

Causes of the American Civil War

The image features two flags crossed in the center. On the left is the Union Jack, and on the right is the Confederate battle flag. The text 'Causes of the American Civil War' is overlaid on the flags in a large, bold, blue font.

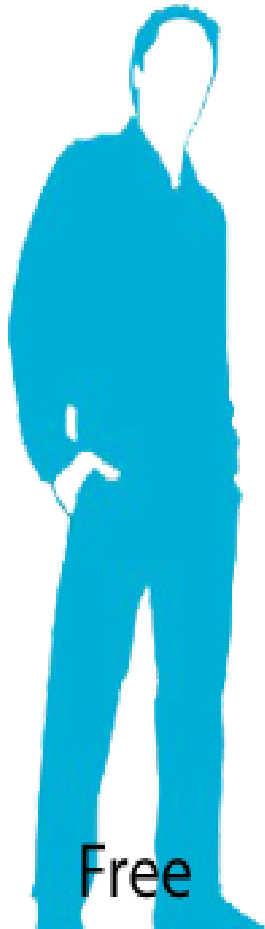
A Timeline of Events

1. 1787 - The 3/5th Compromise

- The Three-Fifths compromise was a compromise between southern and northern states that helped insure ratification of the Constitution.
- Three-fifths of the population of slaves counted for purposes of the distribution of taxes and the number of members each state was allowed in the House of Representatives.
- **Effect:** Led to increasing **sectionalism**

The Three-Fifths Compromise of 1787

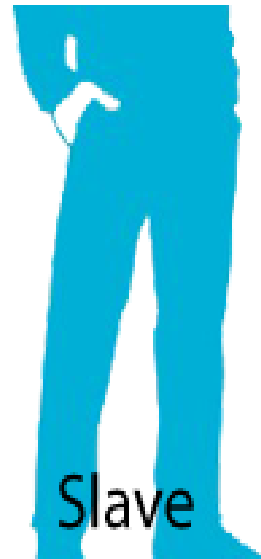
1 Person (6')



Free

*on the Enumeration of Slaves for Determining a State's
Population and Concordant Number of Representatives*

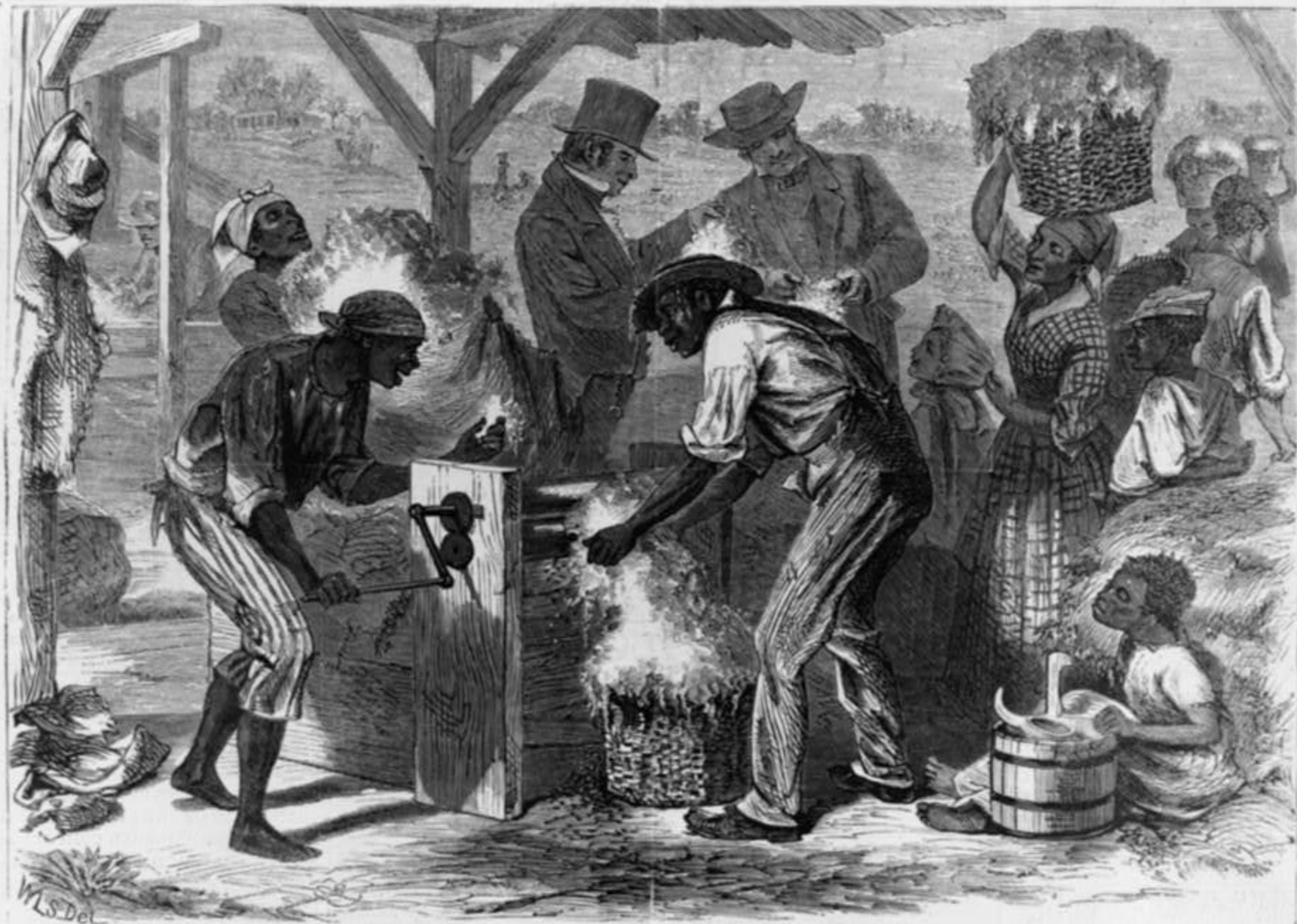
$\frac{3}{5}$ Person (3' 7")



