

The Union in Crisis

Expansion, Slavery, and Sectionalism

Today's Objective:

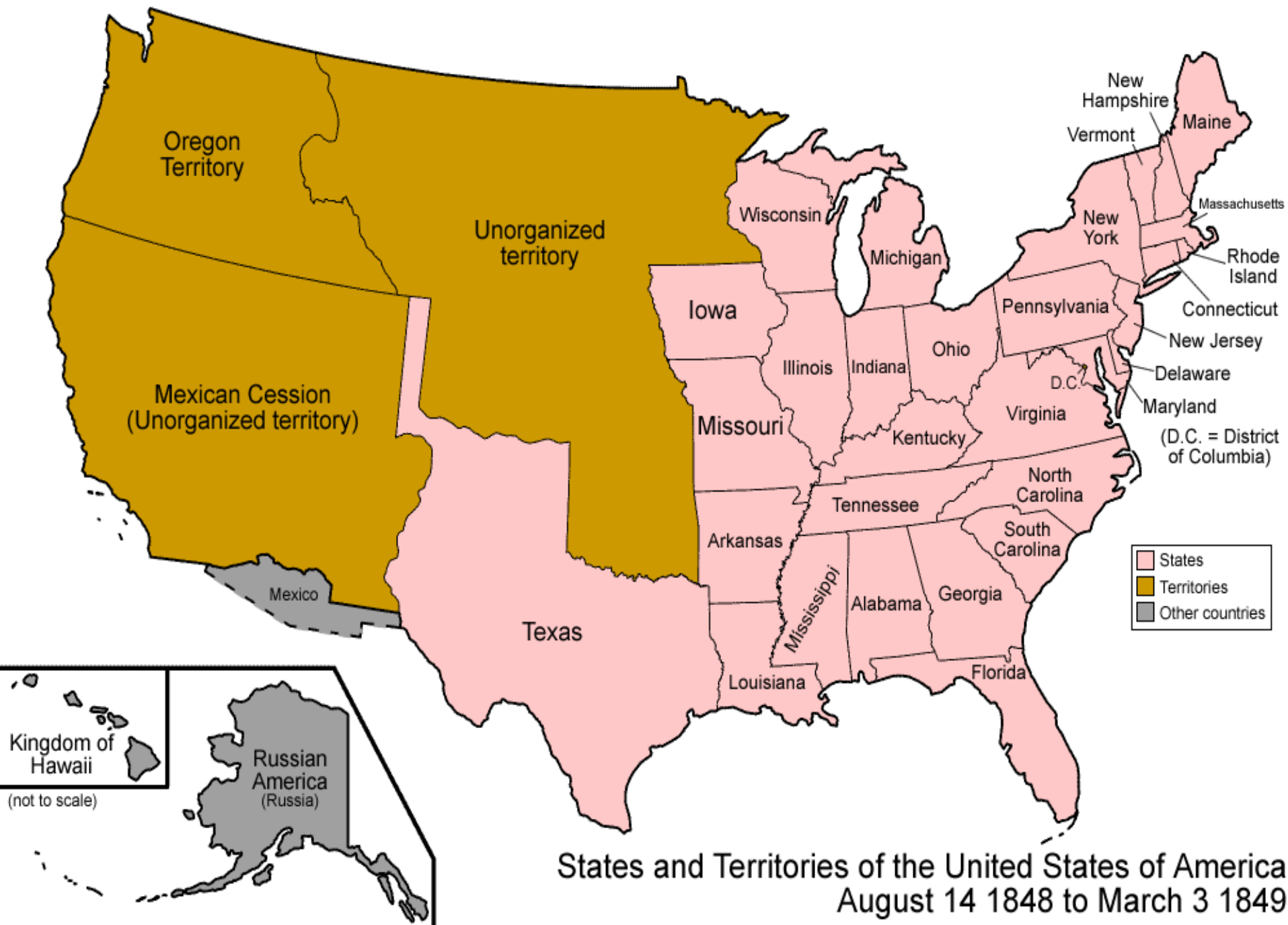
- At the end of class, you will be able to:
 - Identify and evaluate the major events and issues that created sectional conflicts.
 - Explain how slavery influenced expansion in the 1850s.
 - Begin a timeline of events that led to the Civil War



Texas independent republic 1836-1845

U.S. Expansion

- Early 1848, Mexican War ends
- Treaty was signed in which the U.S. acquired over half a million square miles from Mexico.
 - Present day Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah.
 - Mexican War is where most Civil War leaders are trained
 - Americans want to settle the new western territory, but are they allowed to take their slaves with them?
 - What about state representation in Congress? If these new territories become states will they be free or slave?

