

## ■ Essential Question:

- How did manifest destiny reveal & intensify sectional differences between the North & the South?

## ■ Warm-Up Question:

- How did the definition of the West change from 1800-1860?
- How would you characterize the emerging role of the west in the decades prior to the Civil War?
- What were the positives & negatives of U.S. continental expansion?



# Slavery & Rising Sectionalism

(Taylor & Fillmore Videos)

# The Beginnings of Sectionalism

- As Americans expanded West in the 1840s, conflicts intensified between the North & the South regarding the issue of slavery

- But...the existence of two strong political parties (Democrats & Whigs) that were both popular in the North, South, & West helped keep America from splitting apart

# The Slave Question Reemerges

- The Constitution gave no definite authority to abolish slavery other than voluntary state action

Abolitionists knew it would be impossible to get enough votes to pass an amendment outlawing slavery

- But, northerners in Congress could forbid slavery in new states as they were added to the Union

# The Slave Question Reemerges

- The slavery issue in the West had been settled by the Missouri Compromise in 1820...

- But **Slavery was not entrenched in either** the 1840s:

- Texas (slave state) vs. Oregon (free territory)
- What about California & New Mexico? Both were south of the Missouri Compromise line

# The Wilmot Proviso

- The Wilmot Proviso was presented by Northerners in 1846 to:

A major shift in politics is looming from involving sectional political parties

pres. and for white farmers

- Attempt to limit the perceived “pro-Southern” Polk presidency

- The Wilmot Proviso did not pass in Congress but its debate revealed sectional (not party) divisions

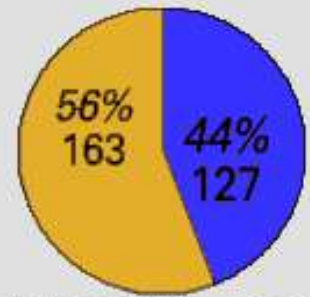
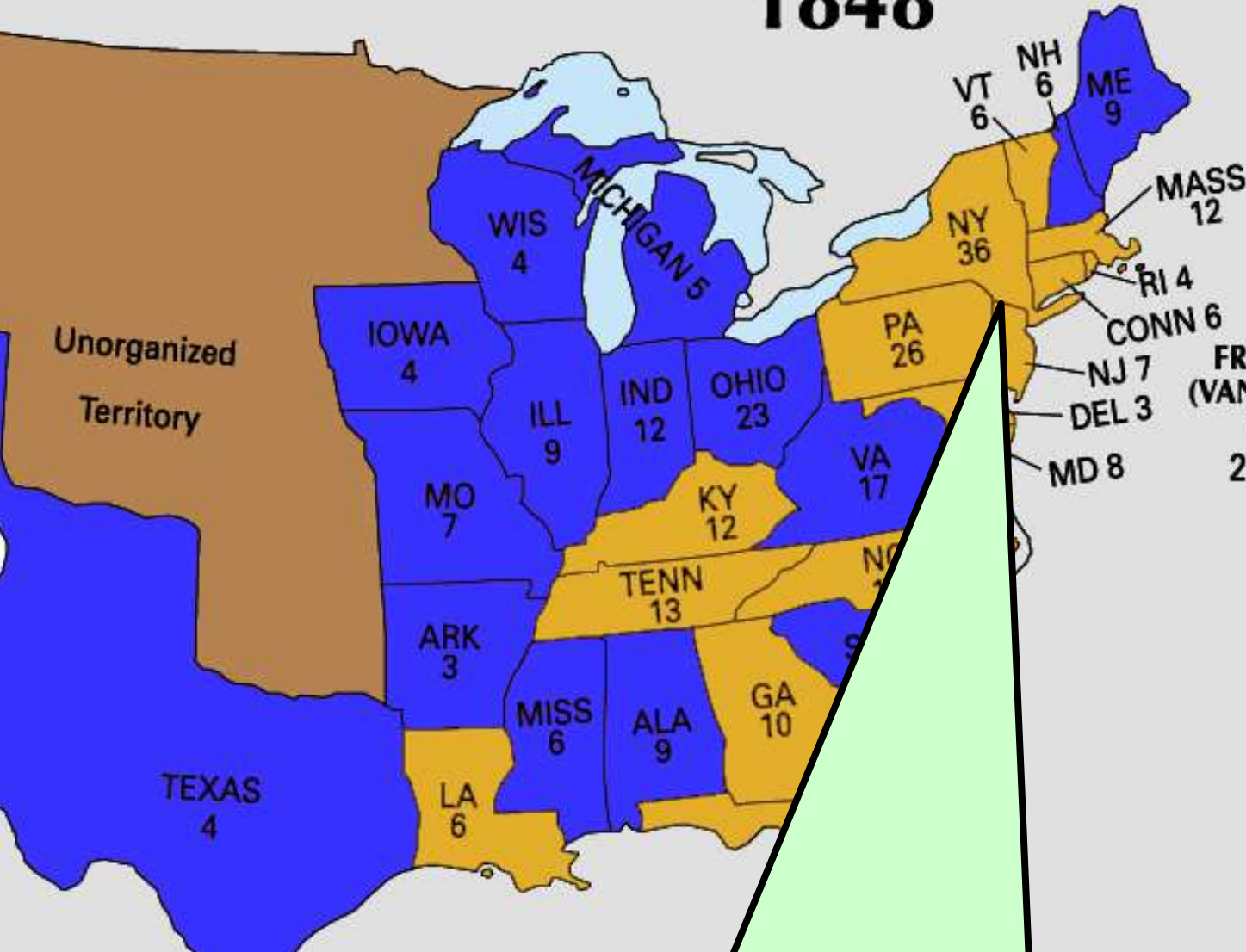
**Northern Democrats liked it (let settlers**

