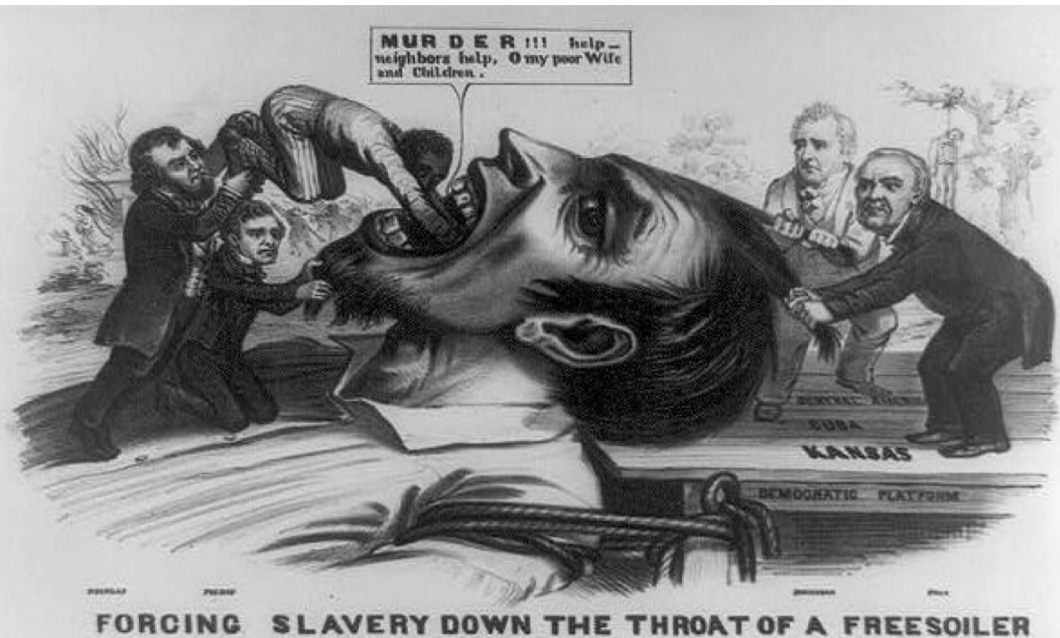




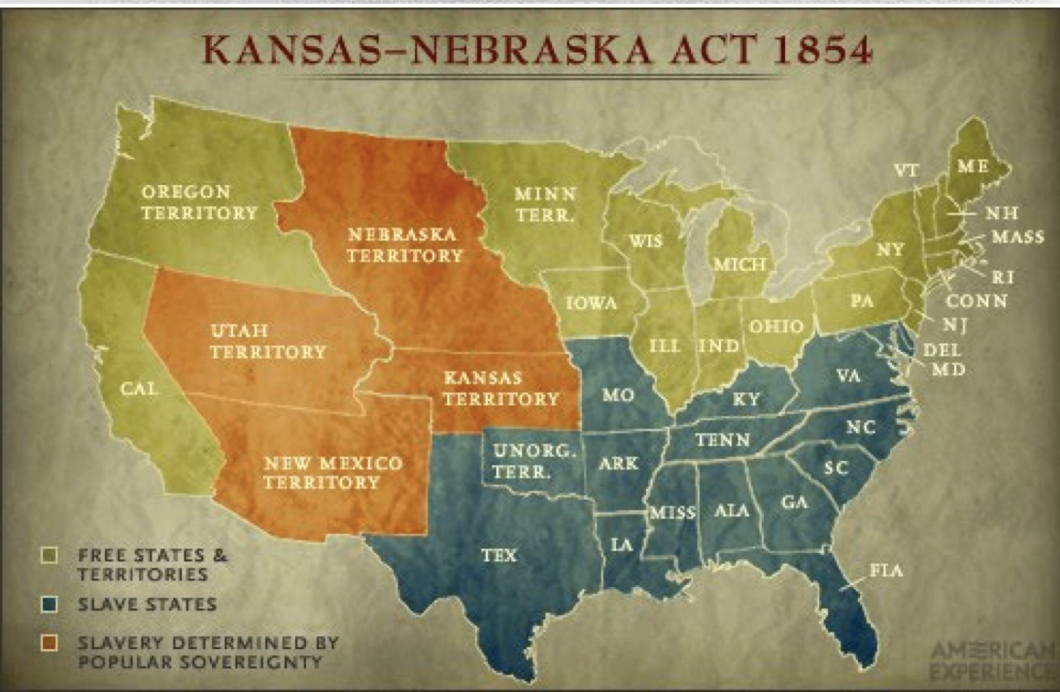
# Overview Events leading to Civil War

- ❑ Four issues in the last years of the 1850s further polarized the nation over the issue of slavery and pushed the North and South toward open conflict in the Civil War.
  - The issues were each political in nature and some involved increasing violence.
    1. The Kansas-Nebraska Act was an unsuccessful attempt to use
    2. popular sovereignty as a solution to the slavery question.
    3. The Supreme Court, in *Scott v. Sanford*, effectively overturned the Missouri Compromise.
    4. John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry marked an escalation of violence over the slavery issue.
      - These events represent mounting sectional division.
  - The trigger event that prompted the outbreak of the Civil War was Abraham Lincoln's Republican victory in the 1860 Presidential election.
- ❑ No one event is responsible for the Civil War, instead the cumulative effect of many events led to the conflict.

# Kansas-Nebraska Act

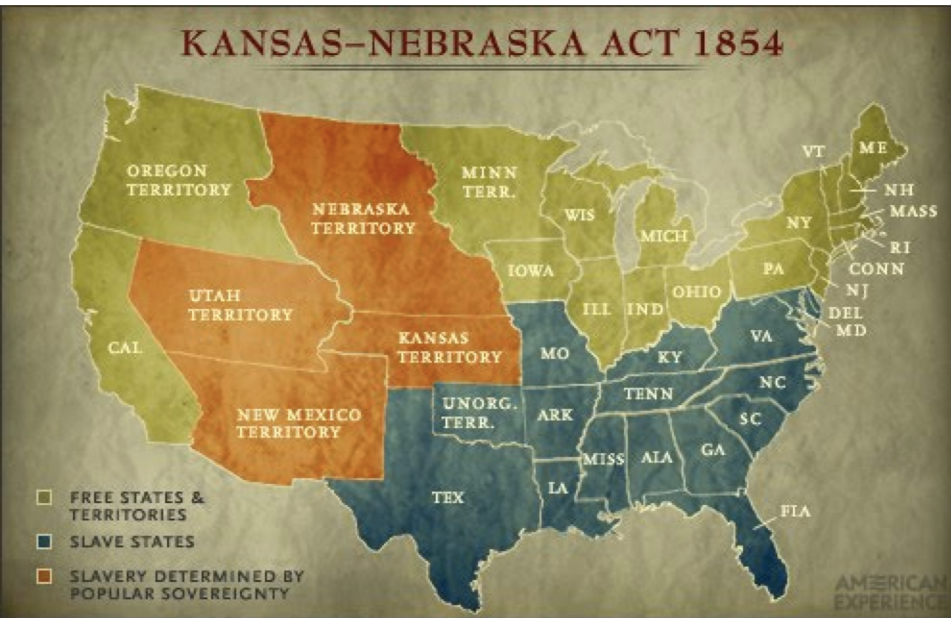


- ❑ The rich farmlands west of Missouri beckoned families and investors.
