

MR. LIPMAN'S APUS POWERPOINT CHAPTER 19

The Move Towards War

1854-1861

KEY EVENTS ON THE ROAD TO WAR

- 1852- Uncle Tom's Cabin is published
- 1854 – Kansas-Nebraska Act
- 1857 – Lecompton Constitution (fraud)
- 1857 – Dred Scott decision is announced
- 1857 – Economic Crisis
- 1858 – Lincoln/Douglass Debates
- 1859 – Harpers Ferry Raid
- 1860 – Presidential Election / Lincoln Wins
- 1860/1861- Secession of States

- Reaction to Uncle Tom's Cabin
 - South condemned it as unfair and untrue
 - North profoundly influenced
 - Many refused to enforce Fugitive Slave Act at all
 - Gave North ideological justification for war
 - Very popular in Europe (Britain and France)
 - Elites in Britain and France supported South, but commoners supported North
 - Impending Crisis of the South by Hinton Helper also angers South when it was published in 1857 and many copies were burned

Contest for Kansas

Most northerners went there to settle and would have gone there no matter what

- Some were abolitionist or free soil northerners who were there to vote against slavery
 - New England Emigrant Aid Company sent 2,000
 - Many carried “Beecher’s Bibles” – rifles named after abolitionist Reverend Henry Ward Beecher, who helped pay for them

- Southern reaction
 - Believed the “deal” of the Kansas-Nebraska Act meant that Kansas would be slave and Nebraska free
 - Some sent slaves and owners there
 - Reality was that both territories were unsuitable to slavery; few slaves were ever brought into Kansas (or Nebraska)

- 1855 – vote on territorial legislature
 - “border ruffians” moved across Missouri to vote for proslavery government (“ballot stuffers”) and they win election
 - Antislavery groups then establish there own government
- 1856 – proslavery group shot up and burned part of Lawrence, Kansas, where antislavery settlers lived

- Pottawatomie Creek
 - May 1856 – fanatical abolitionist John Brown, angry over Lawrence attack, and some followers hack to death 5 proslavery men
 - Proslavery men counterattack
 - Civil war erupts in Kansas and continues off and on until US Civil War begins in 1861



John
Brown

- Lecompton Constitution
 - Proslavery forces control legitimate government
 - Vote only allowed for the constitution “with slavery” or “with no slavery” not constitution itself
 - Even if “with no slavery” chosen, part of the constitution protected slave owners already there
 - Free-soilers boycotted the election
 - 1857 – constitution with slavery approved, angering free-soilers and abolitionists across the nation
 - It will remain territory until 1861

- **Democrat President James Buchanan** (strongly influenced by South) supported Lecompton Constitution
- **Stephen Douglas** fought against Lecompton Constitution, and for fair popular sovereignty
 - Lost his support in the South and hopes for the presidency

- KANSAS-NEBRASKA SETS THE STAGE FOR SECTIONAL RIVARLY IN POLITICS WHICH WILL LEAD TO THE WAR
 - Buchanan's proslavery actions, including support for Lecompton Constitution, opposed by northern Democrats
 - Democratic had been only national party
 - Whigs were dead; Republican was sectional (northern) party
 - One of the last things that had been keeping US together was a national party

1856 ATTACK IN CONGRESS ON SUMNER by Brooks



- Election of 1856
- **the Democrats**
 - James Buchanan nominated
 - Pennsylvania lawyer and ambassador to London when Kansas-Nebraska Act passed