**Northern Whigs supported Taylor because he promised to let**

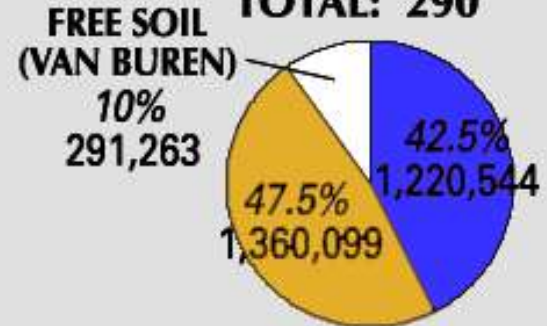
**Free Soilers were not abolitionists; They were against the *expansion* of slavery into the West**

- Whig candidate Zachary Taylor evaded the slavery issue
- The Free Soil Party was created by Northern abolitionists who nominated Martin Van Buren

# 1848



**ELECTORAL VOTE  
TOTAL: 290**



**POPULAR VOTE  
TOTAL: 2,871,906**

**Taylor won the election, but  
Free Soilers did well in the**

**North**

Whig (Taylor)



Democratic (Cass)







# The Compromise of 1850

# Reasons for Compromise of 1850

- Southerners were mad when Taylor proposed admitting New Mexico & California as states
  - Popular sovereignty would make ~~California~~ a free state
  - New Mexico had no slaves or a climate adequate for slavery
  - John C Calhoun led the Nashville Convention to discuss Southern secession