- ❑ In 1852 and 1853, Congress considered creating the territories of Kansas and Nebraska for settlement.
  - The legislation caught the attention of Southern Congressmen who refused to consider the creation of the new territories unless the provision was made for Southerners to bring slaves into the region.
  - Northern representatives argued that the expansion of slavery into the new territories was a violation of the Missouri Compromise, as the land was above the provision line set in 1820 to divide slave and free states.

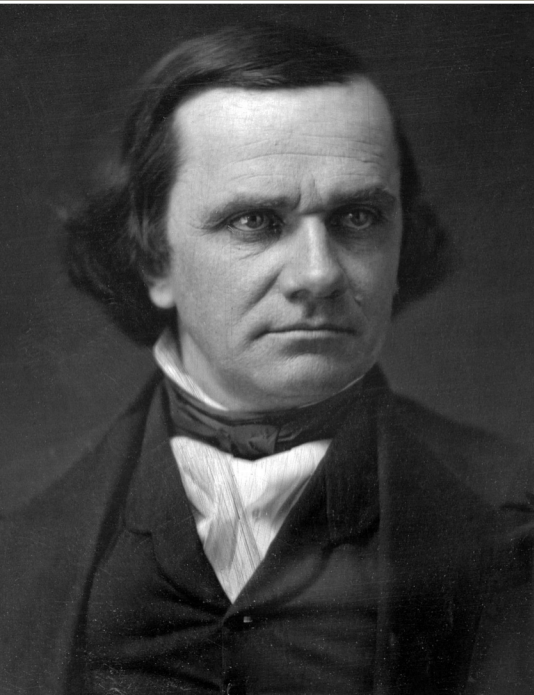




# Popular Sovereignty



- ❑ In 1854, Congress again took up the issue of slavery in proposed states and territories.
- ❑ Stephen A. Douglas included a provision using popular sovereignty (rule by the people), which would allow the citizens of the territory to decide whether or not slavery would be allowed.
  - Southerners hoped that by allowing the people to decide the issue that more slave states could be added.
  - After a great deal of rancorous debate in both Houses, the bill was approved and became known as the Kansas-Nebraska Act.





