

APUSH

1848-1854

RENEWING THE SECTIONAL STRUGGLE

REVIEWED!

American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 18

American History (Brinkley) Chapter 13

America's History (Henretta) Chapter 13

BIG IDEAS

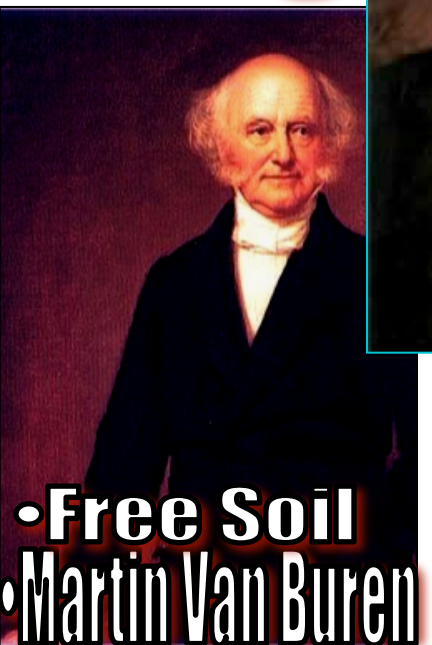
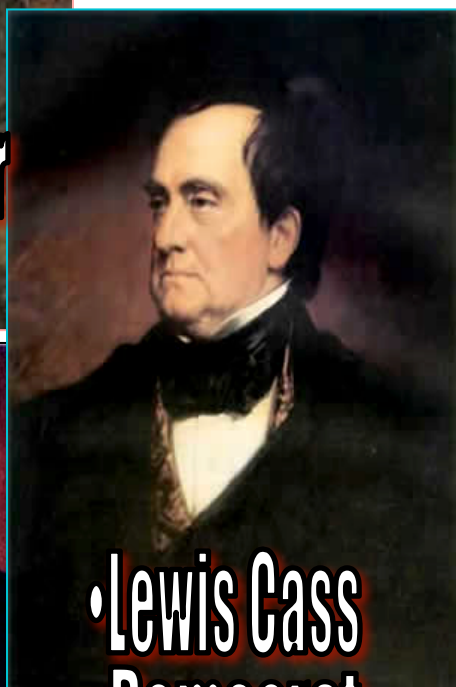
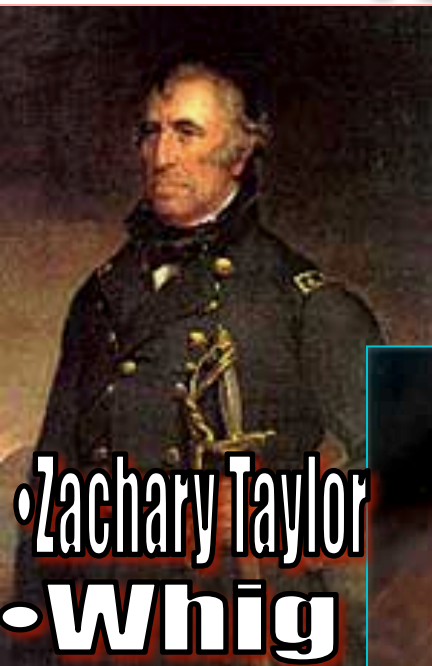
- The **acquisition of new territory** in the West and the U.S. victory in the Mexican-American War were accompanied by a **heated controversy over allowing or forbidding slavery in newly acquired territories.**
- Repeated attempts at **political compromise failed to calm tensions over slavery** and often made sectional tensions worse.

FREE SOIL MOVEMENT

- Following the Mexican American War **issue of slavery in the territories** becomes the key cause **of sectional tension**
- **Free Soil Party** formed in 1848: “free soil, free labor, and free men”
 - Wanted no slavery in new land to the west
 - Keep West an opportunity for whites only
 - Not against slavery in the south
- Many southerners saw any attempt to restrict the expansion of slavery as a **violation of their constitutional rights.**



1848 Presidential Candidates



- Whigs took no position on slavery in the election

- Cass supports **popular sovereignty**:

- People in the **territory should decide** whether or not to allow slavery

- **Free Soil Party** opposed extension of slavery in the territories (Wilmot proviso position)