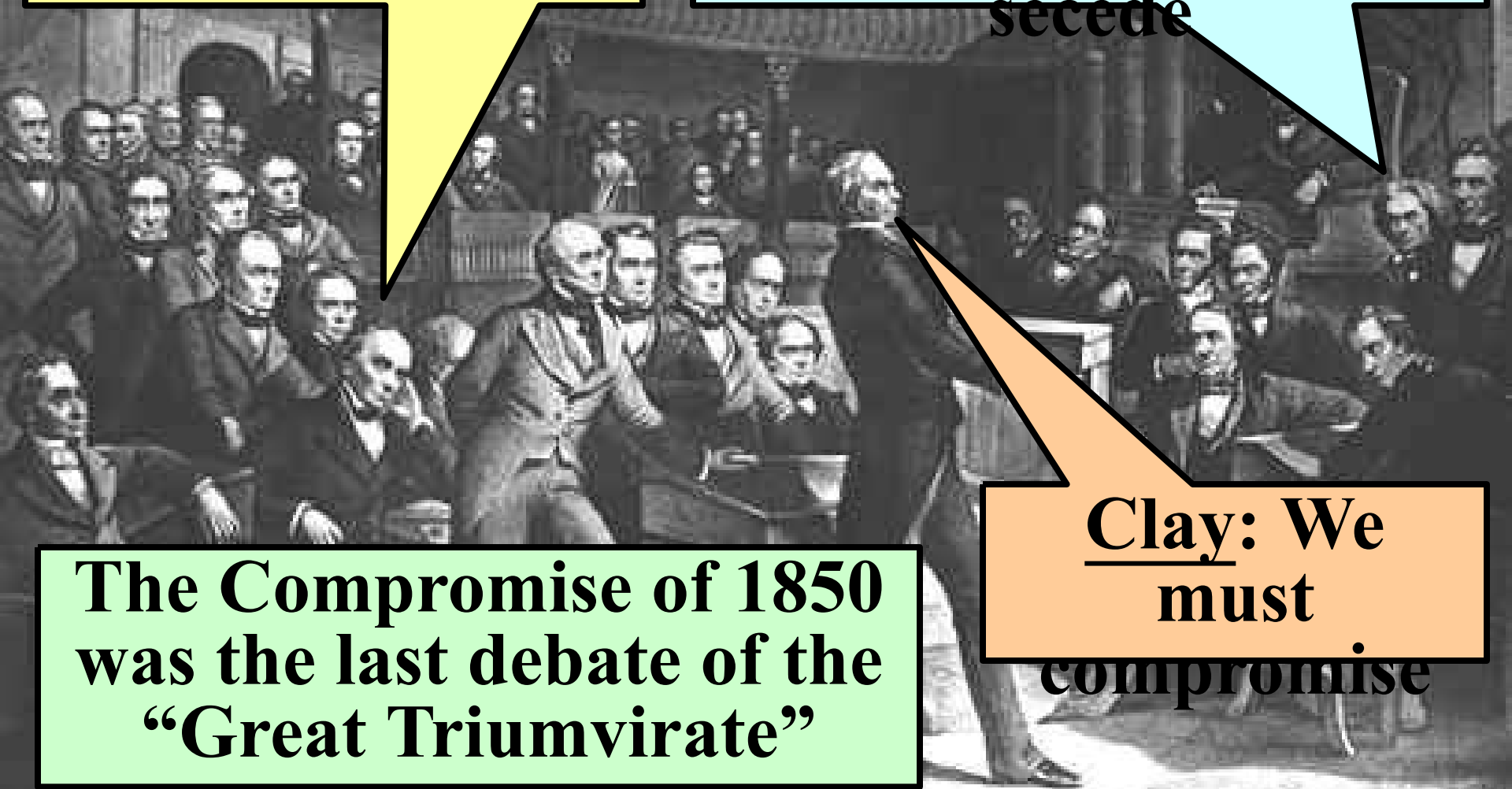
# The Debate Over Slavery

**Webster: The North will never accept secession**

**Calhoun: The South must protect slavery & will “peacefully” secede**

**The Compromise of 1850 was the last debate of the “Great Triumvirate”**

**Clay: We must compromise**



**CAUTION!!**

**COLORED PEOPLE**

**OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,**

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the  
**Watchmen and Police Officers**  
of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

**KIDNAPPERS**

AND

**Slave Catchers,**

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS** on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for  
**KIDNAPPERS**, and have  
**TOP EYE** open.

APRIL 24, 1851.

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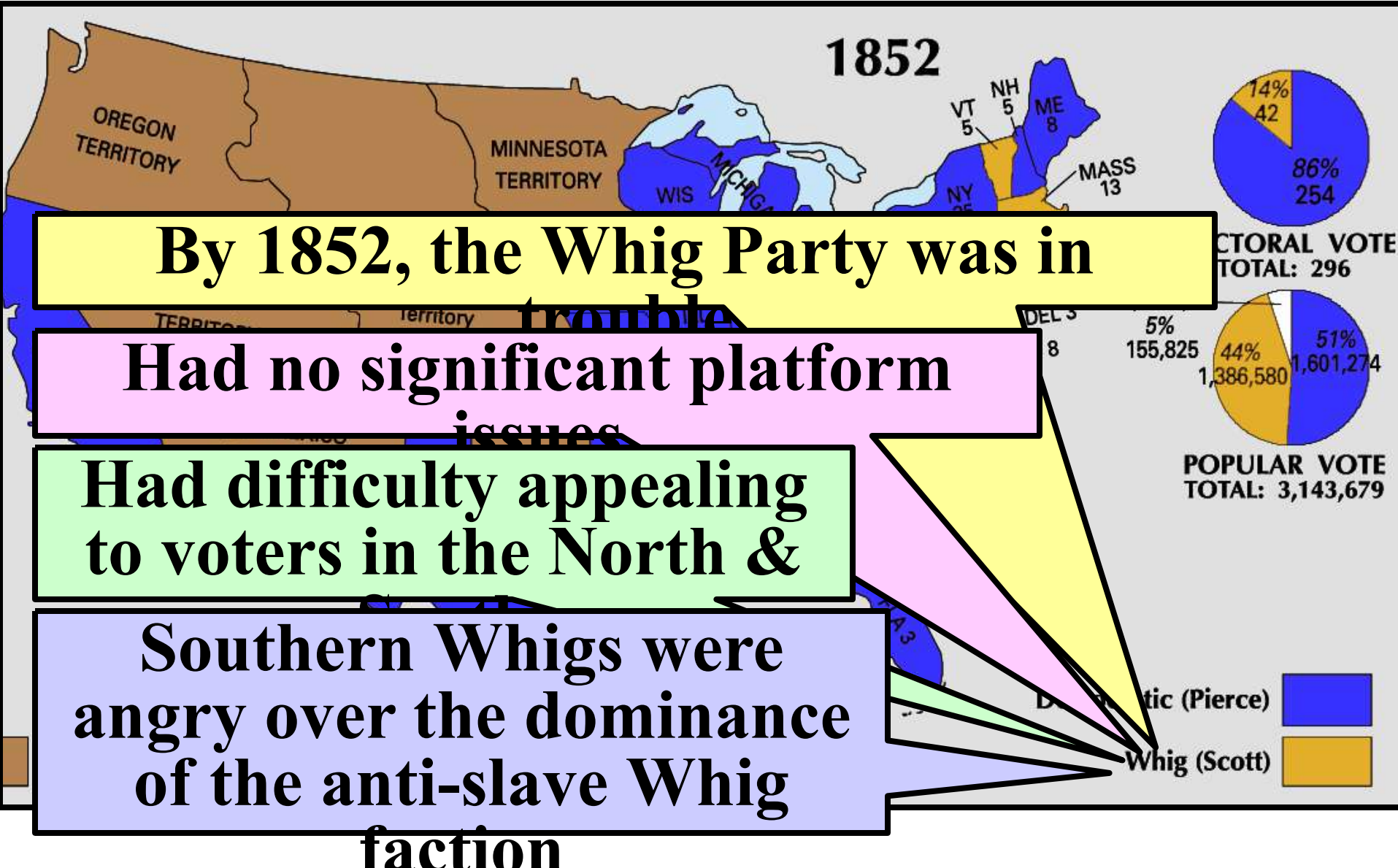