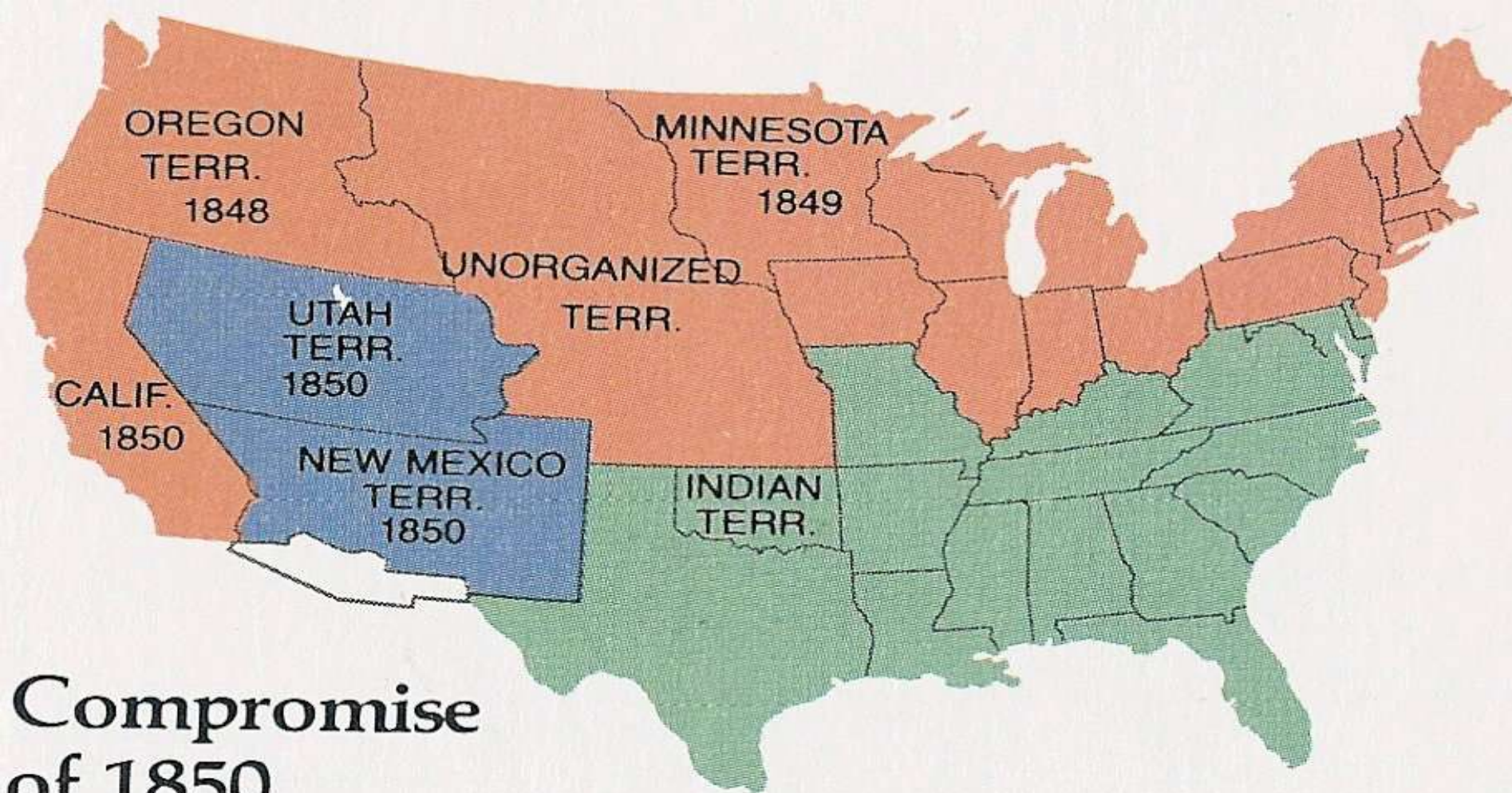





California and the Compromise of 1850

- A major historical event caused a population explosion in the West, especially California.
- California applied for statehood in 1850.....as a free state outlawing slavery
- A large debate ensued within Congress....a compromise was introduced by Kentucky senator Henry Clay
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2951.html>

Compromise of 1850

- After months of debate, the compromise was passed:
