

The Debate over Slavery

The Big Idea

Antislavery literature and the annexation of new lands intensified the debate over slavery.

Main Ideas

- The addition of new land in the West renewed disputes over the expansion of slavery.
- The Compromise of 1850 tried to solve the disputes over slavery.
- The Fugitive Slave Act caused more controversy.
- Abolitionists used antislavery literature to promote opposition.



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Main Idea 1: The addition of new land in the West renewed disputes over the expansion of slavery.

- Additional land gained after Mexican-American War caused bitter slavery dispute.
- Missouri Compromise of 1820 prohibited slavery north of latitude $36^{\circ}30'$.
- President Polk wanted to extend the line to the West Coast, dividing Mexican Cession into free and slavery parts.
- Some leaders wanted **popular sovereignty**, the idea that political power belongs to the people, to decide on banning or allowing slavery.



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Regional Differences about Slavery

Growing Sectionalism

- Some northerners wanted to ban slavery in all parts of the Mexican Cession.
- The **Wilmot Proviso**, prohibiting slavery there, was proposed but not enacted.
- **Sectionalism**, favoring the interests of one section or region over the interests of the entire country, was on the rise.
- Antislavery northerners formed a new party—the **Free-Soil Party**—to support the Wilmot Proviso.

California Question

- California applied to enter the Union.
- Southerners did not want California to be a free state because it would upset the balance of slave and free states.



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Main Idea 2: The Compromise of 1850 tried to solve the disputes over slavery.

- Senator Henry Clay offered **Compromise of 1850**.
 - California would enter the Union as a free state.
 - The rest of the Mexican Cession would be federal land. The slavery question would be decided by popular sovereignty.
 - Texas could give up land east of the upper Rio Grande. In return, the government would pay Texas's debt from when it was an independent republic.
 - Slave trade, but not slavery, would end in the nation's capital.
 - A more effective fugitive slave law would be passed.
- The compromise was enacted and settled most disputes between slave and free states.



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Main Idea 3: The Fugitive Slave Act caused more controversy.

Fugitive Slave Act

- Made it a crime to help runaway slaves and allowed officials to arrest runaway slaves in free areas
- Slaveholders could take suspected fugitives to U.S. commissioners, who decided their fate. Commissioners received more money for returning them to slaveholders.
- Accused fugitives could not testify on their own behalf.

Reaction to Act

- Enforcement of act immediate
- Thousands of northern African Americans fled to Canada in fear.
- Act upset northerners
- **Anthony Burns** was fugitive returned to slavery with federal help in 1854.
- Persuaded many to join abolitionist cause



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Main Idea 4: Abolitionists used antislavery literature to promote opposition.

- Northern abolitionists used stories of fugitive slaves to gain sympathy for their cause.
- Fiction also informed people about the evils of slavery.
- ***Uncle Tom's Cabin*** by **Harriet Beecher Stowe** was an influential antislavery novel published in 1852.
 - More than 2 million copies sold within a decade.
 - Still widely read as source about harsh realities of slavery.



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Changes in Working Life

The Big Idea

The Kansas-Nebraska Act heightened tensions in the conflict over slavery.

Main Ideas

- The debate over the expansion of slavery influenced the election of 1852.
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed voters to allow or prohibit slavery.
- Pro-slavery and antislavery groups clashed violently in what became known as “Bleeding Kansas.”



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Main Idea 1: The debate over the expansion of slavery influenced the election of 1852.

- **Franklin Pierce** was Democratic candidate.
 - Promised to honor Compromise of 1850 and Fugitive Slave Act
 - Trusted by southerners
- Whig Party chose Winfield Scott, a Mexican War hero.
 - Southerners did not trust Scott because he had not fully supported Compromise of 1850.
- Pierce won election by large margin.



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Main Idea 2: The Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed voters to allow or prohibit slavery.

- **Stephen Douglas** introduced a bill in Congress to divide the remainder of Louisiana Purchase into two territories—Kansas and Nebraska.
- Would allow people in each territory to decide on slavery
- Would eliminate the Missouri Compromise's restriction on slavery north of the 36°30' line
- Antislavery northerners were outraged that free territory could be turned into slave territory.
- **Kansas-Nebraska Act** was passed in 1854 with southern support.



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Main Idea 3: Pro-slavery and antislavery groups clashed violently in what became known as “Bleeding Kansas.”

- Antislavery and pro-slavery groups rushed supporters to Kansas since popular vote would decide the slavery issue.
- Pro-slavery voters crossed the border to vote, allowing their side to win the vote. The new government created strict laws, including that those who helped fugitive slaves could be put to death.
- Antislavery group created a new government in protest.
- President Pierce recognized only pro-slavery legislature.
- Controversy over slavery affected everyone in Kansas.



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Bleeding Kansas

Sack of Lawrence

- Proslavery grand jury charged antislavery government with treason.
- Proslavery forces attacked city of Lawrence, the location of antislavery leaders.

John Brown's Response

- Abolitionist John Brown and sons killed five pro-slavery men in what was called **Pottawatomie Massacre**.
- Kansas collapsed into civil war.

Congress

- Senator **Charles Sumner** criticized pro-slavery people and insulted Senator Pickens Butler.
- Representative **Preston Brooks** beat Sumner unconscious.



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Political Divisions

Main Idea

The split over the issue of slavery intensified due to political division and judicial decisions.

Main Ideas

- Political parties in the United States underwent change due to the movement to expand slavery.
- The *Dred Scott* decision created further division over the issue of slavery.
- The Lincoln-Douglas debates brought much attention to the conflict over slavery.