California Gold Rush, 1849

**Sectional tension
between the north and
south.**

**California creates a constitution banning
slavery and ask Congress for admission as
free a state**

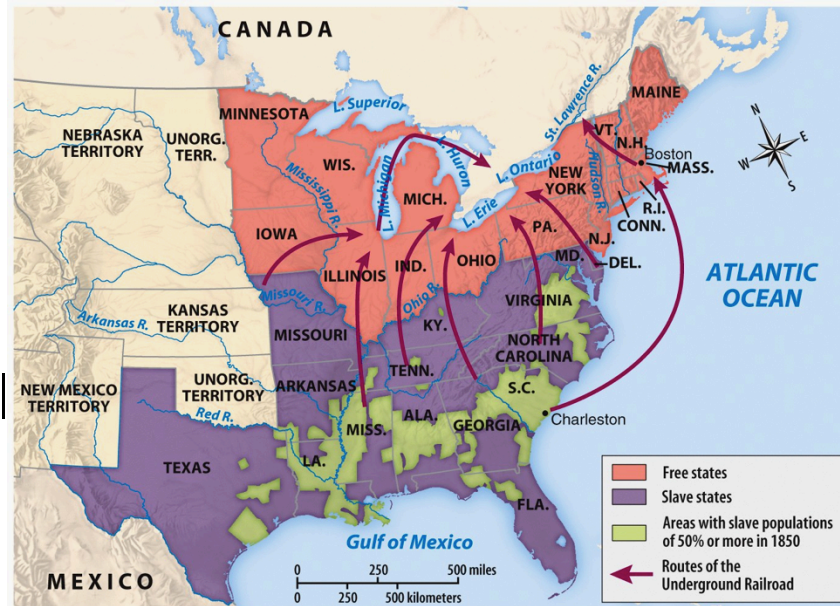
Crisis over Mexican Cession

- Until California tried to become a free state, **equal balance of power in the Senate**

- 15 free states
- 15 slave state

- Southerners increasing defensive over the institution of slavery

- Tallmadge Amendment (1819)
- Wilmot Proviso (1846)
- Underground Railroad



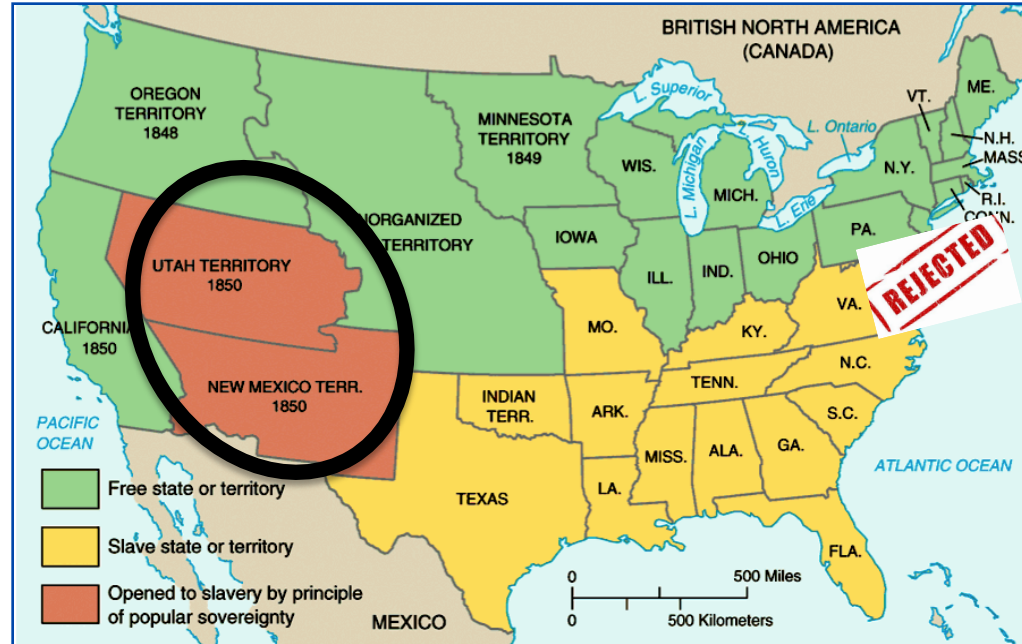
THREATS OF SECESSION

And then COMPROMISE

- Radical southerners **“Fire-eaters”** talk openly of secession
- Could there be another compromise?
 - **Missouri Compromise (1820)**
 - **Nullification crisis (1828-1833)**
 - Force Bill and Compromise Tariff of 1833
- **Henry Clay** and **Stephen Douglas** favor compromise

Compromise of 1850

- CA admitted as free state
- Mexican Cession land Utah and New Mexico setup as territories
 - Slavery determined by Popular sovereignty
- Ban slave trade in Washington D.C.
- New Fugitive Slave Law for the South
- Settled border dispute between NM and TX in NM favor



FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT OF 1850



- Huge increase in **sectional tension** in the 1850s as a result of the Fugitive Slave Act
- Fugitive Slave Act turned the north into a **hunting ground for fugitive slaves**
- Northerners who assisted runaways could be arrested
- Slaves could not testify in court, denied a jury trial

NORTHERN RESISTANCE

- Moderate northerners are suddenly **sympathetic to the abolitionist movement**
 - Growth in the abolitionist movement
- **Underground Railroad:** helped escaped slaves reach the north or to Canada
- **Personal Liberty laws:**
 - Did not allow use of local jails for housing fugitive slave
- **Vigilance Committees:** goal to protect fugitive slaves from the slave catchers
- **Anthony Burns:** 1853 escaped from slavery

