

19-9 ★ THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

In 1848, as a result of winning the Mexican War, the United States acquired from Mexico the vast new territories of California and New Mexico.

1492

1850

2010

HENRY CLAY, THE GREAT COMPROMISER

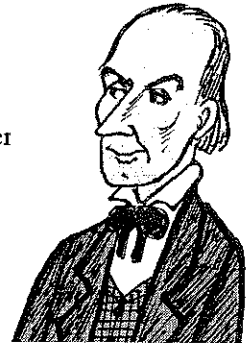
The Mexican War intensified sectional conflicts and made slavery a political issue for the first time since the Compromise of 1820. Before and after 1820, there had been an unspoken agreement among factions to avoid making slavery a political issue.

In 1846 Pennsylvania Congressman David Wilmot—representing the antislavery, northeaster segment of the Democratic party—introduced the Wilmot Proviso which proposed banning slavery in territory acquired from Mexico (except Texas). The Wilmot Proviso twice passed the northern dominated House of Representatives and twice failed in the southern dominated Senate, so it did not become a law. It did, however, stir a bitter four-year debate.

Debate heated up when California, quickly populated after the discovery of gold in 1848, applied for admission as a free state. Admittance would upset the balance of 15 free and 15 slave states.

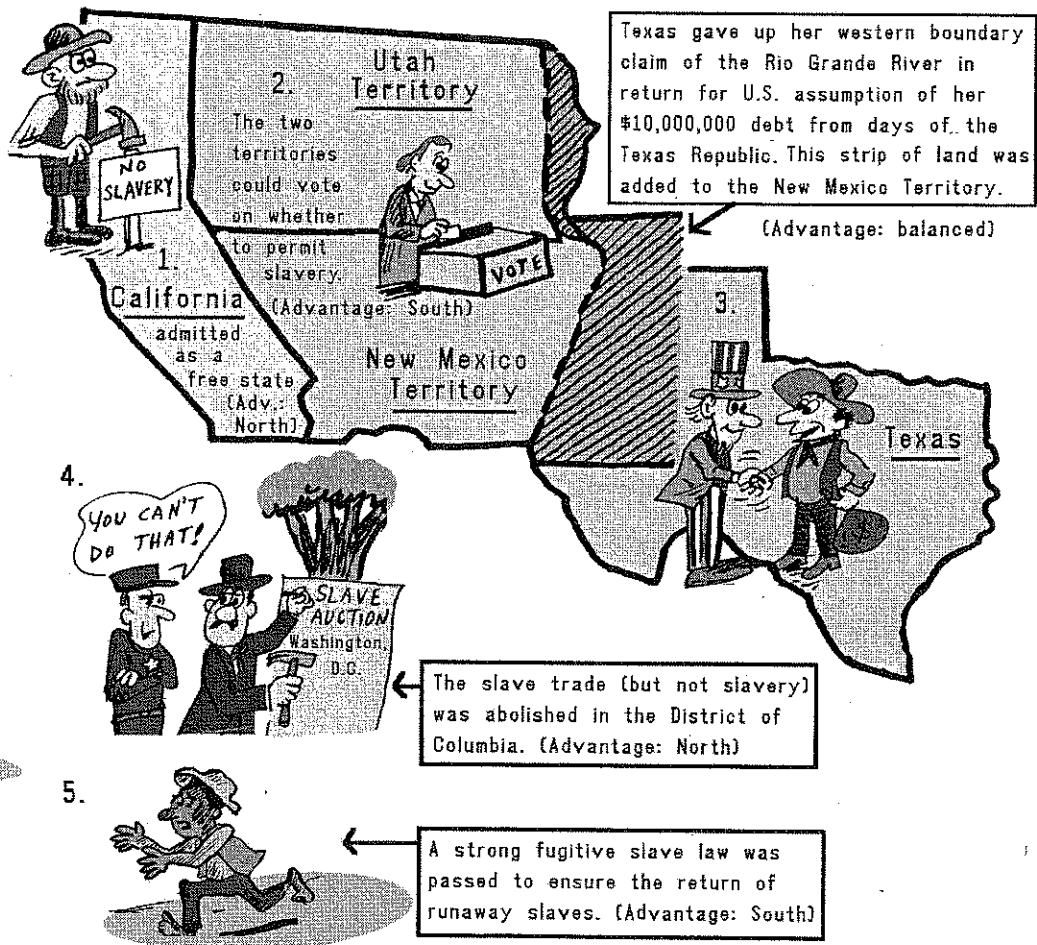
Senator Henry Clay, now an old man of 73, saved the day. Sponsor of the Compromise of 1820 and the 1833 Compromise Tariff, Clay had learned Benjamin Franklin's technique for helping opposite sides shave a little off each side to make two boards fit.