# Significance of Kansas-Nebraska Act



- ❑ The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act had several effects.
  1. First, the law virtually repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the Compromise of 1850.
    - Settlers in all new territories would have the right to decide for themselves whether their new home would be a free or slave state.
    - The previous compromises that established policy concerning where free and slave states would form in future territories were dismissed by the more democratic sounding approach of popular sovereignty.
  2. The Kansas-Nebraska Act's second effect was that pro- and antislavery groups both hurried into Kansas in an attempt to create voting majorities there.



- Antislavery abolitionists came from eastern states; proslavery settlers came mainly from neighboring Missouri.
- Some of these proslavery supporters settled in Kansas, but many more stayed there only long enough to vote for slavery and then returned home to Missouri.
  - Proslavery voters elected a legislature ready to make Kansas a slave state.



- Abolitionists then elected a rival Kansas government, wrote an antislavery constitution, established a different capital city, and raised an army.
- Proslavery Kansans reacted by raising their own army. Violence between the two sides created warlike conditions that led to the territory being referred to as "Bleeding Kansas."

- ❑ Popular sovereignty had failed.



# Scott v. Sanford

- ❑ Another event that led the country toward Civil War was the Supreme Court ruling in Scott v. Sanford.



- Often referred to as the Dred Scott decision, the 1857 ruling settled a lawsuit in which a slave named Dred Scott claimed he should be a free man.
- Scott had lived with his master in slave states and in free states and believed he had been held illegally in the free states.
- The Supreme Court rejected Scott's claim, ruling that no enslaved or free Black could be a citizen of the United States.
  - The Court said Congress could not prohibit slavery in federal territories.
  - Thus, the Court found that popular sovereignty and the Missouri Compromise of 1820 were unconstitutional.
- The Dred Scott decision gave slavery the protection of the United States Constitution. In essence, nothing short of a constitutional amendment could end slavery - an event not likely to occur.
- Proslavery Americans welcomed the Court's ruling as proof they had been right during their long struggle against abolitionists.
- In contrast, abolitionists convinced many state legislatures to declare the Dred Scott decision not binding within their state borders.
  - The new Republican Party said that if its candidate were elected President in 1860, he would appoint a new Supreme Court that would reverse the Dred Scott ruling.

## Dred Scott v. Sandford: 1857

"...We think they [people of African ancestry] are... not included, and were not intended to be included, under the word "citizens" in the Constitution, and can therefore claim none of the rights and privileges which that instrument provides for and secures to citizens of the United States..."

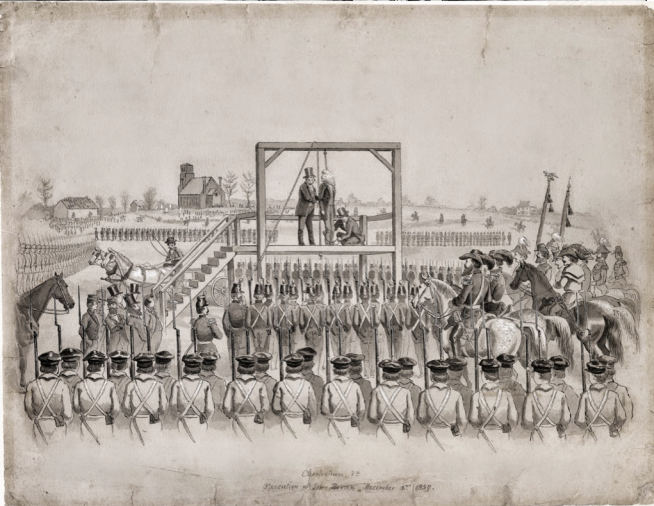
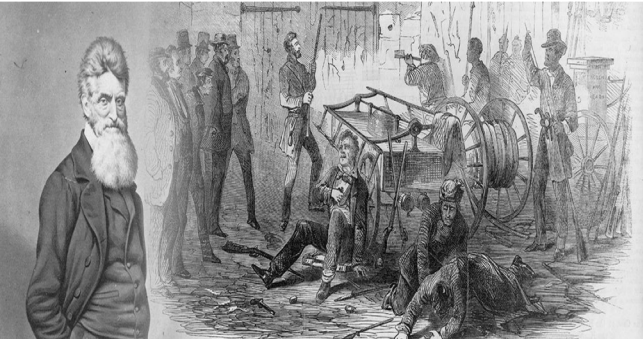
— Chief Justice  
Roger B. Taney





# John Brown's Raid

- ❑ Violence over slavery escalated as the political maneuvering on the subject was not producing a lasting policy.
- ❑ John Brown's Raid is another event that led to the Civil War.