**The 1850's saw the
nation becoming more
and more polarized.**

Whigs divided over slavery issue



1852

Candidate	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote	Percent of Popular Vote
Franklin Pierce (Democrat)	254	1,601,117	50.9
Winfield Scott (Whig)	42	1,385,453	44.1
John P. Hale (Free-Soil)	5	155,825	—

NATIONAL EXPANSION CHALLENGED

- Debate over slavery slowed any attempts at national expansion (**Manifest Destiny**)
- **Free Soil supporters** had suspicion of any expansion attempts under **President Pierce**
- **Ostend Manifesto**: plan for the U.S. to buy Cuba from Spain
- Free Soilers denounced this plan
- Northerners increasingly fear that the south was attempting to create a slave empire or “**slaveocracy**”



GADSDEN PURCHASE

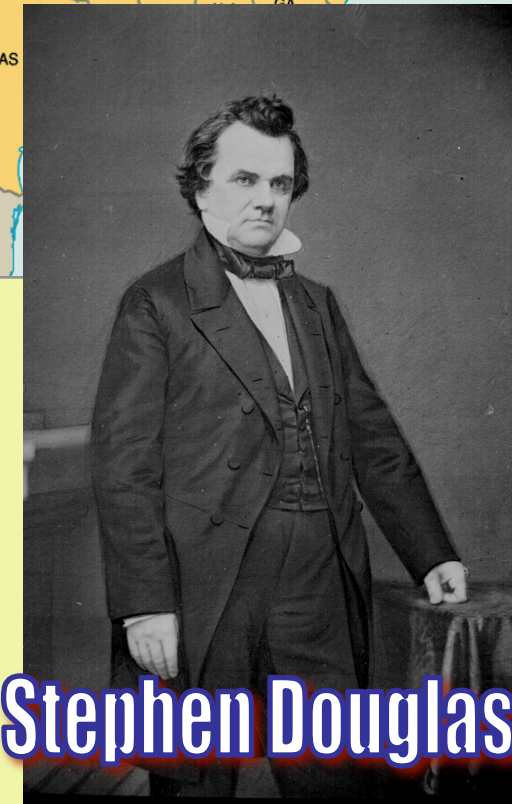
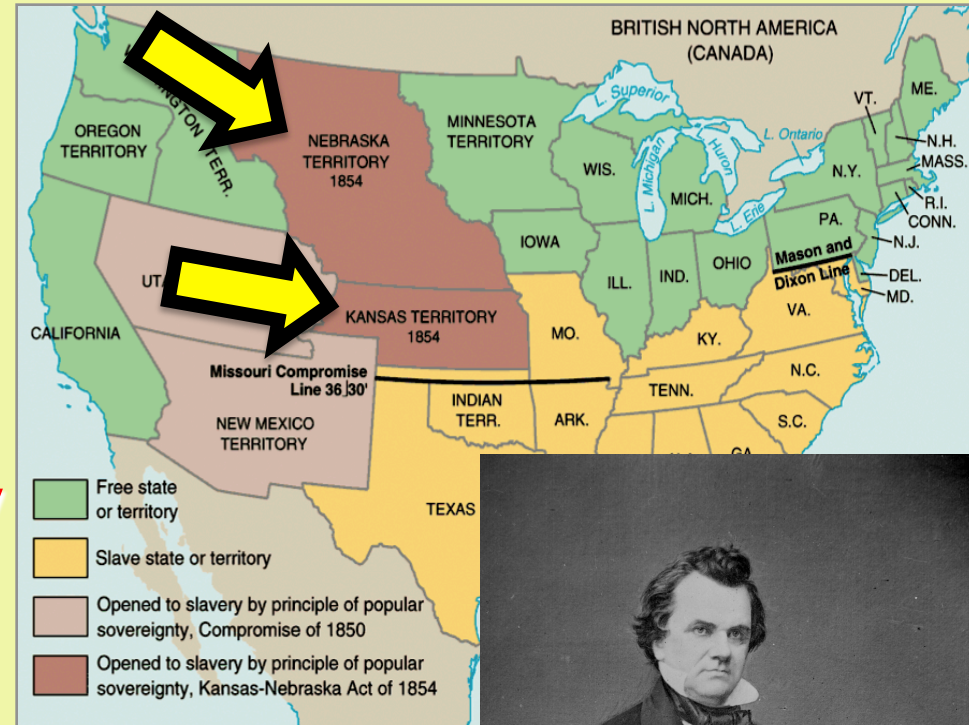
Although most attempts at expansion fail under President Pierce, the U.S. does agree to purchase a strip of land for \$10 million dollars from Mexico in 1853



Map shows present-day boundaries.

Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854

- **Stephen Douglas** wants to secure a **RR route** and encourage **western settlement**
- To win southern approval: Set up two territories 1) Kansas 2) Nebraska
- Slavery would be decided by **popular sovereignty**
- **Repeal's** the Missouri Compromise of 1820
 - Slavery can go north of **36°30'**
- Huge **opposition in the north** – **Republican party** formed
 - Gave south an opportunity to expand slavery



Stephen Douglas