Slave

2. 1793 – Invention of the Cotton Gin

- Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin revolutionized the cotton industry in the United States. Removal of cotton seeds became 50 times faster.
- Led to greater demand for slaves in the deep south.
- **Effects** Increase in numbers of slaves – slavery expands.



THE FIRST COTTON-GIN.—DRAWN BY WILLIAM L. SHEPPARD.—[SEE PAGE 814.]

103801

3. 1803 – Louisiana Purchase, Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny

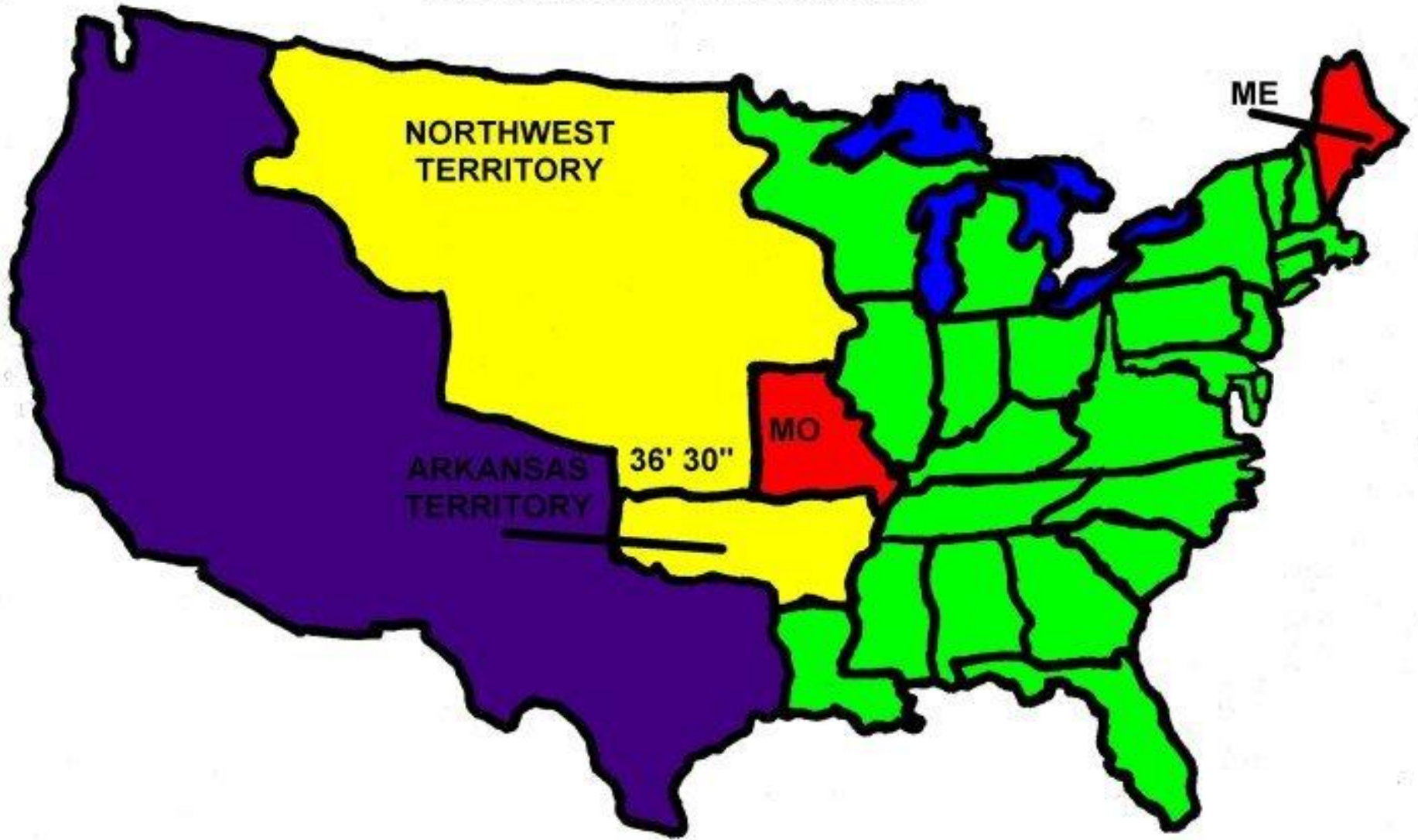
- After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States doubled in size.
- **Manifest Destiny** principle spurred Westward Expansion and the fight over slavery
- This purchase gave the United States control of the vast lands west of the Mississippi.
- **Effect:** As Americans pushed west, the issue of slavery came to the forefront. Would the new territories of the United States be slave or free?



4. 1820 - Missouri Compromise

- The first confrontation over slavery in the West. Missouri applied as a slave state. The admission of Missouri would upset the balance of power in the Senate where at the time there were 11 free states and 11 slave states.
- In 1820, it was suggested that Missouri enter as a slave state and Maine as a free state to keep the balance of power.
- **Effect:** Cools sectional differences for a short time.
Shows how volatile issue of slavery is.