# Political Upheaval & the Rise of Sectional Political Parties

# The Party System in Crisis

- With slavery (temporarily) under wraps, the parties needed new issues for the election of 1852:
  - Whigs nominated Mexican War general Winfield Scott; Whigs had difficulty finding an issue
  - Democrats nominated Franklin Pierce, claimed credit for national prosperity, & promised to defend the Compromise of 1850

# The Election of 1852



# The Know-Nothing Party

- The collapse of the Whigs allowed for the rise of the “Know-Nothings” (the American Party)
  - Fueled by nativism & a desire to reduce immigrant influence
  - Hoped to strengthen the naturalization process to decrease immigrant voting
- Appealed to ex-Democrats, ex-Whigs, & industrial workers



# The Know-Nothing Party

- In 1854, the American Party took control of state legislatures in New England, Maryland, Kentucky, & Texas; seemed on the verge of ~~challenging~~ the Democratic Party
- But, by 1856 the Know-Nothings collapsed due to a lack of experienced leadership & had no response to slavery (which was the REAL issue in America)

# Shift in Party Power 1852-1855

## House of Representatives Totals

<i>Party</i>	<i>1852-1853</i>	<i>1854-1855</i>
Democratic	160	84
Whig	73	60
Republican	0	46
American	1	62
Other	4	1

*Source: Congressional Quarterly,  
Guide to U.S. Elections, 2nd ed., 1985.*



# The Kansas- Nebraska Act

# The Kansas-Nebraska Act

- In 1854, Democrat Stephen Douglas hoped to organize the Kansas & Nebraska territories with the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

**Northern abolitionists were outraged because it allowed slavery in an area where slavery was already**

**prohibited**  
sovereignty was applied to slavery in Kansas & Nebraska

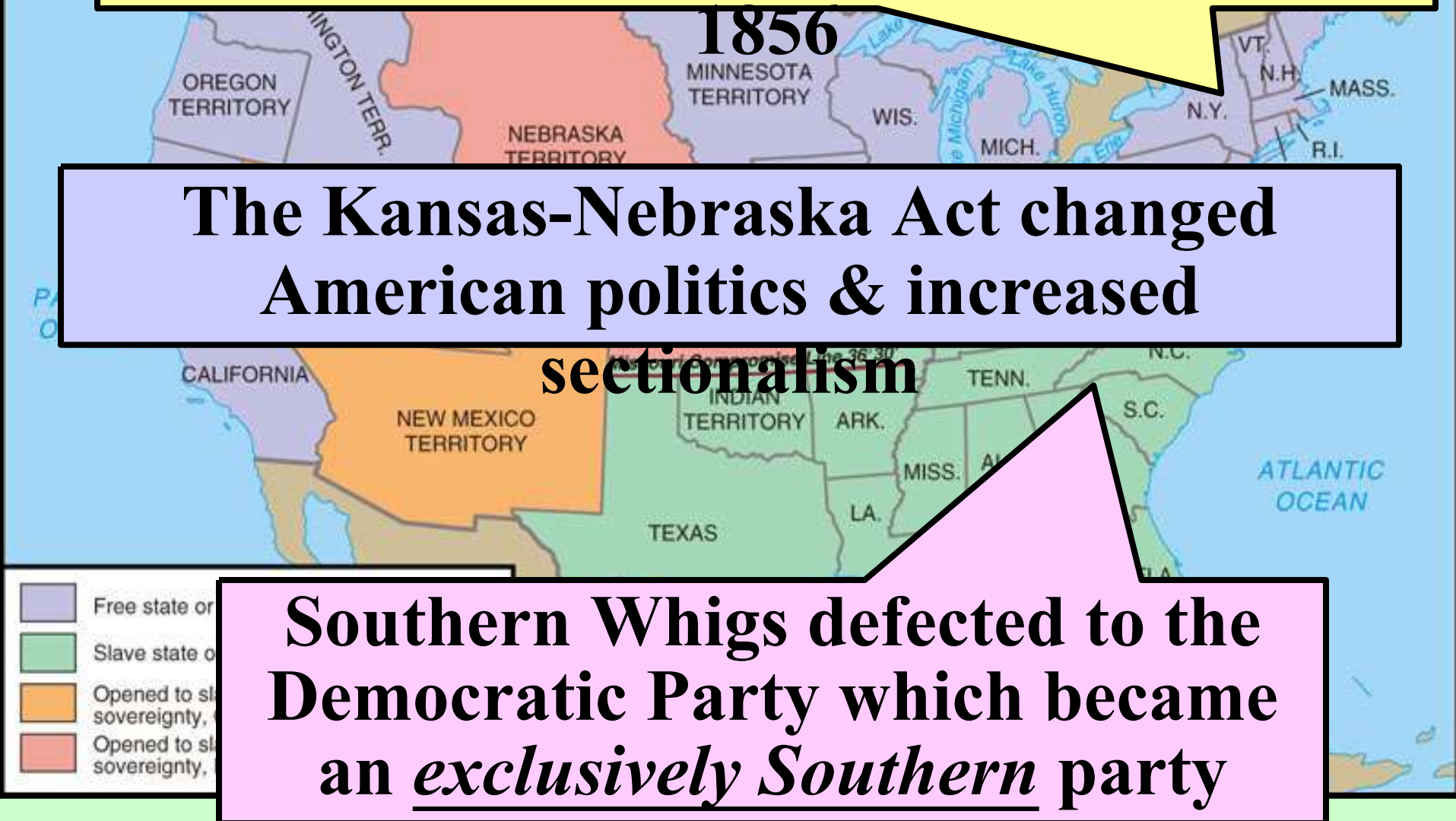
- Many Northerners were now convinced that compromise with the South was impossible