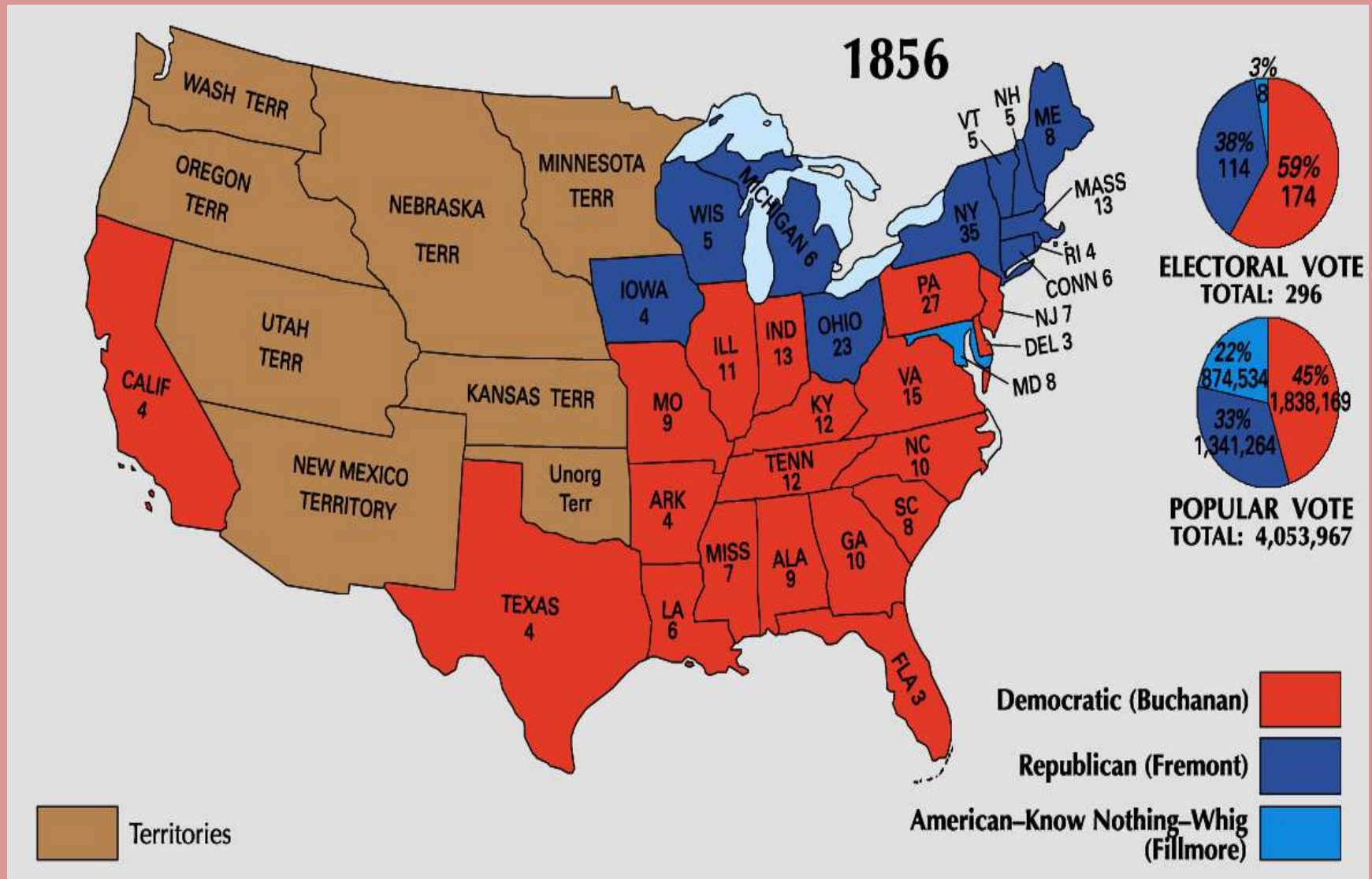
The Republicans

- Captain John C. Frémont nominated
 - Western explorer and hero of Mexican War

THE AMERICAN-KNOWN NOTHING PARTY

- Nominates Millard Fillmore

The Election of 1856: A Nation Divided



- March 6, 1857 – Dred Scott decision handed down 2 days after Buchanan took office
- Scott had lived with his master for 5 years in Illinois and Wisconsin which were free states
 - Sued for freedom based on his residence since Wisconsin Law provided that “once free always free”

- The Dred Scott decision:
 - As a slave he could not sue in Federal Court
 - Since a slave was private property, he could be taken anywhere and be held there in slavery
 - 5th amendment barred Congress from depriving anyone of property without due process
 - Ruled Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional
 - Congress had no power to ban slavery in territories, even if territory opposed to slavery

- **Reaction to the Dred Scott decision:**
 - South extremely happy with decision
 - Northern Democrats (who favored popular sovereignty) were opposed to the thwarting of popular will
 - Republicans opposed; decide that the decision is not a decision, just an opinion
 - South saw Union as questionable if North would not obey Supreme Court decision

- Economic Panic and depression hit in 1857
- Caused by:
 - Inflation (from California gold)
 - Overproduction of grain (exported to Europe during Crimean War)
 - Over speculation in land and railroads

Hurts North more than South due to world reliance on cotton and thus South thinks it is stronger than it actually is.