FREE AND SLAVE AREAS, 1821



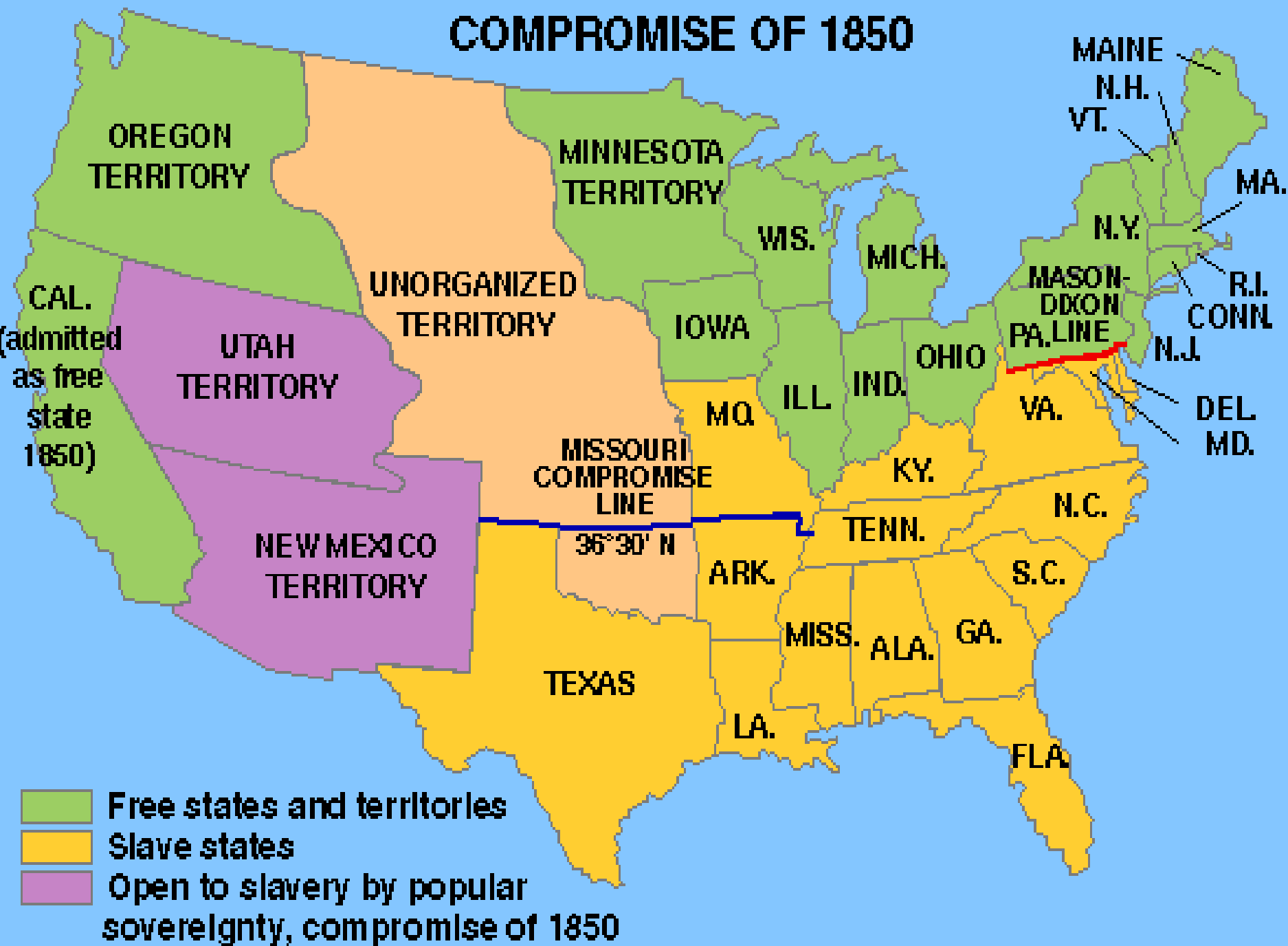
5. 1832 – Nullification Crisis




- South Carolina nullified the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 within their borders and threatened to secede if the federal government attempted to collect those tariff duties.
- President Jackson immediately offered his thought that **nullification** was tantamount to treason and quickly dispatched ships to Charleston, SC.
- Crisis was avoided with a new tariff acceptable to S. Carolina.
- **Effect:** First act of defiance in south threatening secession over policies in the north.

6. 1850 – Compromise of 1850

- California applied for admission as a free state and the balance of power in the Senate was threatened again.
- The Compromise of 1850 :
 - 1) California entered as a free state.
 - 2) The rest of the Mexican cession was divided into New Mexico and Utah. In each state, voters would decide **(popular sovereignty)** the issue of slavery.
 -
 - **Effect:** Intensified battle over slavery in new territories by making the decision the responsibility of the state's citizens.

COMPROMISE OF 1850



-  Free states and territories
-  Slave states
-  Open to slavery by popular sovereignty, compromise of 1850

7. 1850 – Fugitive Slave Law

- The law was very controversial.
- It required that ALL (north and south) citizens were obligated to return runaway slaves.
- People who helped slaves escape would be jailed and fined
- **Effects:** Law enraged Northerners because it made them feel a part of the slave system. Persons involved with the **Underground Railroad** worked to subvert the law.

RAN AWAY!



FROM THE SUBSCRIBER. My Mother's Rep.

WARRIOR. Sold George to S. Hall & Co. (price to be paid), terms
cash, dark coat. I will give \$4000 for his skin,
and the same sum for satisfactory proof that he has been
killed.

THE ANTHONY & KELLY WARREN W. HARRIS,
"HOLEY HOLEY GARDEN."