 - **California** would be admitted as a **free state**
 - **New Mexico and Utah territories** were organized with **slavery to be decided with popular sovereignty** (the vote of the residents of the territory)
 - Imposed heavy penalties on person who aided runaway slaves (**Fugitive Slave Act**)
 - **Outlawed the buying and selling of slaves** (but not the institution of slavery) in the nation's capital



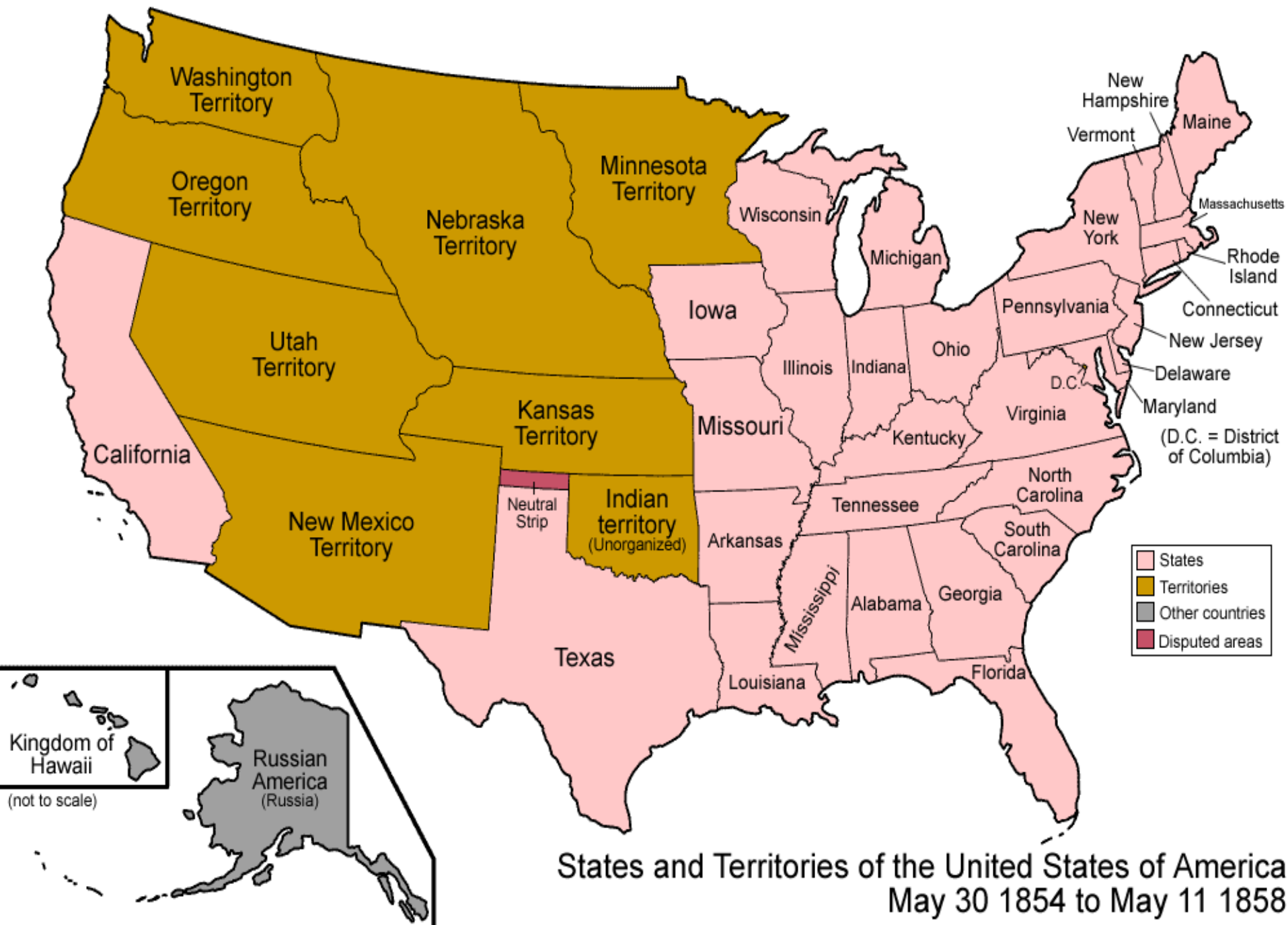
-  Free
-  Slave
-  Territory Open to Slavery by Principle of Popular Sovereignty

