|  |
| --- |
| Missouri Compromise |
| 1. When Washington took office the North and South were roughly equal in wealth and population. However, with each passing decade the North steadily outgained the South in population growth. As a result, by 1819 the free states in the North had 105 representatives in the House while the slave states in the South had just 81 representatives. 2. While the North controlled a solid majority in the House of Representatives, the Senate was evenly balanced between 11 free and **11** slave states. 3. In 1819, the territory of Missouri applied for statehood as a slave state. The northern controlled House of Representatives responded by passing the Tallmadge Amendment prohibiting the further introduction of slaves into Missouri and also providing for the gradual   emancipation of slaves already in the territory. Although the Senate rejected the Tallmadge Amendment, the issue of extending slavery into the new territories ignited a passionate sectional debate. Outraged southerners believed that the Tallmadge Amendment threatened the future of the plantation system while also implying a moral attack on slavery and thus the southern way of life.   1. House Speaker Henry Clay promoted a compromise that included the following provisions: Missouri would be admitted into the Union as a slave state .    1. Maine would be admitted into the Union as a free state. Slavery would be prohibited in the remaining portions of the Louisiana Purchase north of latitude 36°30'. 2. The Missouri Compromise temporarily defused the political crisis over slavery. However, the Missouri Compromise debate foreshadowed the divisive intersectional debates over the expansion of slavery that resurfaced during the 1840s and 1850s. Thomas Jefferson sensed the future peril when he wrote, "This momentous question, like a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror." |

|  |
| --- |
| The Wilmot Proviso (1846) |
| 1. In August 1846, David Wilmot, a previously little-known Congressman from Pennsylvania, attached a rider to an appropriations bill barring slavery from any territory acquired as a result of the Mexican War. 2. Supported in the North and opposed in the South, the Wilmot Proviso passed the House twice but was defeated in the Senate. 3. Since the passage of the Missouri Compromise of 1820, both political parties attempted to suppress divisive questions about the status of slavery in the western territories. 4. Wilmot defended his proviso as a necessary means of insuring the "rights of white freemen" to live and work in the new territories without the unfair burden of competing with slave labor.   **Importance**   1. The Wilmot Proviso became a rallying point for an antislavery coalition that formed the Free Soil Party. The Free Soilers became active participants in the 1848 election. They pledged to support "free soil, free speech, free labor, and free men." 2. Apprehensive Southern leaders warned that the Wilmot Proviso marked the beginning of a long postponed attack on slavery. Determined to defend their "peculiar institution," they denounced any attempt to restrict the expansion of slavery. 3. The Wilmot Proviso reawakened dormant sectional tensions over the expansion of slavery. It thus marked the beginning of a long series of increasingly acrimonious (very bitter) crises that dominated American politics until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. 4. Supporters of the Wilmot Proviso argued that slavery degraded free labor. They believed that "free soil" would guarantee liberty, free competition, and a worker's "right   to rise." |

|  |
| --- |
| Compromise of 1850 |
| 1. The growing sectional differences between the North and the South over the extension of slavery touched off one of the most dramatic Senate debates in American history. 2. Henry Clay hoped to once again play his historic role of the *Great* Compromiser. The now 73-year-old senator from Kentucky offered a package of resolutions designed to settle the outstanding issues and restore sectional harmony. Clay's proposals included the following key points:    1. The immediate admission of California as a free state.    2. The organization of territorial governments in Utah and New Mexico without an immediate decision as to whether they would be free or slave.    3. The abolition of the domestic slave trade in Washington, D.C.    4. The enactment of a stringent (very strict) new Fugitive Slave Act. 3. The debate over Clay's proposals featured dramatic speeches by Daniel Webster and John C. Calhoun. Webster's March 7 Speech implored Northern and Southern senators to find common ground "for the preservation of the Union." 4. After months of rancorous (bitter, showing deep-seated resentment) debate, Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois successfully maneuvered Clay's proposals through the Senate as separate bills. It is interesting to note that Abraham Lincoln did not participate in the negotiations that resulted in the passage of the Compromise of 1850 since he was not a member of Congress. 5. The Compromise of 1850 seemed to defuse the crisis and establish an uneasy sectional peace. Americans now turned to what they hoped would be a bright future undisturbed by the issue of slavery in the hope, however, proved to be fleeting. |