Clay masterminded the Compromise of 1850. His greatest legislative achievement, it delayed the Civil War for a decade. Can you see how both North and South shaved a little off their sides?



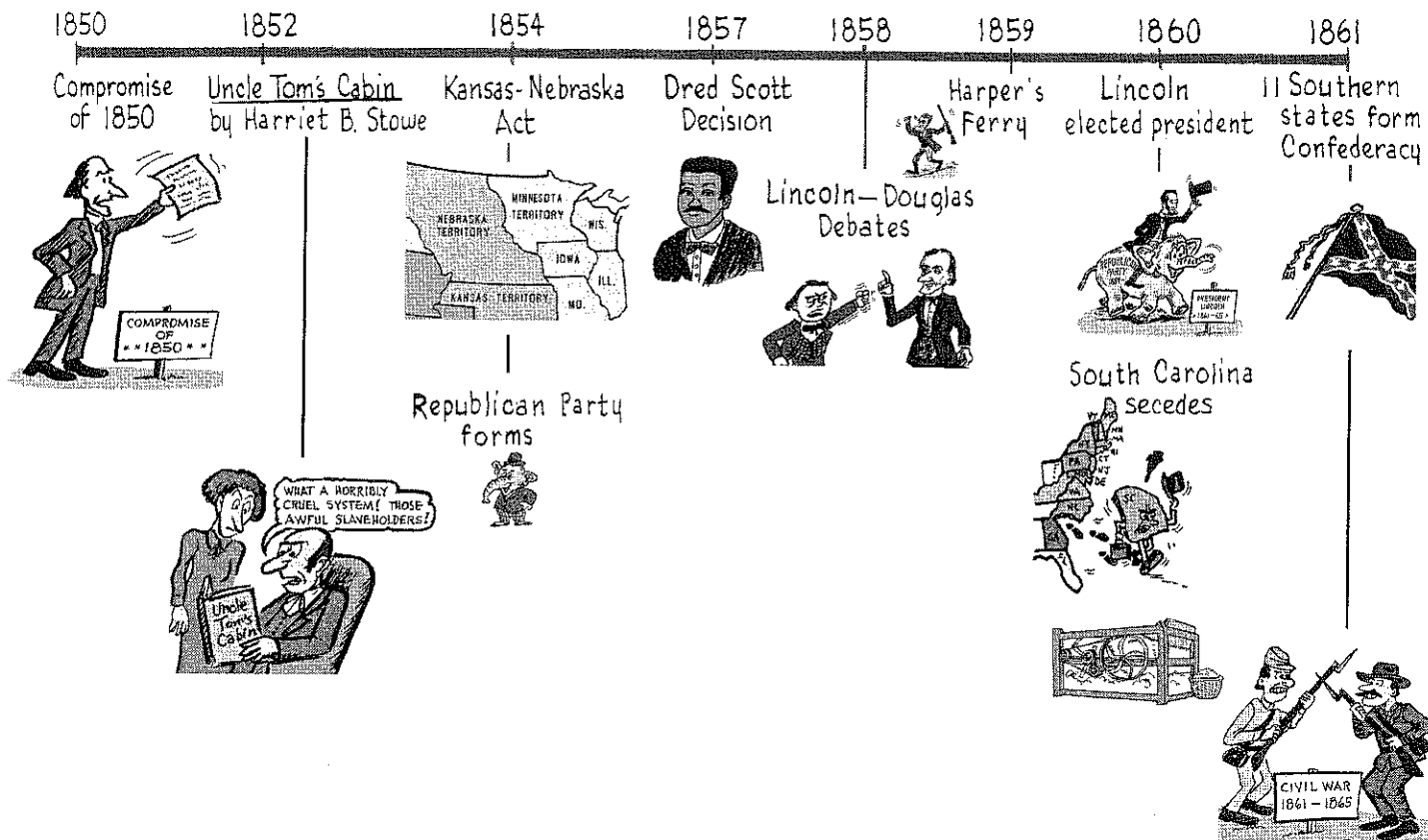
TERMS OF THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

compromise—to settle differences by mutual concessions



19-11 ★ DECADE OF CONFLICT: AN OVERVIEW, 1850-1861

"'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, 1858



FAILURE OF THE COMPROMISE OF 1850

The Compromise of 1850 didn't work.