Implications of the Compromise

- **Fugitive Slave Act:** this law made it a federal crime to aid runaway slaves and allowed the arrest of escaped slaves. Cases in which slaves freedom was in question handled by special commissioners who were paid \$5 if a slave was released but \$10 if sent back with the claimant
 - Many Northerners encouraged the act which angered slaveholders and caused public tension
 - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* also added to the public tensions
- Held off the Civil War for about 10 more years
 - But tensions and sectionalism continued to rise

First Missouri, now Kansas

- https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/07/01/why-do-people-believe-myths-about-the-confederacy-because-our-textbooks-and-monuments-are-wrong/?tid=sm_tw
- Proposal for a transcontinental railroad to connect to California and the organization of the mid-west territory.
- Remember the Missouri Compromise Line?
- **The Kansas-Nebraska Act:** led by Stephen Douglas (he will be more important later!) it was put into law that the Missouri Compromise line would be dropped, Kansas and Nebraska were organized into territories and slavery would be decided by popular sovereignty.



But....that creates tension..

- Bleeding Kansas
 - Once organized, the issue of slavery in the Kansas territory became a hot topic
 - There were large groups of pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces (the pro-slavery forces were helped by residents of Missouri that would sneak in and vote)
 - Large numbers of small battles occurred all throughout the Kansas territory giving it the name Bleeding Kansas

Kansas & Nebraska become a national issue


- “We are playing for a mighty stake. If we win we carry slavery to the Pacific Ocean, if we fail we lose...all the territories.”-David Atchison (pro-slavery Missouri Senator)
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2952.html>
- “We will engage in competition for the virgin soil of Kansas. God give the victory to the side which is stronger in numbers as it is in right.”-William Seward (future Secretary of State)

What about slaves living in free territory?

- *Dred Scott v. Sanford* 1857
 - Scott sued for his freedom because he insisted that he had moved with his master and lived in territories that banned slavery, thus, he should be free.
 - The Court ruled 7-2 against Scott.
 - Court's reasoning:
 - Scott and any person of African ancestry were NOT U.S. citizens and thus could not even bring suit in federal court
 - Slaves, as property, could not be taken from their owners without due process
 - Congress had no authority to prohibit slavery in territories

Implications of Dred Scott

- To many, it was seen as an attempt to spread slavery → Congress does not have the power to prohibit slavery, so it can exist
- http://www.streetlaw.org/en/landmark/cases/dred_scott_v_sandford#Tab=Teaching
- Strengthened Northern slavery opposition
- Divided the North and South even further..