- John Brown, an ardent abolitionist, decided to fight slavery with violence and killing.
- In 1856, believing he was chosen by God to end slavery, Brown commanded family members and other abolitionists to attack proslavery settlers in Kansas killing five men.
- Leaving Kansas, Brown decided to begin a slave war in the east by seizing arms and munitions and leading slaves in rebellion.
- In 1859, John Brown led a group of White and Black men in a raid on the federal armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (in modern-day West Virginia) in hopes of arming slaves for a rebellion.
  - The raid failed and US Marines, led by Colonel Robert E. Lee, captured Brown. Eventually, Brown was convicted of treason against the state of Virginia and executed by hanging.

# Significance of John Brown's Raid

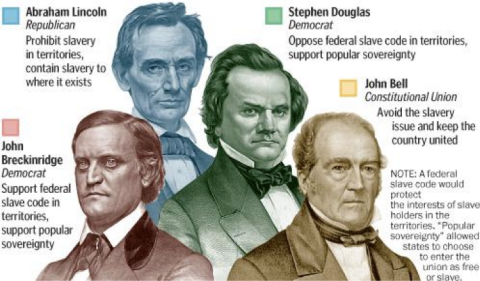
- ❑ At first, many Northerners and Southerners were horrified by Brown's actions.
  - Eventually, many Northerners came to respect what Brown had done, viewing him as a martyr for the abolitionist movement.
  - Southerners were angered.



- Many in the South viewed Brown as a terrorist killer, a man that sought to incite a slave rebellion that would have led to the slaughter of hundreds of men, women, and children.
  - Vocal Northern support of Brown's actions did little to calm an anxious South.
  - Invoking the specter of the Nat Turner Rebellion nearly 20 years earlier, southern states began to strengthen and train their state militias.
- ❑ A war between the North and the South was becoming a real possibility.

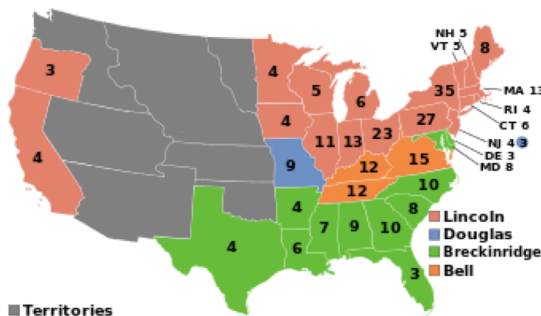
# Election of 1860

- ❑ The trigger that set the Civil War in motion was the victory of the Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, in the election of 1860.
- ❑ The sectionalism of the 1850s led to a split within the Democratic Party.
  - The Northern Democrats nominated Stephen Douglas of Illinois and the Southern Democrats nominated John Breckenridge of Kentucky to be the nominees in the 1860 Presidential election.
  - Some of the old Whigs who did not support either the Democrats or the Republican candidate formed the Constitutional Union Party and nominated John Bell of Tennessee as their candidate.



- ❑ The field was full with four candidates for the November election.
  - Their positions on slavery were important to the outcome of the election.

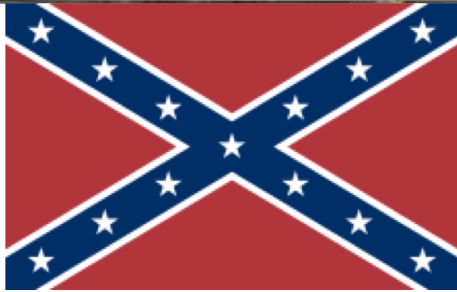
- Lincoln believed that slavery should not be allowed to expand to the territories, but he would not interfere in states where it already existed.
- Douglas believed popular sovereignty should be the policy regarding slavery.
- Breckenridge viewed slaves as property and therefore believed that the government could not deny citizens of their property regardless of their location.
- Bell did not commit to a position regarding slavery but maintained that he was most interested in the union of the United States.



- ❑ The final votes in the election fell along regional lines with Lincoln carrying the more populated North and thus the Electoral College.



# Significance of the 1860 Election



- ❑ Upon Lincoln's election, South Carolina voted to secede (separate from) the United States.
- ❑ Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and then Texas followed South Carolina in their break from the United States.
  - These Lower South states were the original seven members of the Confederate States of America.
- ❑ Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina also joined the Confederacy.
- ❑ All of the events of the 1850s contributed to the outbreak of Civil War, but it was the election of Lincoln that triggered its actual beginning.