Coalition of Whigs, Northern Democrats, & Free-Soilers formed the Republican Party; became *exclusively Northern* by

1856

The Kansas-Nebraska Act changed American politics & increased sectionalism

Southern Whigs defected to the Democratic Party which became an *exclusively Southern* party



# The Rise of the Republicans

- The Republican Party appealed to Northerners:

- Believed in “free soil” & fought against a “slave power” scheme

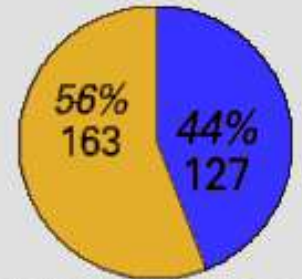
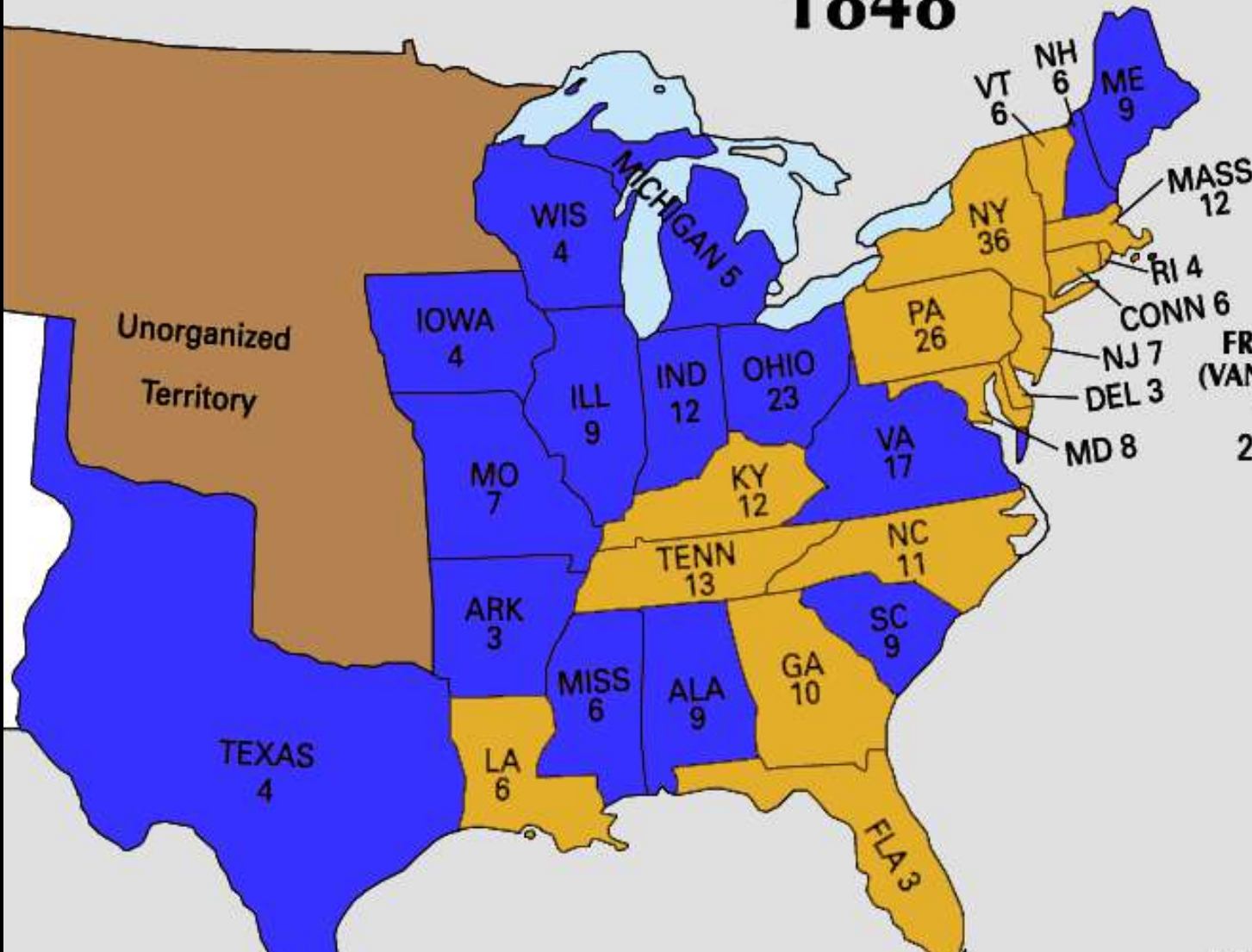
- Vowed to protect free white workers & boost the economy