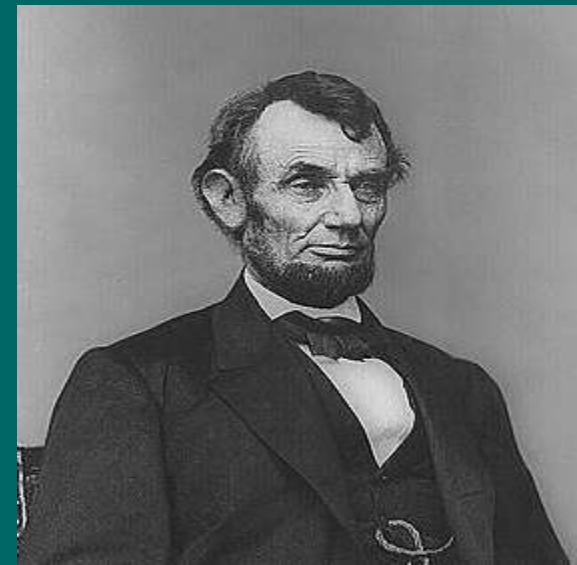
DRED SCOTT
SUBJECT OF THE DECISION OF
THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
UNITED STATES IN 1857 WHICH
DENIED CITIZENSHIP TO THE
NEGRO. VOIDED THE MISSOURI
COMPROMISE ACT. BECAME
ONE OF THE EVENTS THAT
RESULTED IN THE CIVIL WAR.

The Union in Crisis

Road to Secession

Abraham Lincoln

- Born in 1809 in a 1 room cabin in Hodgenville, KY (LaRue County)
 - Raised in a poor family that held no slaves....family opposed slavery & moved to Indiana territory in 1816.
- Lincoln was involved in politics early and often
 - 1834 elected to state legislature in Illinois
 - 1846 elected to Congress
 - Returned home to become a lawyer in 1849



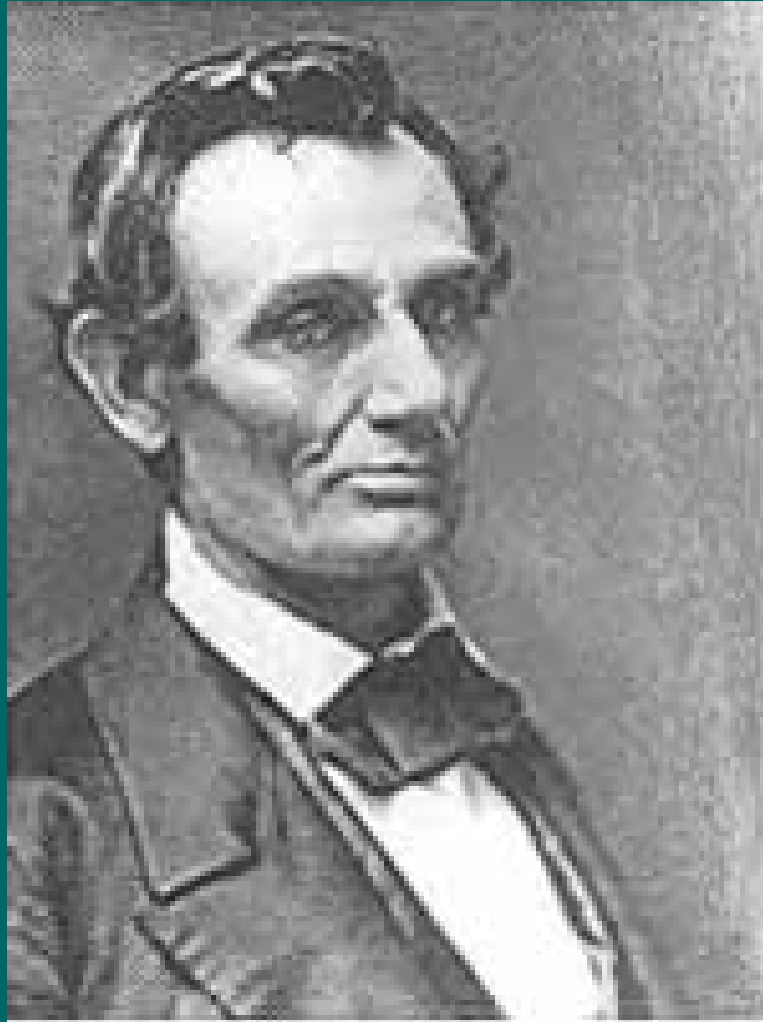
Lincoln's early political views

- Early political views:
 - Congress could regulate slavery in the territories, but that only states had the right to end slavery
 - Proposed ending slavery in the nation's capital through compensated emancipation (paying slaveholders to free slaves)
 - Member of new Republican Party
 - Not all morally against slavery
 - Saw slavery as a threat to democracy – slavery preserved an aristocracy
 - Rejected values of individualism and progress
 - No room for common whites to improve themselves