8. 1852 – Uncle Tom's Cabin

- Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a novel that told the story of Uncle Tom, an enslaved African American, and his cruel master, Simon Legree.
- In the novel, Stowe wrote of the evils and cruelty of slavery. The novel had an enormous influence in the north.
- It helped change the way many Northerners felt about slavery.
- **Effect:** Slavery was now a **moral problem/issue**, intensifying the animosity and debate between North & South.

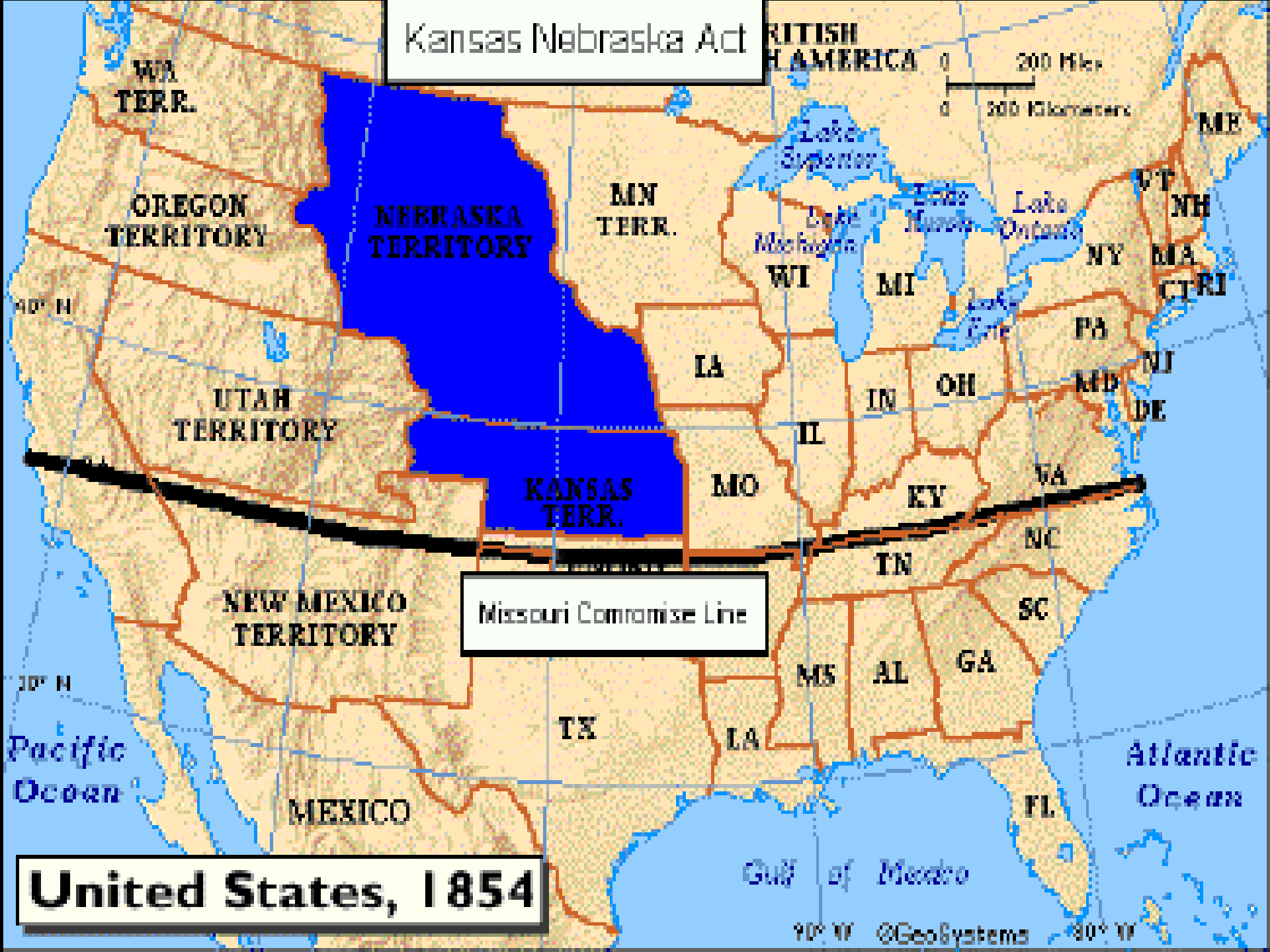
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN



