

America: On the Road to Civil War

1848 - 1861

1848

Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo:

- U.S. gains land (California and New Mexico territories)
- Mexico is paid \$15 Million
- Rio Grande – Southern Border of Texas

Issue of Slavery Intensifies After the War with Mexico

What should be done with the
land gained from Mexico?

- Wilmot Proviso
- Extend the Missouri
Compromise to the Pacific
Ocean

Gold is Discovered at Sutter's Mill

- The population of California explodes
- California seeks statehood – 31st State
- Sectionalism grows in America

Attempted Long-Term Solution

Clay's Compromise – Omnibus Bill

- “All or Nothing” Bill
- Does not pass

1850

Stephen Douglas – Compromise of 1850

- Each part of Clay's Compromise passes separately

Key Points:

- California – Free State
- Strict Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

1852

Uncle Tom's Cabin

–Increased Sectionalism

1854

Ostend Manifesto

- President Pierce appears to be supporting the spread of slavery
- Northerners are outraged.

Kansas-Nebraska Act

- Popular Sovereignty
- Repealed the Missouri Compromise
- Two separate territories – Kansas and Nebraska

Formation of the Republican Party

Kansas-Nebraska Act: Effects

- Destroyed the Whig Party
- Divided Northern Democrats
- Whigs, Free Soil, Know Nothings – Form the Republican Party

1856

“Sacking” of Lawrence, Kansas

- Anti-slavery town is attacked

May: Brooks attacks Sumner on the floor of the U.S. Senate

- Sectionalism continues to grow

1856

Massacre at Pottawatomie Creek, Kansas

- John Brown retaliates for Lawrence attack
- “Bleeding Kansas”

November: Buchanan is elected President

- Economic panic leads to depression
- Strengthens the Republican Party

1857

Dred Scott Case

Lecompton Constitution

- Voted down in 1857 and again in 1858
- Would have established a pro-slavery constitution in Kansas

1858

Lincoln-Douglass Debates

- Both were running for the same senate seat in Illinois
- Freeport Doctrine – splits the Democratic Party even more

1859

Raid at Harper's Ferry, Virginia

- John Brown hoped to start a widespread slave revolt
- Captured and put to death
- Sectionalism continues to increase

1860

November: Lincoln wins the
Presidency

December: South Carolina
leaves the Union

1861

February: The Confederacy is formed

- Jefferson Davis is elected President of the Confederacy
- Seven States make up the Confederacy prior to the Civil War
 - SC, MS, GA, FL, AL, LA, TX

April: Attack at Ft. Sumter – the Civil War begins