Lincoln's Return

- After the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Lincoln decided to return to politics.
- In 1858, Lincoln opposed Stephen Douglas who was seeking re-election as Illinois Senator.
- Douglas was a well-known politician and had helped pass the Compromise of 1850
 - Lincoln was not well known on the national scene
- The race led to a series of 7 debates around Illinois that became known as the Lincoln-Douglas debates
- <http://www.nps.gov/liho/learn/historyculture/debates.htm>

Lincoln- Douglas Debates



Lincoln & Douglas on Slavery

- Douglas
 - No moral issue against slavery
 - Accused by Lincoln of not caring either way
- Lincoln
 - Morally against slavery; NOT an abolitionist
 - Did not think the black race was prepared to live equally among whites
 - Feared the expansion of slavery; did not want to wipe it out where it already existed
 - Feared that extended slave labor into western territories would take jobs away from white men who needed jobs

Lincoln's House Divided

Speaking to the IL Republican Convention Lincoln stated:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this Government cannot endure permanently half-slave and half-free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved- I do not expect the house to fall- but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

- Lincoln did not approve of popular sovereignty or the Dred-Scott decision: he feared that allowing slavery in the territories would lead to an expansion of slavery.

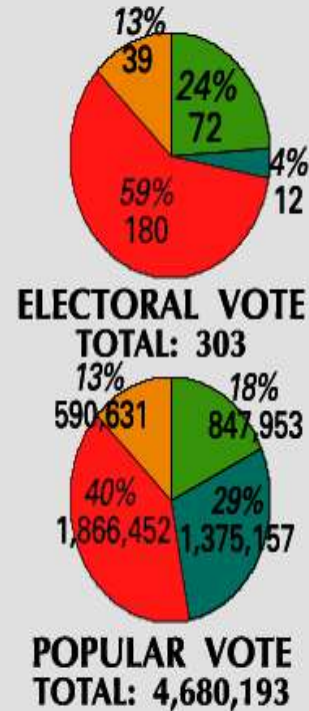
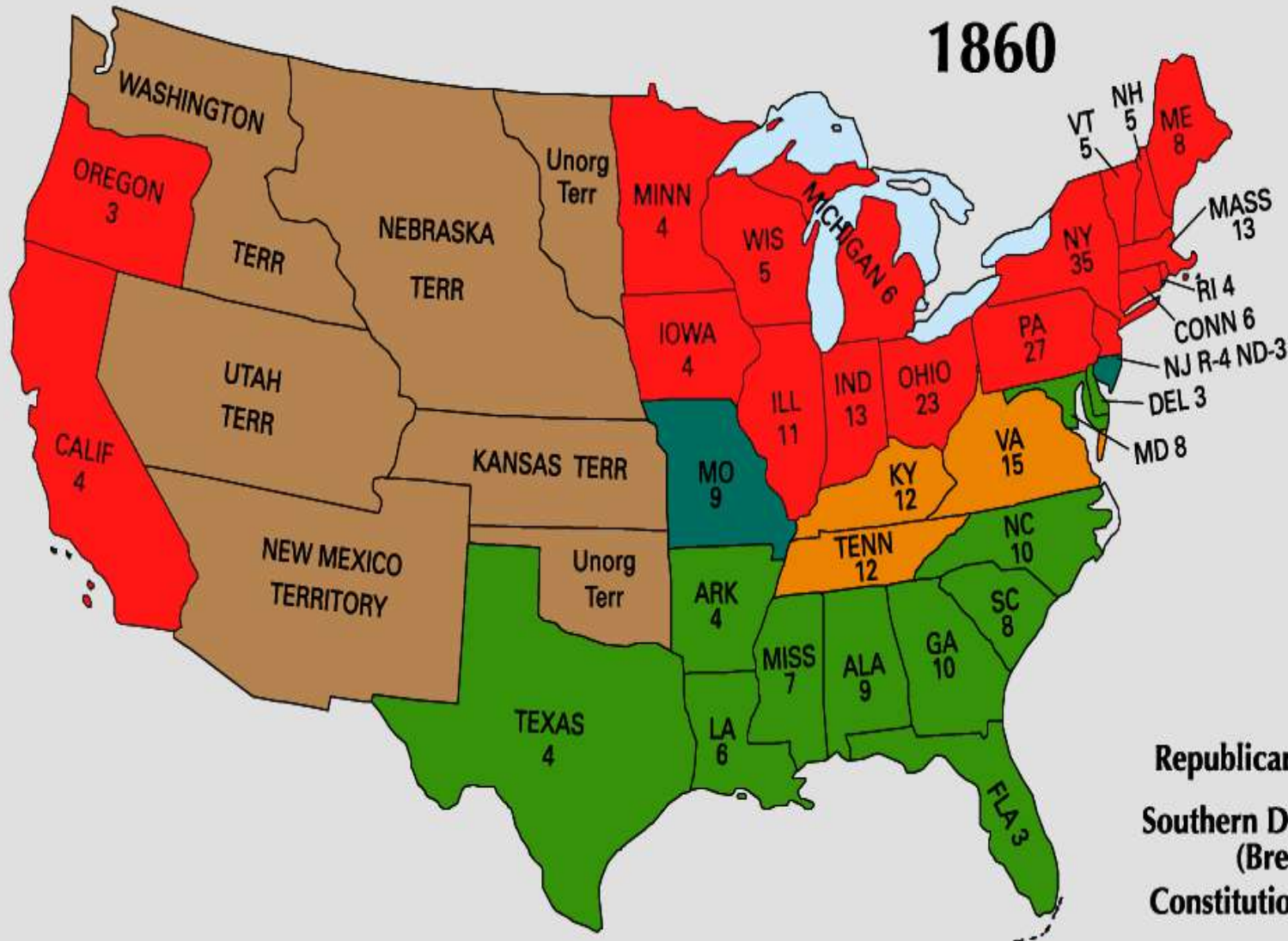