TOPSY

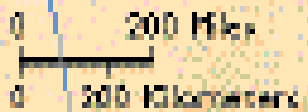
9. 1854 – Kansas-Nebraska Act

- Stephen Douglas of Illinois proposed that Nebraska be divided into two territories — Kansas and Nebraska.
- The settlers of the new territories would decide (popular sovereignty) whether they would be slave or free.
- Southerners supported the act, while Northerners felt it was a betrayal.
- **Effect:** Thousands of pro and anti slavery supporters flood Kansas to vote and fight for their position on slavery – Civil War about to erupt.



Kansas Nebraska Act

BRITISH AMERICA



United States, 1854

10. 1855 – Bloody Kansas

- The Act set off bitter violence in the Kansas territory. More than 200 people died over the issue of slavery. The area became known as **Bleeding Kansas**. Anti- and pro-slavery forces set up rival governments. The town of Lawrence was destroyed by pro-slavery forces.
- **Effect:** Little room left for compromise. Both sides willing to fight for their beliefs.

KANSAS
TERRITORY

MISSOURI

Leavenworth

Missouri R.

Kansas R.

Topeka

Lecompton

Shawnee
Mission

Kansas
City

Lawrence
May 21, 1856

Osawatomie
Aug. 31, 1856

Marais des Cygnes R.

Pottawatomie Creek
May 24, 1856

Marais des Cygnes
May 19, 1858



Major violent
outbreaks

11. 1857 – Dred Scott Supreme Court Decision

- Dred Scott was a slave who claimed that because his master had taken him to the free territories of Illinois and Wisconsin, he should be free.
- The court ruled that because Scott was not considered a citizen, but property, he could not file a lawsuit.
- The Court also ruled that Congress had no power to decide the issue of slavery in the territories. This meant that slavery was legal in all the territories and the Missouri Compromise was **unconstitutional**.
- **Effect:** The issue of slavery reaches a boiling point. Becomes a moral issue in north and constitutional issue in the south – NO MORE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE!