|  |
| --- |
| HARRIET BEECHER STOWE AND *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN* |
| 1. The Compromise of 1850 temporarily settled the issue of slavery in the territories. However, the furor over the Fugitive Slave Act kept the issue of slavery alive. 2. The Fugitive Slave Act appalled Harriet Beecher Stowe. A dedicated abolitionist, Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to help her readers understand the cruelty of the slave system by vividly describing the fear and panic endured by slaves. 3. First published in book form in 1852, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* sold 305,000 copies within a year. It soon became an international sensation selling over 2.5 million copies world-wide. 4. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* intensified antislavery sentiment in the North. At the same time, it aroused resentment in the South. |

|  |
| --- |
| The Kansas-Nebraska Act (Stephen A. Douglas and Popular Sovereignty) |
| 1. In January 1854, Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois reopened the issue of slavery in the territories by proposing a bill that would organize two new territories, Kansas and Nebraska. Both territories were part of the Louisiana Territory where the Missouri Compromise banned slavery. In order to win Southern support, Douglas included an amendment specifically repealing the Missouri Compromise. 2. Douglas' bill proposed that the people of Kansas and Nebraska be allowed to decide for themselves whether their states would be free or slave. Letting the settlers of a given territory have the sole right to decide whether or not slavery would be permitted within their borders was known as POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY. 3. Congress finally passed Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska Act after a divisive debate that sharpened antagonism between the North and the South. |
| CONSEQUENCES of the Kansas-Nebraska Act |
| 1. The Kansas-Nebraska Act broke the uneasy truce between the North and the South. Indignant (outraged) Northerners denounced the act as a violation of the Missouri Compromise's "sacred pledge" to ban slavery north of the 36°30' line. 2. The Kansas-Nebraska Act placed Whigs opposed to slavery in a difficult position. As a result, it destroyed the Whig Party in the Deep South and contributed to the demise (downfall) of the party in the North. 3. The Kansas-Nebraska Act galvanized (mobilized) a spontaneous outpouring of popular opposition in the North that led to the formation of the Republican Party. 4. The furor over the Kansas-Nebraska Act even affected American foreign policy. The Pierce administration hoped to buy Cuba from Spain. American ministers meeting in Ostend, Belgium drew up a secret memorandum urging Pierce to invade Cuba ifSpain refused to sell the island. When the so-called Ostend Manifesto became public it ignited a storm of opposition to what seemed like a plot to extend slavery. The public outcry forced Pierce to abandon his plan to obtain Cuba. |

|  |
| --- |
| The Rise of Republicans (Party Realignment and Sectionalism) |
| 1. The Democrats and Whigs formed a two-party system that dominated American politics from the 1830's to the early 1850's. The furor over the Kansas-Nebraska Act dealt the Whigs a fatal blow by leading to the formation of the Republican Party. 2. Kansas marked the first important test of popular sovereignty. Within a short time, "Bleeding Kansas" became a battleground between proslavery and antislavery settlers. 3. Kansas soon found itself with two governments. One supported slavery but rested upon a small minority of the population. The other government opposed slavery and represented the majority opinion in the embattled territory. The Democrats accepted the proslavery   government and committed their party to the admission of Kansas as a slave state. In contrast, the Republicans  opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act and supported the antislavery forces in Kansas.   1. The Whig Party completely disintegrated under the pressure of the violence in Kansas. As their party collapsed, Whigs joined the rapidly growing Republican Party. Antislavery Democrats and former Know-Nothings also joined the burgeoning (rapidly growing) Republican coalition. 2. The Republicans held their first national convention in 1856. The party nominated John C. Fremont for president and adopted a platform opposing slavery. The Democrats turned to James Buchanan of Pennsylvania and endorsed the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The 1856 election was quickly transformed into a sectional contest. Although Buchanan won the election, Fremont carried eleven free states. The results underscored the ominous sectionalization of politics in an increasingly polarized (divided) nation. |