Douglas' Freeport Doctrine

- Douglas' goal was to make Lincoln appear to be a radical who wanted social equality for all slaves.
- Douglas insisted that slavery should only be seen as a local problem
- Freeport, Illinois Debate:
 - Lincoln tried to test Douglas and his ideas of popular sovereignty
 - Douglas claimed that those in the territories could exclude slavery by refusing to pass laws allowing it. (Kim Davis defense)
 - Alienated Southerners who wanted a national slave code to protect slavery

John Brown's Raid

- An anti-slavery extremist, John Brown, staged an elaborate plan to seize to start a slave uprising.
- October 16, 1859- Brown and 18 others attacked and gained control of a U.S. arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Killed Haywood Shepherd, a free black man working as a baggage handler
- No large slave uprising that he hoped; Brown surrendered; charged with treason and executed
- Made Southerners fear that they could not live safely in the Union → their biggest fear a slave insurrection

Election of 1860



Territories

Republican (Lincoln)
 Southern Democratic (Breckinridge)
 Constitutional Union (Bell)
 Northern Democratic (Douglas)

- Northern and Southern Democrats were divided and had trouble agreeing upon a candidate. The party split.
 - Democrats (Stephen Douglas); Southern Democrats (John Breckinridge)
- Republicans nominated Lincoln
- Southern moderates (Constitutional Union Party) nominated John Bell
- Results:
 - Lincoln won most of the Northern states
 - Lincoln won a landslide in the electoral college
 - Lincoln won none of the Southern states...