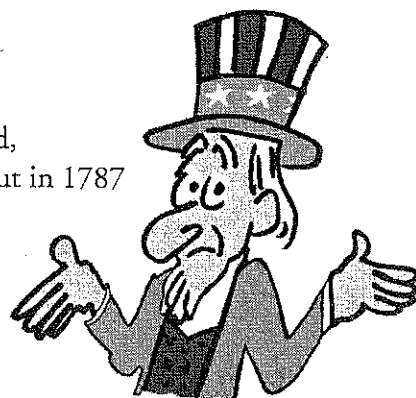
Why?

It could not hold the Union together when, as Lincoln said, the cancer of slavery—which the Founding Fathers dared not cut out in 1787 lest the patient die of bleeding—spread its malignancy throughout the expanding nation.

During a decade of conflict leading to the Civil War, **Abraham Lincoln** emerged as a national leader, and in 1860 a divided nation elected him president of the United States.

To better understand the Civil War read the following **MINI-BIOGRAPHY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN**, the man on whose shoulders it fell to preserve the Union.

(The historical narrative of events leading to the Civil War resumes after the Lincoln story.)



SECTION 20

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 1809-1865

A MINI-BIOGRAPHY

“His greatest mission was to accomplish two things:
first, to save his country from dismemberment and ruin;
and, second, to free his country from the great crime of slavery...”

infinite wisdom has seldom sent any man into the world better fitted for his mission than Abraham Lincoln.”

—Frederick Douglass



Abraham Lincoln, 16th and tallest (6'4") president of the United States (1861-65) ranks as one of the greatest leaders in American history and one of the world's noblest men.

No one would have anticipated this on February 12, 1809, the day Lincoln was born. As he himself said of his early life, “It can all be condensed into a single sentence and that sentence you will find in Gray’s Elogy, ‘The short and simple annals of the poor.’”

Unlike the aristocratic Founding Fathers, such as his boyhood heroes George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, Lincoln was a backwoodsman born in a one-room, dirt-floor log cabin on the Kentucky frontier, the first U.S. president born outside the 13 original colonies. His formal schooling—acquired, as he said, “by littles” between ages six and seventeen—amounted to about one year. All that he learned beyond that year, he taught himself.

And yet, through self-education he became the most eloquent speaker and the finest writer of all the presidents. And through his commitment to democracy and freedom, he became the “Savior of the Union” and the “Great Emancipator” of enslaved African-Americans.

The secret to his success?

His virtuous character—honesty, integrity, love, justice, courage, kindness, perseverance, humility, humor—and, according to Lincoln, the providence of God.

SECTION 21
THE CIVIL WAR
1861-1865

"War is a terrible thing."—General William Tecumseh Sherman

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1861-65

2020

The Civil War began over a constitutional question:
COULD STATES LAWFULLY SECEDE FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?

February 7, 1861—"YES," said southern states that seceded
and formed the Confederate States of America, a new republic.

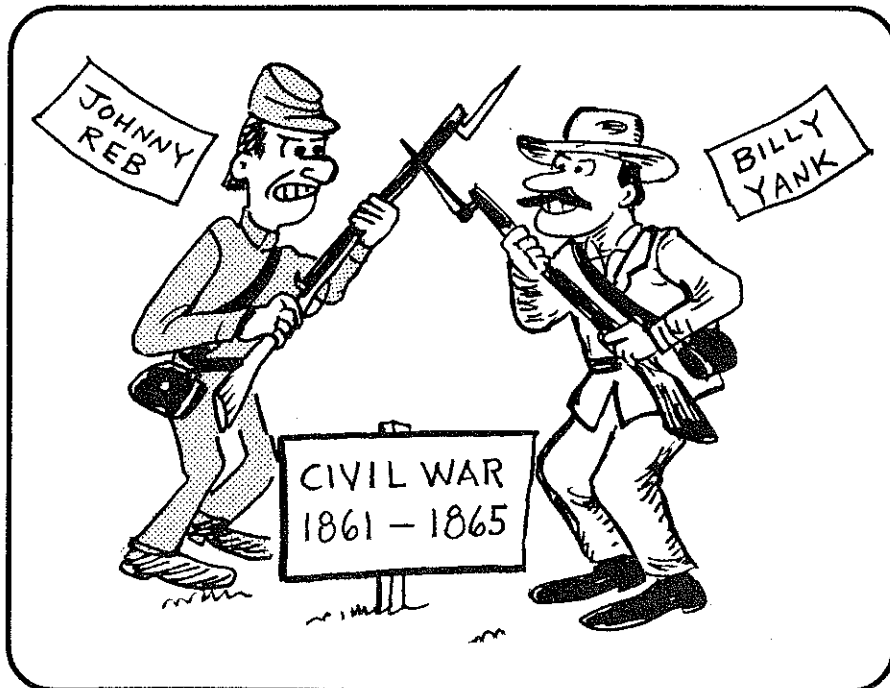
March 4, 1861—"NO," said President Abraham Lincoln in his Inaugural Address:
"...no State, upon its own mere motion, can lawfully get out of the Union..."
Lincoln said the southern states had *rebelled* rather than *seceded*.