|  |
| --- |
| The Dred Scott Case (1857) |
| 1. Dred Scott was a slave who belonged to John Emerson, an army surgeon assigned to a post in Missouri. When the army transferred Emerson from the slave state of Missouri to the free state of Illinois he took Scott with him as a servant. The pair then moved to the Wisconsin Territory, an area where the Missouri Compromise expressly forbade slavery. 2. When Emerson died, Scott returned to Missouri where he was placed under the authority of his former master's wife. Helped by abolitionists, Scott sued for his freedom. He contended that living in a free state and in a free territory made him a free man. |
| Legal Consequences |
| 1. Did Dred Scott have a right to bring his case into the federal courts? Scott had that right only if he were a citizen of the United States. 2. Did Dred Scott become a free man by living in a free state and in a free territory? Ifyes, this would limit slavery since most slave owners would not risk taking their human "property" into a free state. 3. Did Congress have the authority to prohibit slavery in the territories? If not, then the Missouri Compromise restriction   on slavery in the territories was unconstitutional. |
| The Decision |
| 1. Led by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, the Supreme Court ruled that neither slaves nor free blacks were citizens in the political community created by the Constitution. Taney declared that slaves were "chattel property ... so far inferior that they have no rights which the white man is bound to respect." Since Dred Scott was not a citizen he was not entitled to sue in a federal court. 2. The Court emphatically ruled that Scott did not become free by living in a free state or free territory. 3. The Court ruled that as a constitutionally protected form of property, slaves could be taken into any state or territory. The Dred Scott decision therefore declared the Missouri Compromise to be unconstitutional. This marked the first time the Supreme Court struck down an act of Congress since the *Marbury* v. *Madison* decision in 1803. |
| The Consequences |
| 1. The Dred Scott decision repealed the Missouri Compromise thus establishing the principle that Congress could not limit the spread of slavery in the territories. 2. The Dred Scott decision invalidated the Republican Party's platform pledge opposing the extension of slavery into the territories. Although this initially appeared to be a serious setback, Republicans redoubled their efforts to win the presidency. They promised that a victory would enable them to change the composition of the Southern dominated Supreme Court and reverse the Dred Scott decision. 3. The Dred Scott decision played a key role in a series of debates between Stephen A. Douglas and his Republican rival Abraham Lincoln. During the debate in Freeport, Illinois, Lincoln asked Douglas if there was any way the people of a territory could keep slavery from their land before they were organized into a state. Inwhat came to be called the Freeport Doctrine, Douglas responded that the settlers could prevent slavery by refusing to pass a slave code defining a slave's legal status and the rights of an owner. The Freeport Doctrine outraged the South and cost Douglas political support he would need in the 1860 presidential election. |

|  |
| --- |
| Leading Up to the Civil War (Taught as the War of Northern Aggression in the South) |
| Johnny Brown’s Raid and Harper’s Ferry |
| 1. John Brown's doomed raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859 set off a wave of fear throughout the slaveholding South. As rumors of slave insurrections swept across the region, frightened Southerners suppressed all criticism of slavery. Proslavery Southerners incorrectly linked John Brown to the now-hated “Black Republican” Party. 2. Although his raid was a military failure, John Brown became a martyr for the antislavery cause (Hero or Villain Debate). 3. John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry intensified the sectional bitterness and left the nation on the brink of disunion. |
| The Election of 1860 |
| 1. The Democratic Party fragmented into two factions. Northern Democrats nominated Stephen A. Douglas on a platform promising congressional noninterference with slavery. Deep South Democrats nominated John C. Breckinridge on a platform calling for a national slave code that would protect slavery in the territories. 2. The Republicans met in Chicago sensing that they had an excellent opportunity to defeat the now-divided Democrats. The Lincoln-Douglas debates transformed Abraham Lincoln into a nationally known figure. The Republicans nominated Lincoln on the third ballot. 3. The Republican platform stated that slavery would continue to be protected in the states where it already existed. However, the Republican Party firmly opposed the expansion of slavery into the western territories. Lincoln won the election by carrying all 18 free states. He did not win a single state in the South. |
| The Failure of Compromise |
| 1. Lincoln's victory precipitated (caused) the secession of South Carolina and six other states in the Deep South. 2. In a final desperate effort to save the Union, Senator John Crittenden of Kentucky proposed to restore the boundary line between slave and free states established by the Missouri Compromise of 1820. The line would be extended to include the new territories in the West. Lincoln refused to support the Crittenden Compromise because it violated the Republican position against the further extension of slavery into the western territories. 3. The heated atmosphere of distrust allowed intransigents (those who refuse to compromise) in both the North and South to oppose all efforts to achieve a compromise. The nation thus continued on an inexorable (can't be stopped) road to disunion and a bloody Civil War. |