no rights in court
- Not citizens but property
- The 4th and 5th Amendment
protect property
- So technically the Missouri
Compromise was
unconstitutional



The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: 1858

At question was the doctrine of “popular sovereignty”

- Lincoln: slavery was a moral evil that could only be extinguished through legislation
- Douglas: popular sovereignty allowed people to elect officials who would not enforce slave property laws (Freeport Doctrine)
 - This position further divided Democrats



Lincoln's *House Divided* Speech

In *my* opinion, it *will* not cease, until a *crisis* shall have been reached, and passed.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half *slave* and half *free*.

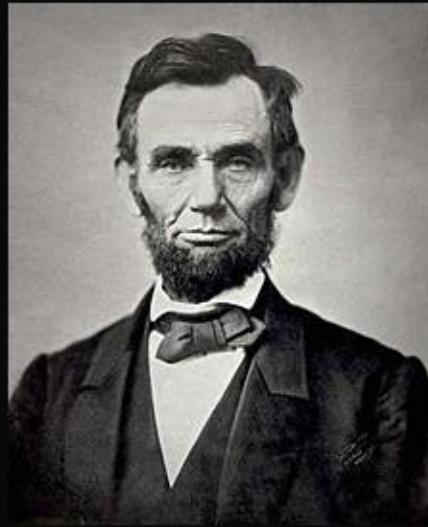
I do not expect the Union to be *dissolved* -- I do not expect the house to *fall* -- but I *do* expect it will cease to be divided.

It will become *all* one thing or *all* the other.

Either the *opponents* of slavery, will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its *advocates* will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in *all* the States, *old* as well as *new* -- *North* as well as *South*.

Have we no *tendency* to the latter condition?

- Advised *against* giving the speech
- Used Bible scripture as basis
- Lost him the Senate seat, but won him the Election of 1860
- Caused the South to fear Lincoln's rising political popularity

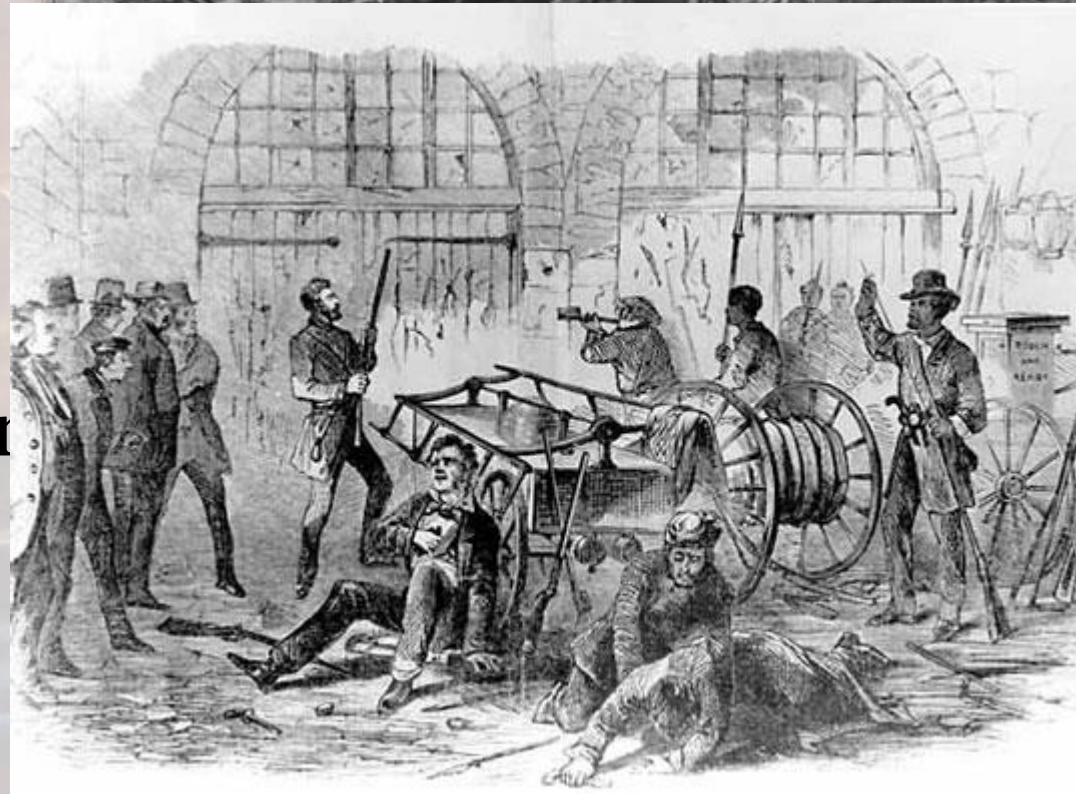


A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other.