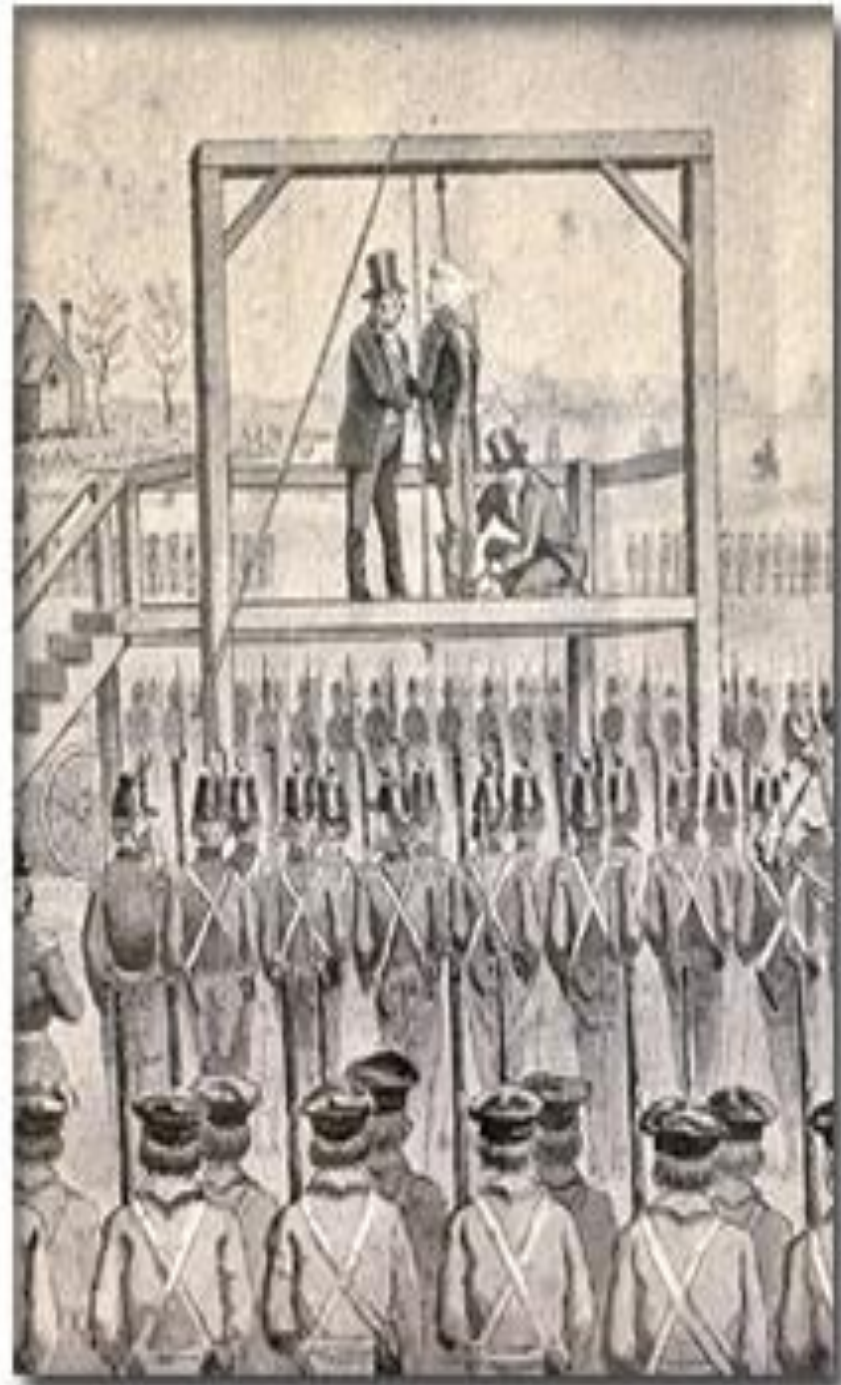
Dred Scott



12. 1859 – Harper's Ferry and John Brown

- John Brown and a group of **abolitionists** organized a raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia, a federal arsenal.
- Brown hoped that slaves would come to the arsenal and he would then lead a massive slave uprising.
- Brown was unsuccessful and captured. He was found guilty of murder and treason and sentenced to death.
- Many northerners saw Brown as a hero. Southerners felt that the North wanted to destroy slavery and the South along with it.
- **Effect:** Convinced many southerners that war was inevitable.