April 12, 1861—The Confederate States of America started the Civil War
by ordering an attack on Fort Sumter, a United States fort in South Carolina.
Lincoln called it *insurrection* rather than *war*.

April 9, 1865—The United States of America won the Civil War
by defeating the Confederate Army.

Civil War casualties: 620,000 men died—
340,000 northerners and 280,000 southerners.

WHY DID THIS TERRIBLE THING HAPPEN?



21-1 ★ CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR: AN OVERVIEW/

"that strange, sad war..."—Walt Whitman

WHAT CAUSED THE CIVIL WAR? THE DIFFERENCE OF INTERESTS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

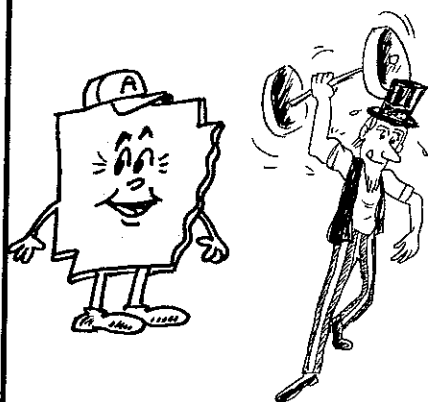
Here is an overview of the causes of the war, all of which add up to a conflict of interests between the North and South.

Ironically, James Madison had seen the heart of the problem during the 1787 Constitutional Convention. As he said then:

"It seemed now to be pretty well understood that the real difference of interests lay not between the large and small but between the the Northern and Southern states. The institution of slavery and its consequences formed a line of discrimination."

Sure enough, from 1850 to 1861 the "difference of interests" between the slave-holding South and the free-labor North escalated into tragic consequences: the American Civil War, also called the War Between the States.

1. STATES' RIGHTS



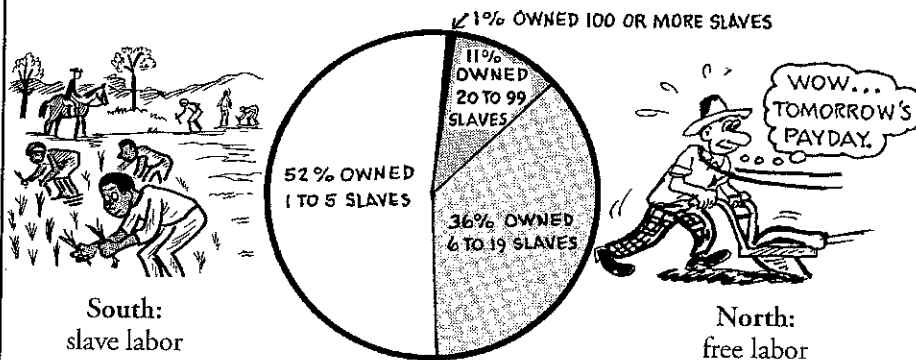
South:
for
state
sovereignty

North:
for
national
sovereignty

2. SLAVERY

In 1860 only about 25 percent of southerners owned slaves, but most southerners felt slave labor was essential for their economy. Northerners opposed slavery mainly because of job competition between free and slave laborers.

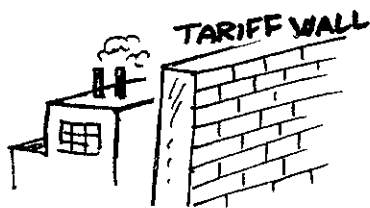
SLAVE DISTRIBUTION AMONG THE 25 PERCENT OF SOUTHERNERS WHO DID OWN SLAVES.



South:
slave labor

North:
free labor

3. TARIFF DISPUTES



South:
wanted
low tariffs.

North: wanted high
tariffs to protect its
manufactured goods
against the competition
of foreign goods.