- Made up of seasoned politicians who effectively built up the power of the party by 1856



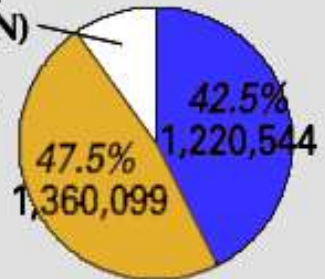
# The Shift to Sectional Political Parties

# 1848



**ELECTORAL VOTE  
TOTAL: 290**

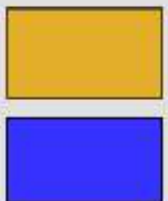
**FREE SOIL  
(VAN BUREN)  
10%  
291,263**



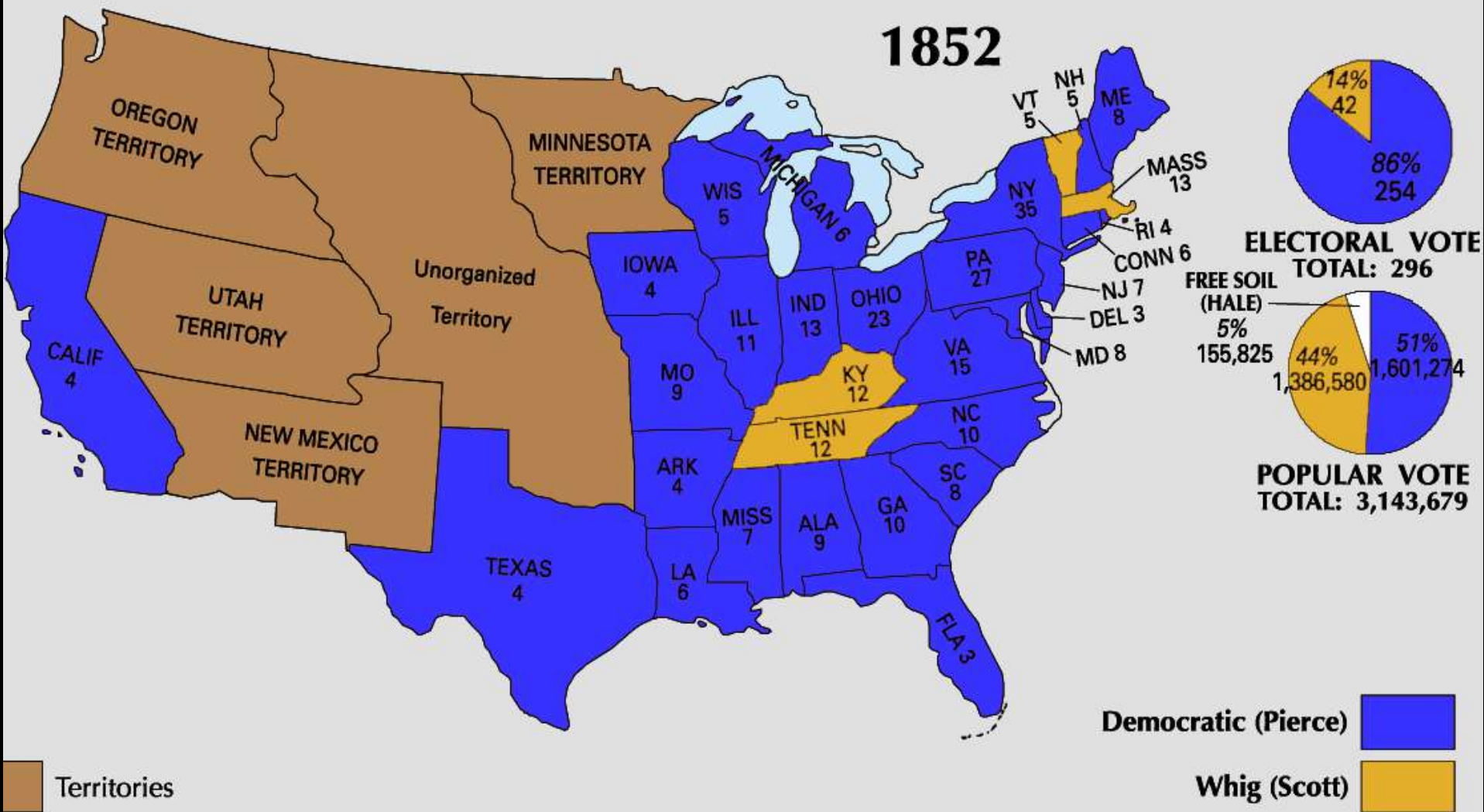
**POPULAR VOTE  
TOTAL: 2,871,906**

**In 1848, both parties have  
national appeal**

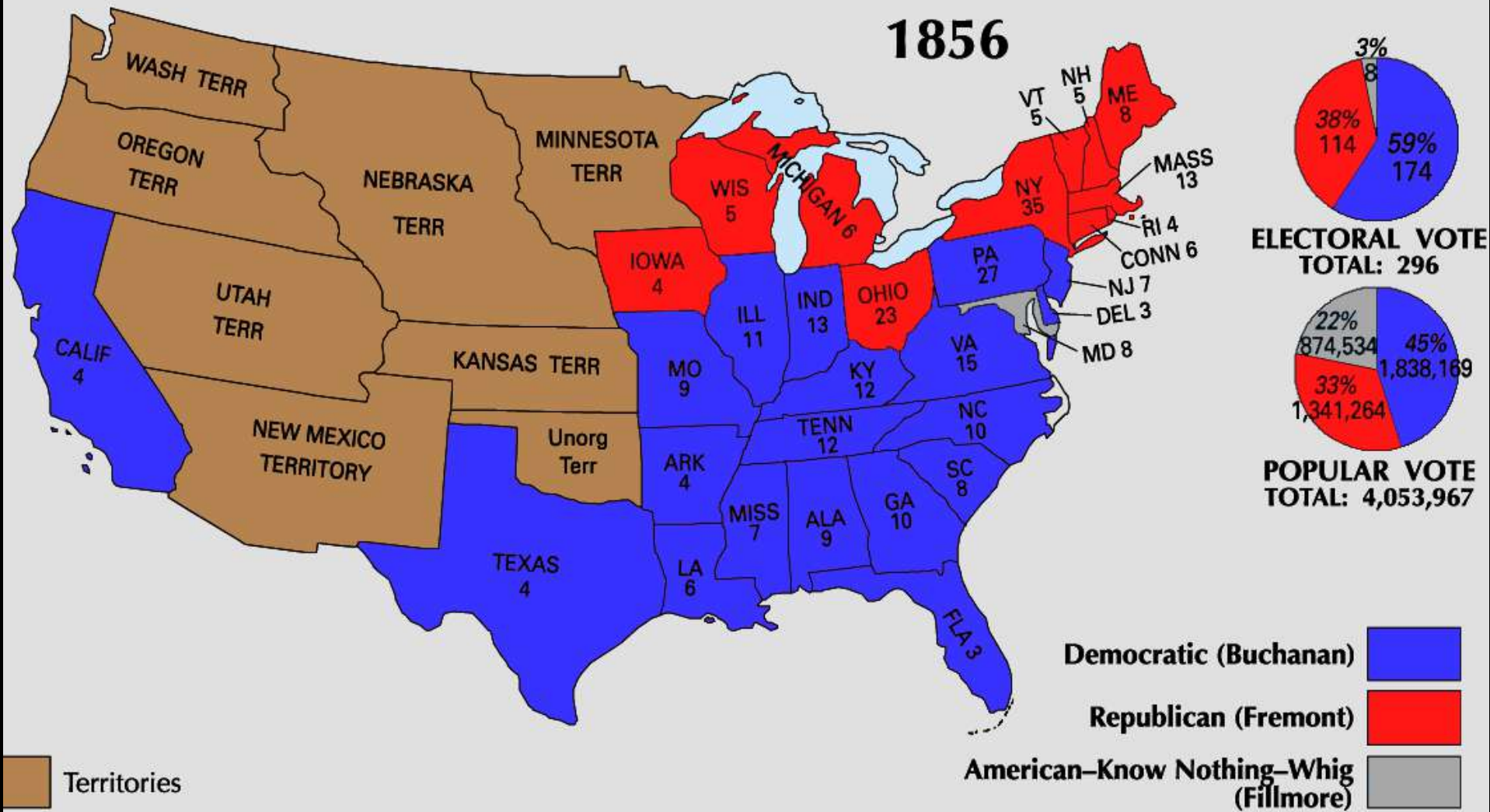
**Whig (Taylor)**  
**Democratic (Cass)**