1857 Panic Leads to Two Republican Issues for 1860 election

- **1)Call for free farms** (of 160 acres) in West {homestead} instead of Fed Govt selling land (not passed)
 - opposed by:
 - Eastern industrialists who feared loss of workers
 - Southern plantation owners slavery could not work on only 160 acres and free farms would lead to West being settled by free-soilers and thus vote against slavery
- 2)DEMAND FOR HIGHER TARIFF TO PROTECT BUSINESSES IN NORTH AND RAISE GOV'T REVENUE**

Lincoln Versus Douglas 1858

- Lincoln Republican nominee for senate
- Lincoln challenged Douglas to 7 debates (August – October 1858)
- The only issue discussed was slavery
 - Douglas argued that only popular sovereignty would work
 - Lincoln argued position of free soil (slavery should be blocked in the territories but was legal where it already was)

- Freeport, Illinois was site of key debate
 - Lincoln asked Douglas what would happen if people voted down slavery in a territory since Supreme Court had said that slavery could not be restricted in the territories
- **Douglas' Freeport Doctrine**
 - Regardless of Supreme Court decision, if people in territory voted down slavery then it could not be allowed
 - This makes him very unpopular with Southern Democrats
 - He will win Senate seat but this will cost him the presidency in 1860

John Brown: Murderer or Martyr?

- The failure of raid at Harper's Ferry Arsenal in 1859
 - Got money for guns from abolitionists
 - October 1859 – Brown and 20 men marched to Harper's Ferry, Virginia and killed 7 people (including a free black)
 - Plan for slave uprising failed
 - Brown's band was quickly captured by US Marines under command of Col. Robert E. Lee and hung after trial

Southern view of Brown

- Saw Brown as murderer and treasonous
- Blamed radical abolitionists (believed all northerners were abolitionists) for incitement to violence
- How could South stay in Union with murdering abolitionists?

• Northern view of Brown

- free-soilers and abolitionists angry Brown was executed
- Believed that even if ends didn't justify means (end of slavery), he shouldn't die for a righteous cause
- On day of Brown's execution, bells tolled, guns fired, rallies held
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson even compared Brown to Jesus