4. DIFFERENT ECONOMIES



South:
agriculture

North:
commerce
and industry

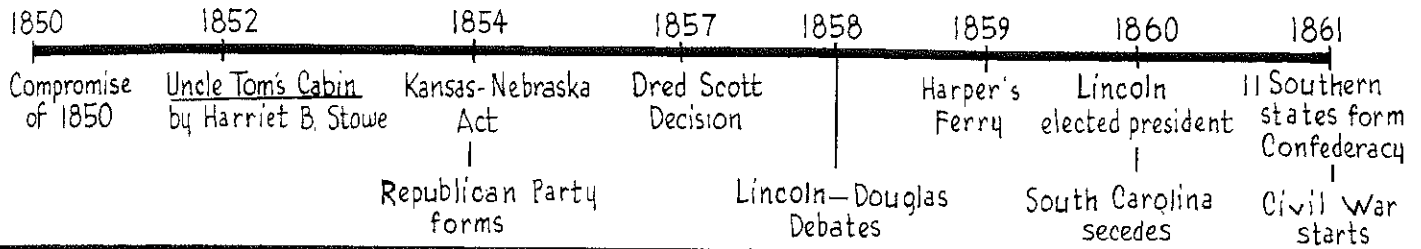
5. CULTURAL DIFFERENCES



Southern
planter

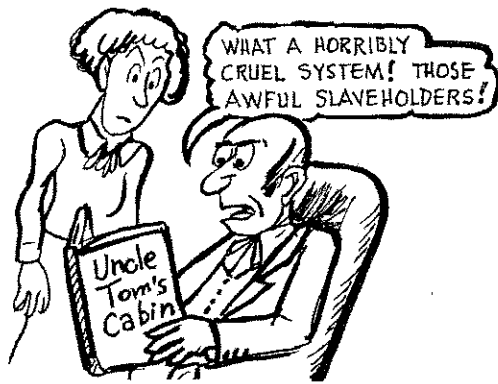
Northern
industrialist

21-2 ★ EVENTS LEADING TO THE CIVIL WAR, 1852-1861



AS YOU READ THE EVENTS IN THIS DECADE OF CONFLICT, IMAGINE HOW YOU WOULD HAVE HANDLED THE DIFFERENCE OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH. HOW WOULD YOU HAVE DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN FACTS AND OPINIONS?

1852—*UNCLE TOM'S CABIN*, Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel dramatizing the cruelties of slavery, touched readers emotionally and created widespread antislavery support among northerners. One of the most influential books ever written, it sold 300,000 copies the first year. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was perceived differently by northerners and southerners.



NORTHERNERS

SOUTHERNERS

WHAT KINDA' YANKEE ABOLITIONIST PROPAGANDA IS THIS?



1854: KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT—This act (which so angered Lincoln that he re-entered national politics) was proposed by Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas, a northern Democrat courting favor with southern Democrats. It allowed the Kansas and Nebraska territories popular sovereignty (the right to decide for themselves) about slavery. The act pleased southerners but outraged many northerners because it repealed the 1820 Missouri Compromise, which had prohibited slavery in this area by declaring forever free the Louisiana Purchase north of the line 36° 30' (except Missouri).

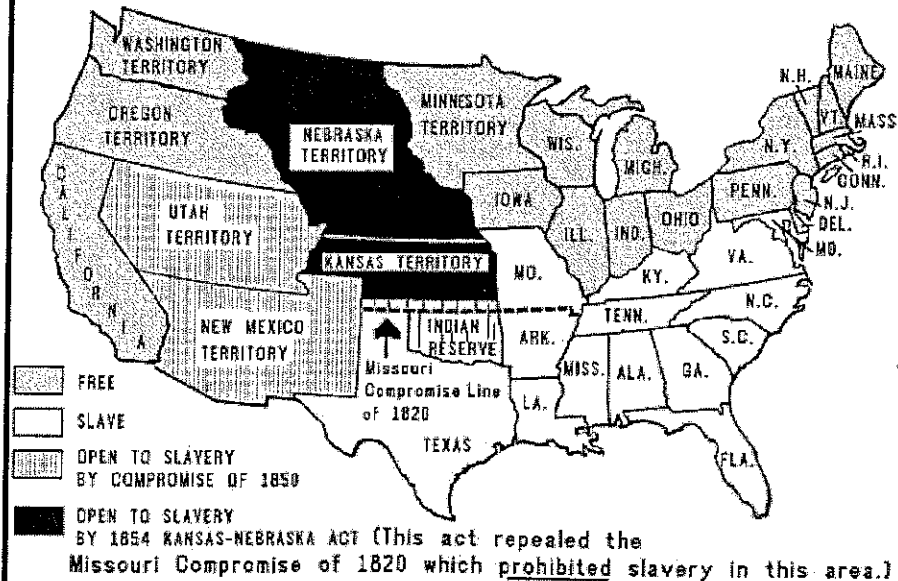
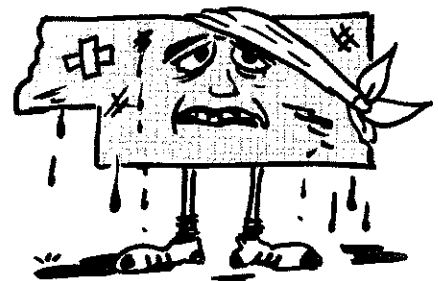
1856: "BLEEDING KANSAS"

Popular sovereignty caused a small-scale civil war in Kansas which lasted four months and caused 200 deaths.