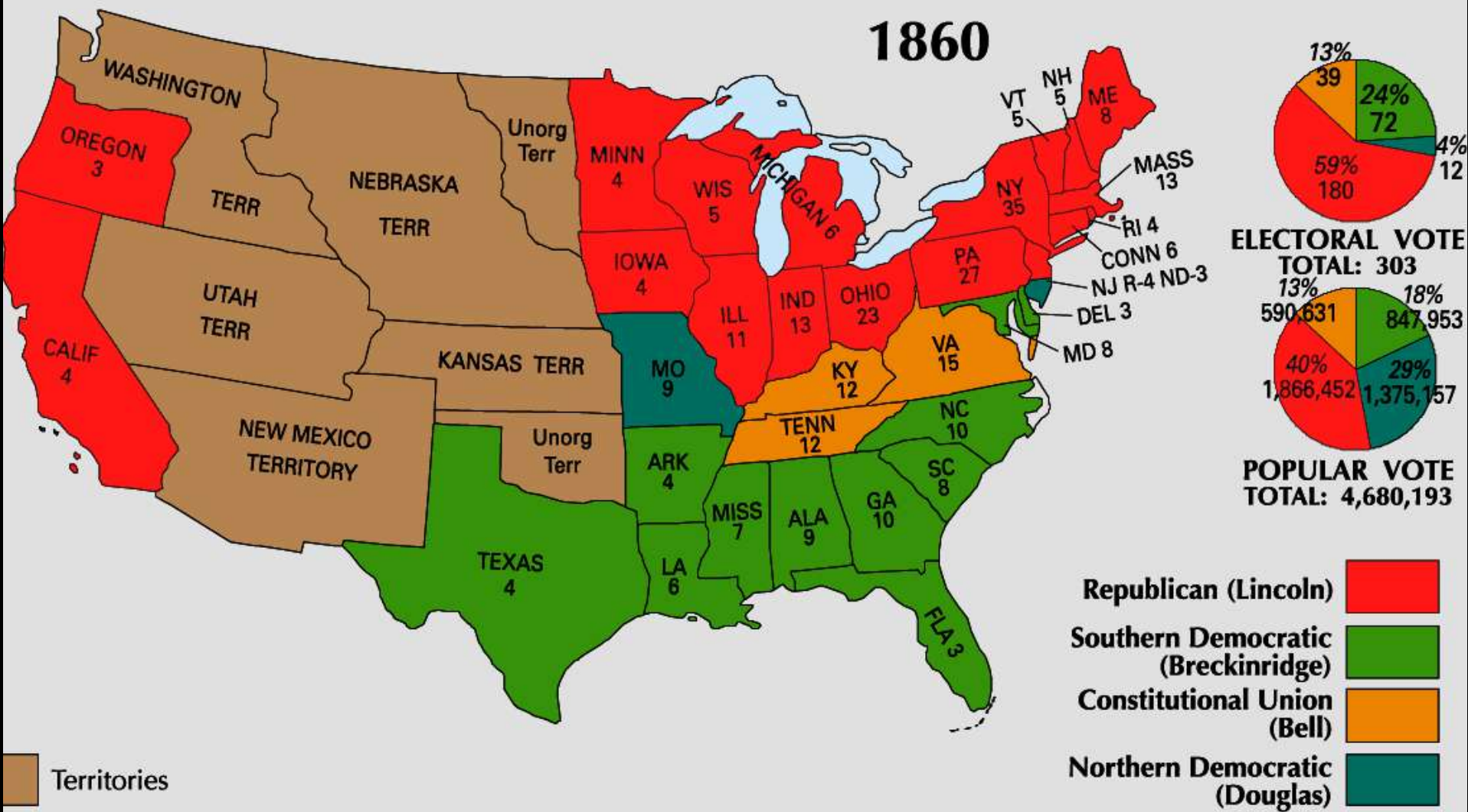


**In the election of 1852,  
both parties have national appeal**



**Look at the Republicans in the North  
& the Democrats in the South by**

**1856!**



**By 1860, the Republicans elected Lincoln without even campaigning in the South!**



# Conclusions

- American politics experienced a significant change in the late antebellum era (1800 to 1860):

— In the early antebellum era, sectional rivalries were evident but national parties kept the U.S. united

— In the 1840s & 1850s, westward expansion forced the North & South to protect their regional values against an unseen conspiracy

## ■ Essential Question:

- How did manifest destiny reveal & intensify sectional differences between the North & the South?

## ■ Reading Quiz 14B (p. 472-484)

# Sectionalism & Slavery Activity

- By the 1850s, the North & South were economically dependent upon each other, but their contrasting values began to make each region feel as if the other was part of a conspiracy to change their way of life
- Three antebellum issues stand out as increasing the sectional divide: westward expansion, states' rights, & slavery
  - Complete the timeline provided by explaining how (or if) each event contributed to sectionalism between North & South (& West?)
  - Answer the discussion questions