The execution of John Brown after Harper's Ferry

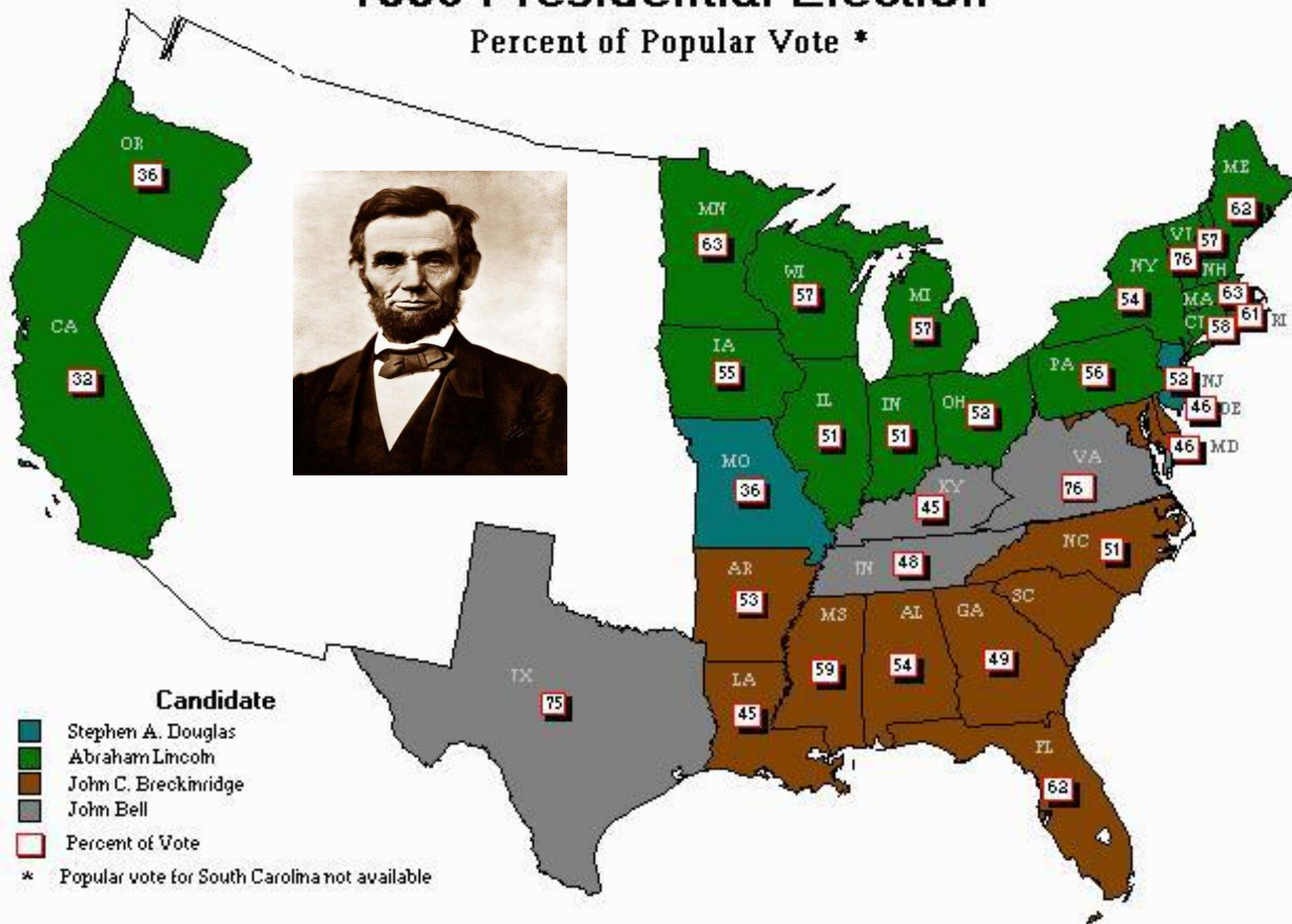
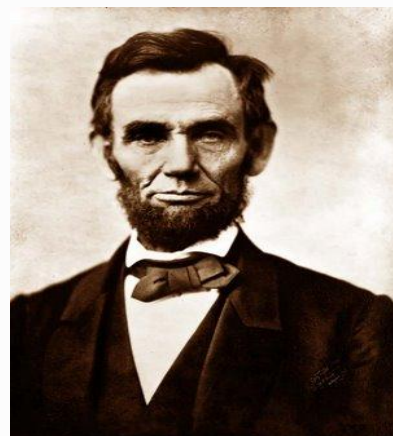


13. 1860 – Lincoln Elected President

- The Southerners' reaction to the election of President Lincoln was strong. They felt that the country had put an abolitionist in the White House. The South felt that secession was the only option.
- The South felt they had the right to **secede**. The Declaration of Independence stated that “it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish” a government that denies the rights of its citizens. Lincoln, they believed, would deny them the right to own slaves.
- **Effect:** In 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union. By February of 1861, Alabama, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi had seceded.

1860 Presidential Election

Percent of Popular Vote *



Candidate

- Stephen A. Douglas
- Abraham Lincoln
- John C. Breckinridge
- John Bell

Percent of Vote

* Popular vote for South Carolina not available

13. 1861 – Fort Sumter

- After Lincoln took the oath of office in 1861, he announced that no state can lawfully leave the Union. He declared, however, there would be no war unless the South started it.
- The South started to take possession of all Federal buildings — forts and post offices. The South took control of the three forts in Florida and was ready to take control of Fort Sumter in South Carolina. In April, 1861, the Confederates asked for the fort's surrender. Major Robert Anderson of the Union refused to surrender. The Confederate troops proceeded to shell Fort Sumter. Anderson ran out of ammunition and was forced to surrender.
- **Effect:** America's brutal, but inevitable, Civil War had begun.



EMBARRASSMENT OF FORT SUMTER BY THE BATTALIONS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, APRIL 12, 1861.—[See Page 20.]



Fort Sumter – Charleston, SC