Armed combat raged between proslavery settlers (mostly Missouri immigrants) and antislavery settlers (mostly New England immigrants) financed by New England abolitionist Eli Thayer's Emigrant Aid Society and led by John Brown.

Kansas eventually became a free state (1861). Nebraska also became a free state (1867).

The Kansas conflict of 1856 proved to be a dark forecast of things to come.



1854: BIRTH OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY—

Dissatisfaction with the Kansas-Nebraska Act led to new political alignments: For the first time, sectional political parties developed as North and South divided over the slavery issue.

- ◆ **THE REPUBLICAN PARTY** was created by a coalition of northerners committed to stopping expansion of slavery into the territories. It drew antislavery people from several parties, including Whig, Democratic, Free Soil, and American (a secret, anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant party nicknamed the "Know Nothing" party).

IF YOU'RE A REPUBLICAN TODAY, HERE'S WHERE YOU GOT YOUR START!



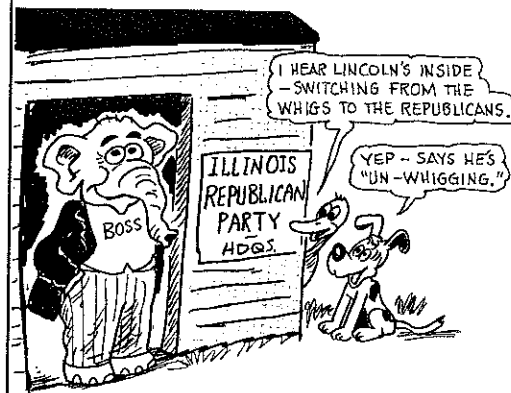
Created February 28, 1854, in Ripon, Wisconsin, the Republican party received its name officially on July 6, 1854, in Jackson, Michigan. In 1856 the national Republican party nominated John C. Fremont for president of the United States. (He lost to Democrat James Buchanan.)

- ◆ **THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY** split into northern and southern factions.
- ◆ **THE WHIG PARTY** died as northern Whigs joined the Republican party, and southern Whigs joined the Democratic party.

1856: ABRAHAM LINCOLN JOINS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Abraham Lincoln, an outstanding Whig politician in Illinois, reluctantly switched parties to stop the spread of slavery.

In 1860 Lincoln became the first Republican president of the United States.



1857: DRED SCOTT DECISION—Dred Scott, a Missouri slave, sued for his freedom after briefly living with his owner on free soil in the North. Shock waves jolted the nation when Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney ruled



Chief Justice Roger Taney

- 1) Slaves were not citizens, so they could not bring suit in court.
- 2) Slaves were property.
- 3) Because the 5th Amendment protected property, and slaves were property, Congress could not ban slavery from the territories.
- 4) The Missouri Compromise, which had banned slavery, was unconstitutional. Southerners were overjoyed at the ruling. Northerners were dismayed and began joining the Republican party in droves.

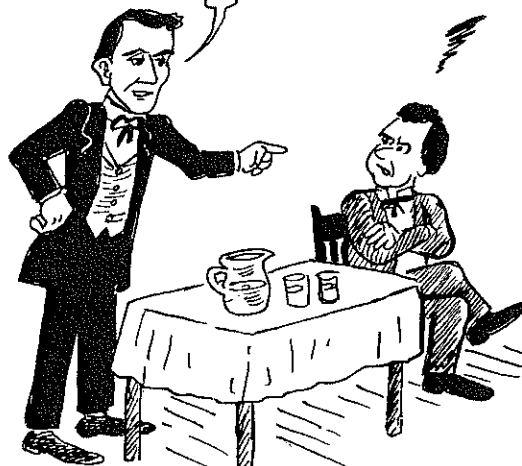
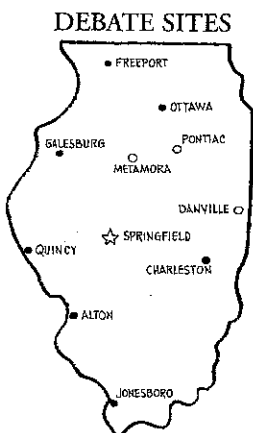


Dred Scott,

1858: LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES—In the Illinois senate race Republican Abraham Lincoln and Democrat Stephen A. Douglas debated the slavery issue in seven cities. Crowds of 12,000 heard Lincoln describe his position as antislavery but **not abolitionist**: Slavery was wrong but legal, being protected by the Constitution. Slavery, therefore, could not be abolished where it existed; but it should not be expanded.