(Abraham Lincoln)

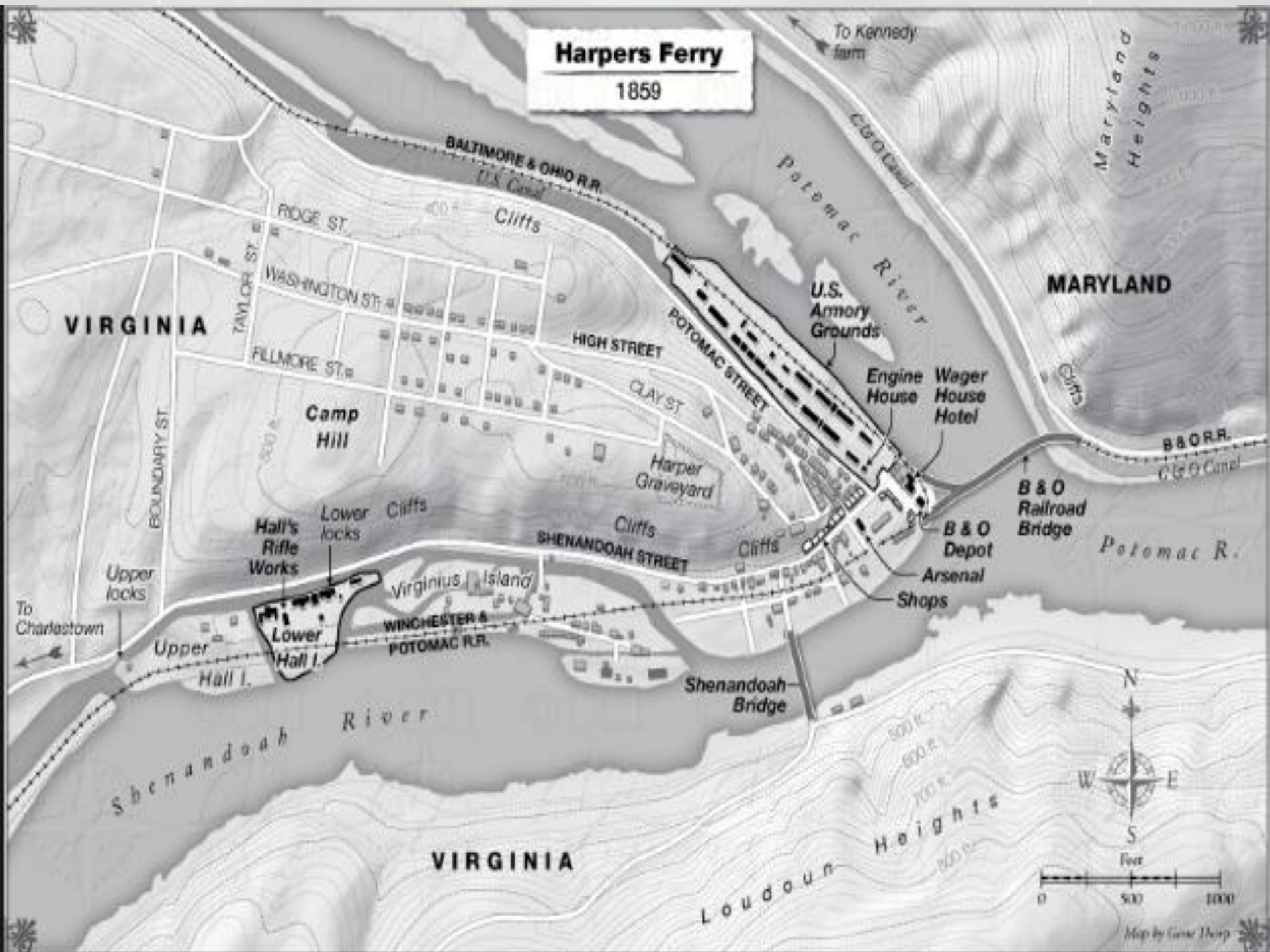
16-18 October 1859: John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry