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Main Idea 1: Political parties in the United States underwent change due to the movement to expand slavery.

- Some Whigs, Democrats, Free-Soilers, and abolitionists joined in 1854 to form the **Republican Party**.
 - United against spread of slavery in the West
 - Nominated explorer **John C. Frémont**, who stood against spread of slavery
- Democrats were in trouble. Those who supported the Kansas-Nebraska debate were not re-elected.
 - Nominated **James Buchanan**, Polk's secretary of state, who had not been involved in Kansas-Nebraska debate.
- Buchanan was elected by winning 14 of 15 slave states.



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Main Idea 2: The Dred Scott decision created further division over the issue of slavery.

- Dred Scott was slave of Missouri physician.
- Had been taken to free territory by owner
- Sued for freedom in 1846 after owner died, arguing he had become free when he lived in free territory
- Case reached Supreme Court in 1857.



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Dred Scott v. Sandford

- Chief Justice **Roger B. Taney** wrote majority opinion.
- Ruled that African Americans, whether free or slave, were not citizens and had no right to sue in federal court; also ruled Missouri Compromise restriction on slavery was unconstitutional.
- Most white southerners were cheered by the decision.
- Ruling stunned many northerners, including Illinois lawyer **Abraham Lincoln**, who warned about its consequences.



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Main Idea 3: The Lincoln-Douglas debates brought much attention to the conflict over slavery.

- Illinois Republicans nominated Abraham Lincoln for the U.S. Senate in 1858.
- His opponent was Democrat Stephen Douglas, who had been senator since 1847.
- Lincoln challenged Douglas to what became the historic **Lincoln-Douglas debates**.



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Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Lincoln stressed that central issue of campaign was spread of slavery in the West.

Douglas criticized Lincoln for saying nation could not remain “half slave and half free.”

Douglas put forth **Freeport Doctrine**: people had right to introduce or exclude slavery, and police would enforce their decision even if it contradicted the Supreme Court.

Freeport Doctrine helped Douglas win, but Lincoln became an important Republican Party leader and later president.



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The Nation Divides

The Big Idea

The United States broke apart due to the growing conflict over slavery.

Main Ideas

- John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry intensified the disagreement between free states and slave states.
- The outcome of the election of 1860 divided the United States.
- The dispute over slavery led the South to secede.



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Main Idea 1: John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry intensified the disagreement between free states and slave states.

- John Brown tried to start uprising in 1858.
 - Planned to arm local slaves by attacking federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.
- **John Brown's raid** began on night of October 16, 1859, when he and his men took over arsenal.
- Could not get slaves to join uprising.
- Federal troops captured Brown and men in attack on arsenal.
- Brown was convicted of treason, murder, and conspiracy, and was hanged.
 - Many northerners mourned his death, but criticized methods.
 - Most southern whites felt threatened, and newspapers started to call for leaving the Union in order to remain safe.



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Main Idea 2: The outcome of the election of 1860 divided the United States.

- Northern Democrats chose Senator Stephen Douglas; Southern Democrats, Vice President **John C. Breckinridge**.
- The **Constitutional Union Party** selected **John Bell** of Tennessee.
- Republicans nominated Lincoln, who won with most votes of the free states.
 - Lincoln promised not to abolish slavery where it already existed.
- The result angered southerners.
 - Lincoln had not campaigned in the South or carried any southern states in the election.



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Main Idea 3: The dispute over slavery led the South to secede.

- Lincoln insisted he would not change slavery in South, but would not let it expand.
- People in South believed that their economy and way of life would be destroyed.
- South Carolina legislature met to consider **secession**, formally withdrawing from the Union.
- South Carolina seceded, believing it had the right because it had voluntarily joined the Union.



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Confederate States of America

- Senator **John Crittenden** proposed series of constitutional amendments hoping to satisfy the South by protecting slavery.
- Lincoln believed there could be no compromise about the extension of slavery, and the plan was rejected.
- Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas joined South Carolina to form **Confederate States of America**.
- **Jefferson Davis** of Mississippi was elected Confederate president.



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Chapter 15

Lincoln Takes Office

Lincoln inaugurated on March 4, 1861.

Opposed idea that southern states could leave the Union because they were unhappy with government's position on slavery

Announced in inaugural address that he would keep all government property in the seceding states

Hoped that southern states would return to the Union



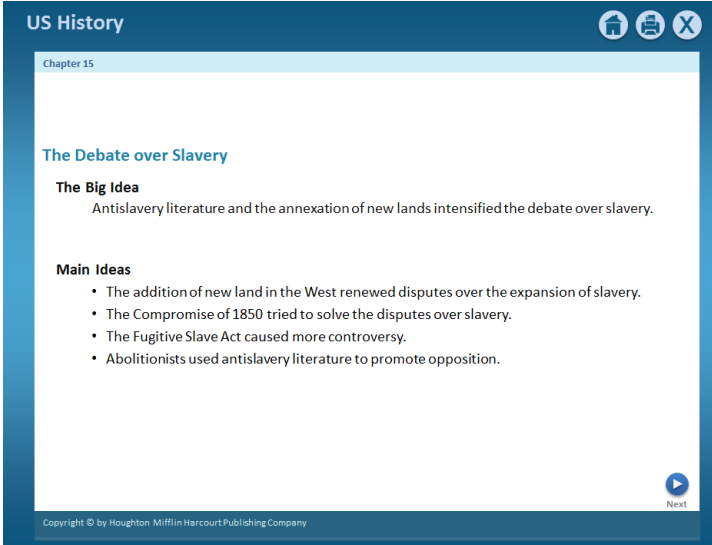
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