Douglas won the senate race, but Lincoln won national attention as a rising political star.

WHEN HE INVITES ANY PEOPLE WILLINGLY TO ESTABLISH SLAVERY, HE IS BLOWING OUT THE MORAL LIGHTS AROUND US.



1859: HARPER'S FERRY—Fanatical abolitionist John Brown and his followers seized the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. They hoped to stir a slave revolt in Virginia and end slavery. Captured and executed, Brown became a martyred hero for many northerners.



John Brown

21-3 ★ PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1860: A FOUR-WAY RACE

"At your request, I'll be perfectly frank. The taste [of the presidency] is in my mouth a little."—Abraham Lincoln

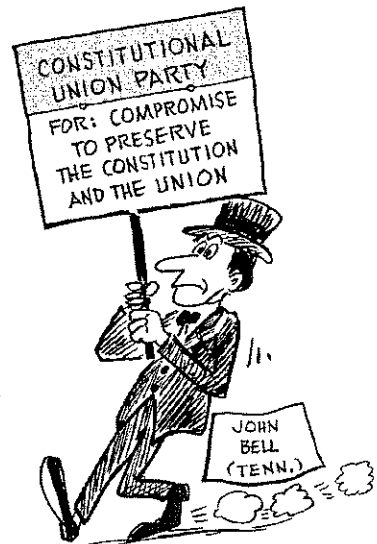
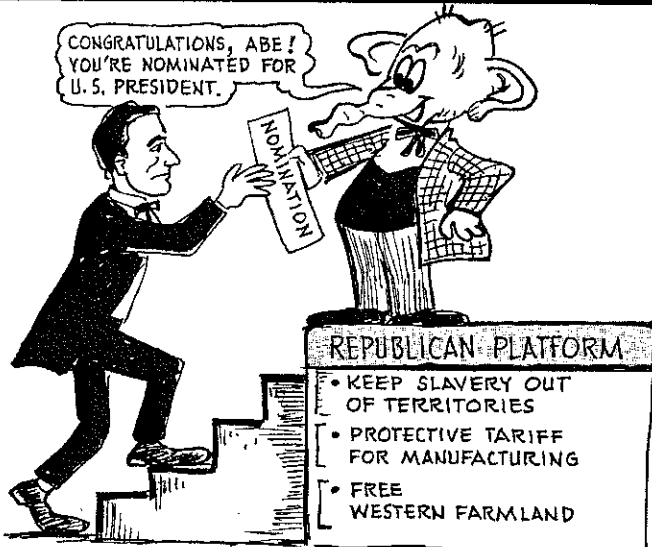
NORTHERN DEMOCRATS

SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS

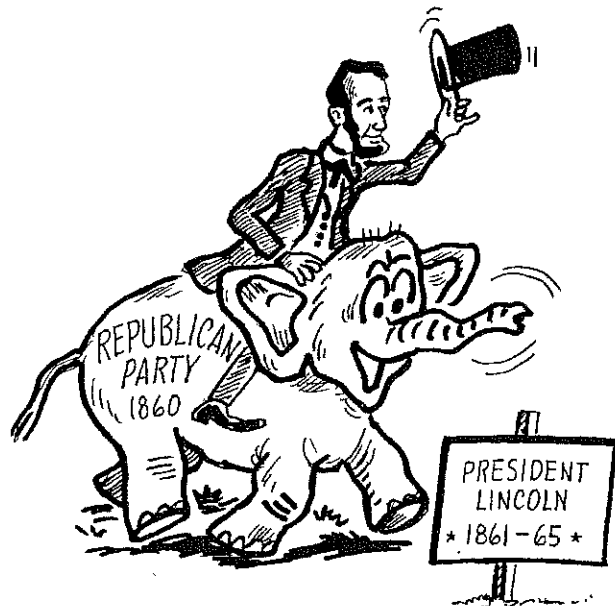
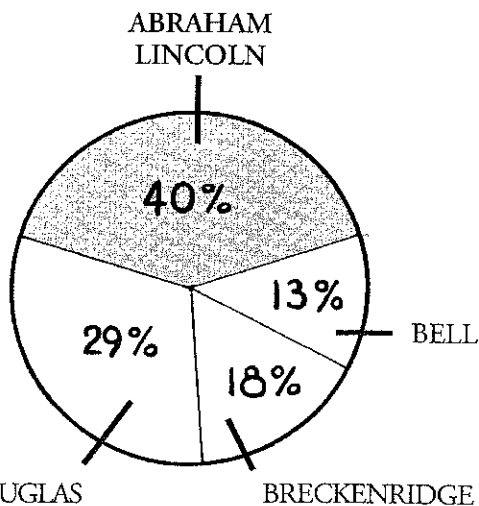


REPUBLICANS

OLD-LINE WHIGS



In the November 1860 election, Lincoln was the clear winner.