- Hoping to foment an armed slave/abolitionist uprising, Brown and 21 men attacked the federal armory at Harpers Ferry, VA
- Held the arsenal for two days
- Brown was arrested and his men were either captured or killed
- Brown tried and executed for treason



Harpers Ferry

1859



VIRGINIA

MARYLAND

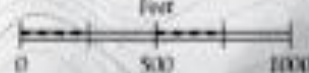
VIRGINIA

Loudoun Heights

Maryland Heights

To Kennedy farm

To Charlestown



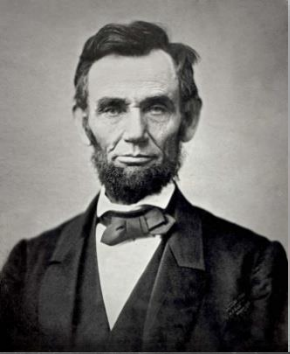
Map by Gene Thayer

The Republican Platform of 1860

- Non-extension of slavery (Free Soilers)
- Protective tariff (Northern industrialists)
- No abridgment of rights for immigrants (a disappointment for the “Know-Nothings”)
- Govt aid to build a Pacific Railroad (Northwest)
- Internal improvements (West) at federal expense
- Free homesteads for public domain (farmers)

Homestead Act: 160 acres that must be improved on by five years

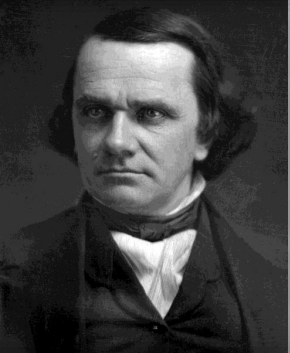
The Election of 1860



Abraham Lincoln,
Republican



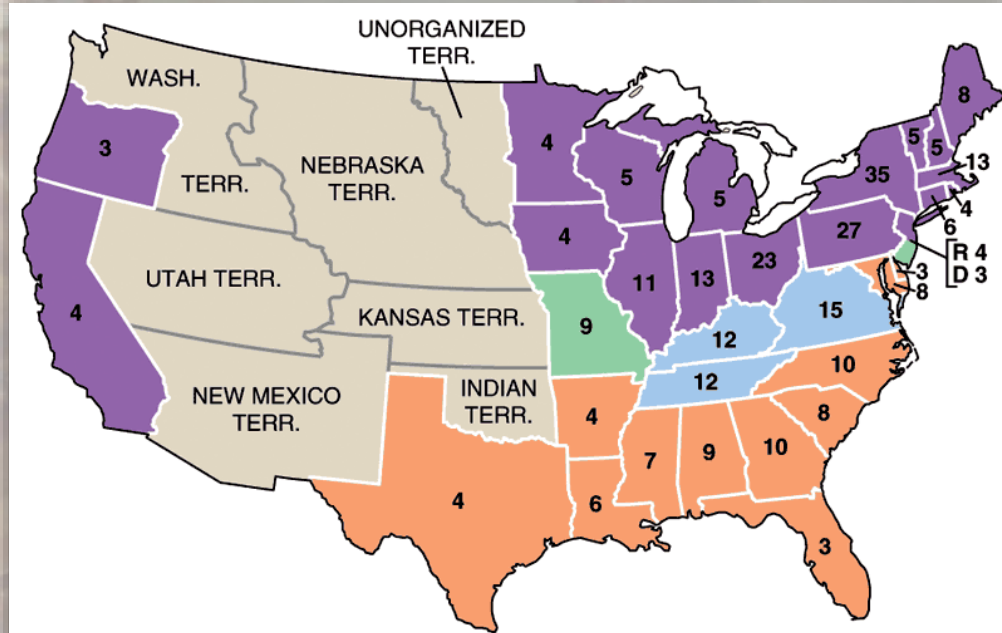
John C. Bell,
Constitutional Union



Stephen A. Douglas,
Northern Democrat



John C.
Breckinridge,
Southern Democrat



	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote	Percentage of Popular Vote
Republican Abraham Lincoln	180	1,865,593	39.8
Democratic, Southern John C. Breckinridge	72	848,356	18.1
Democratic, Northern Stephen A. Douglas	12	1,382,713	29.5
Constitutional Union John Bell	39	592,906	12.6
Divided	3	4	

Secession Begins