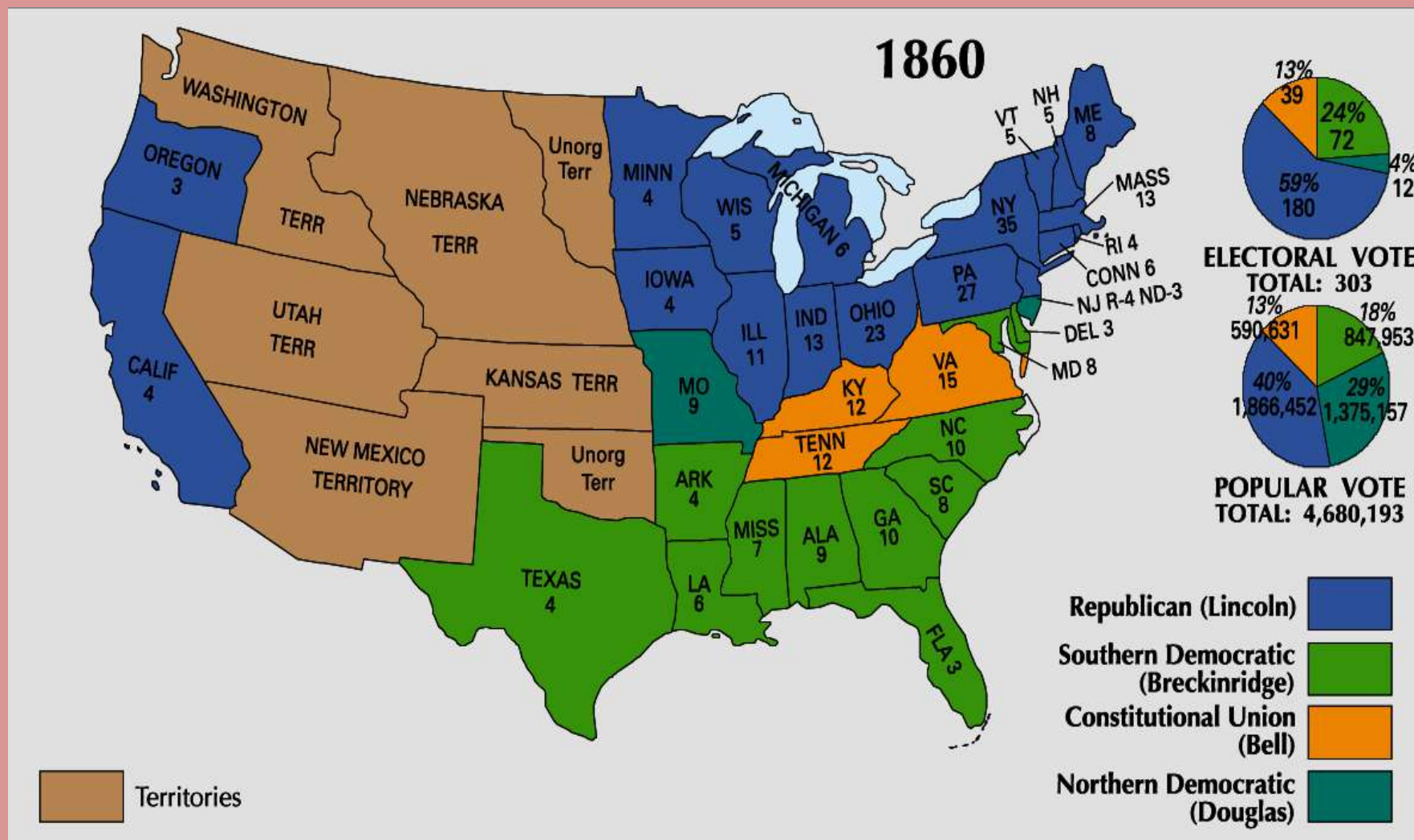
What is the Meaning of John Brown?



- Election of 1860, divided Democrats.
- 1st meet in Charleston, South Carolina but South dislikes choice of Douglas because of Freeport Doctrine and opposition to Lecompton Constitution
- Meet again in Baltimore, many Southerners walk out, and Douglas gets the nomination based on platform of popular sovereignty
- Southern Democrats then meet and nominate John C. Breckinridge (extend slavery and annex Cuba)
- Constitutional Union Party (compromise group) nominates John Bell
- Door is open for Lincoln and the Republicans

- Republican platform offered something for every non-southern group
 - For free-soilers, non-extension of slavery
 - For northern manufacturers, a protective tariff
 - For immigrants, protection of rights
 - For Northwest, a Pacific railroad
 - For West, internal improvements paid for by federal government
 - For farmers, free homesteads

The Election of 1860-Lincoln gets less than 40% in 4 way race



**DUE TO LINCOLN VICTORY SOUTH CAROLINA
BECOMES THE FIRST STATE TO MOVE TOWARDS
SECESSION** IN December 1860 convention BY
unanimous VOTE

- Six more states followed over next 6 weeks
 - Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas

The Course of Secession



- February 1861 – 7 states meet and form Confederate States of America
 - Jefferson Davis chosen as president
 - Senator from Mississippi (until secession) and former cabinet member
- Lame duck period during which Lincoln could do did nothing
 - Lincoln elected in November, but did not take office until March 4, 1861

- **Crittenden amendment**

- Proposed by Senator James Henry Crittenden (Kentucky)
- Would allow slavery in territories south of 36° 30' line; prohibit it north of that line
- Territories north or south of the 36° 30' line could come into union, with or without slavery, as they voted

Lincoln rejected the Crittenden compromise

- Had been elected on platform of not extending slavery and feared Southern attempt to capture countries in S. America to extend slavery

- Reasons South gave for secession
 - Loss of political balance
 - Triumph of Republican party
 - Tired of criticism from abolitionists and free-soilers and interference with slavery
 - Did not believe that the North would fight
 - Relied too much on cotton for business
 - Southerners could then repudiate debt many owed to North (and many would)