21-4 ★ SECESSION AND THE CONFEDERACY, 1860-1861

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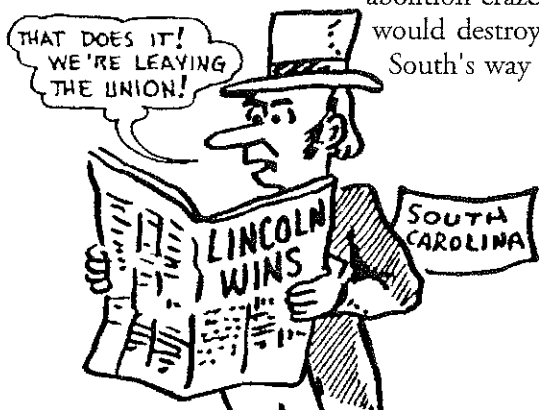
secede—to formally withdraw from an organization

1861

2020

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELECTED PRESIDENT

November 6, 1860—Lincoln's election as president convinced South Carolina that the North was "abolition-crazed" and would destroy the South's way of life.



SOUTH CAROLINA SECEDES

December 20, 1861—South Carolina seceded from the Union and urged other southern states to follow. A Declaration of Causes included:

- ◆ state sovereignty
- ◆ the rise to power of a sectional party (Republican)
- ◆ the election of a president "whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery."



THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

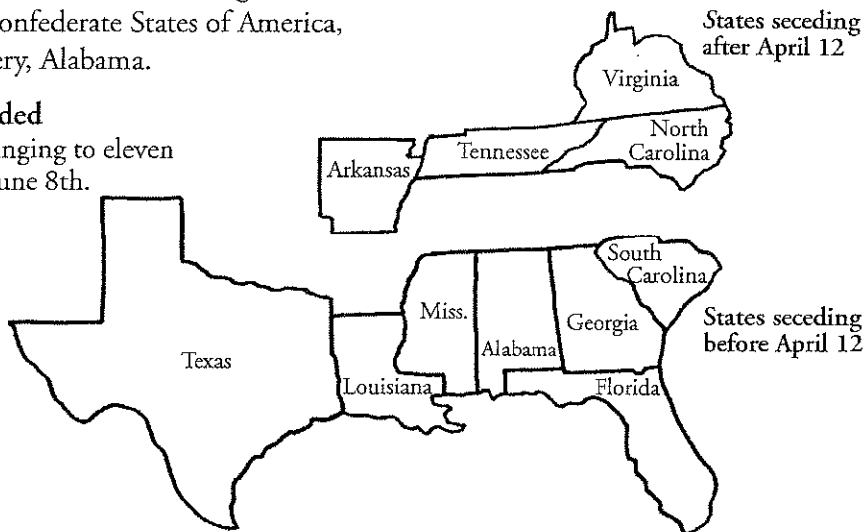
February 4, 1861—Six other southern states seceded. Along with South Carolina they formed a new republic named the Confederate States of America, with the provisional capital in Montgomery, Alabama.

April 12, 1861—Four more states seceded after Confederates fired on Fort Sumter, bringing to eleven the total number of Confederate states by June 8th.

May 21, 1861—Richmond, Virginia became the permanent Confederate capital.

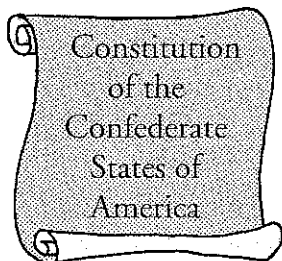


The Confederate Flag



THE CONFEDERATE CONSTITUTION was similar to that of the U.S. Constitution but differed in:

- 1) establishing state sovereignty,
- 2) protecting slavery in states and territories,
- 3) banning protective tariffs, and
- 4) limiting the president to one six-year term.



CONFEDERATE PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS

Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected president of the Confederacy.

A West Point graduate, he had served the United States as a colonel in the Mexican War, a Democratic congressman, secretary of war under Franklin Pierce, and a Democratic senator.

Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia was elected vice president.