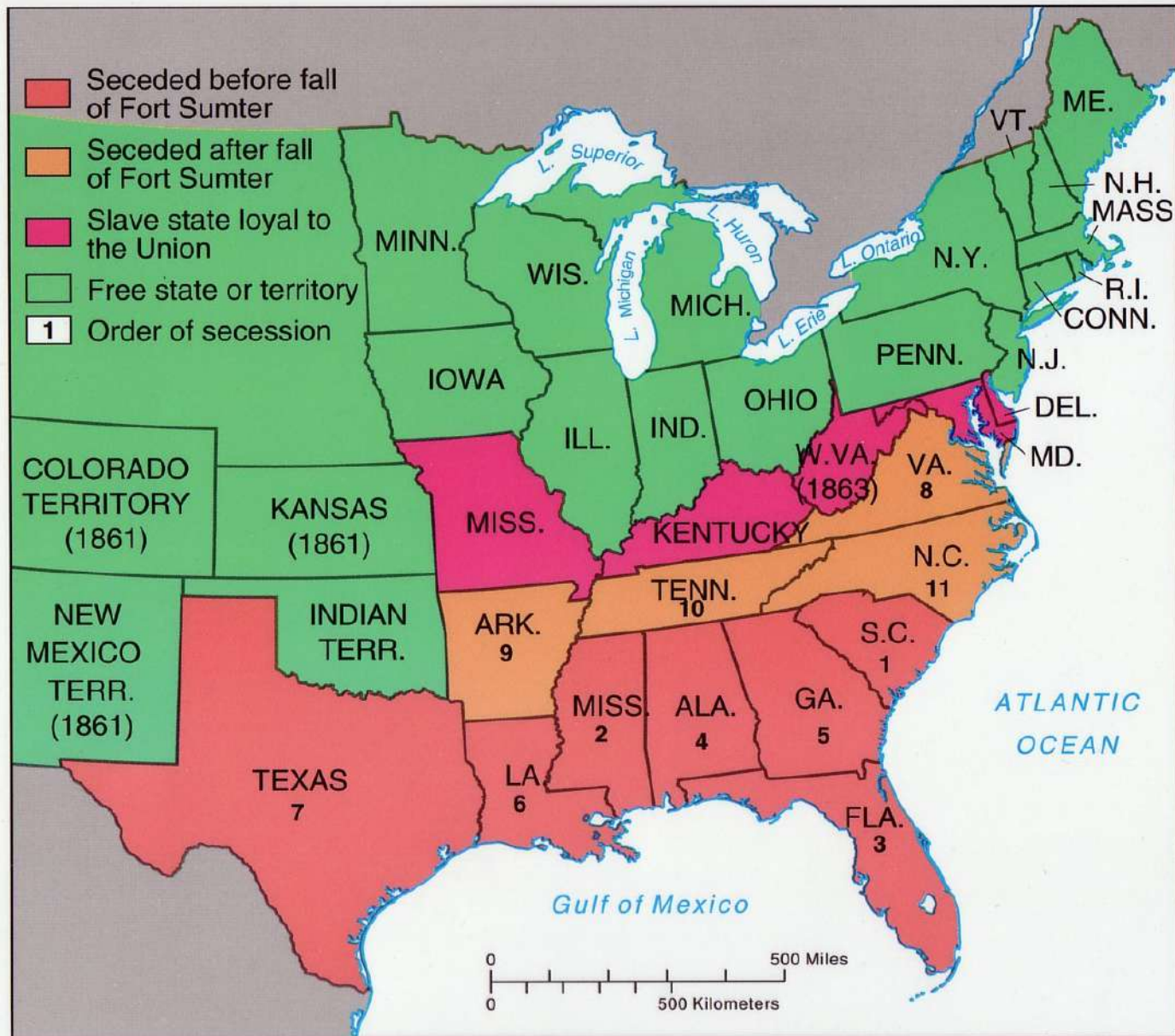
Southern Secession

- A week after Lincoln's election, **South Carolina's** legislature called a convention to consider the idea of leaving the Union.
- On December 20, 1860, they passed a resolution announcing South Carolina's secession. (169-0)
- The rest of the South quickly followed (Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas seceded by Feb. 1— Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas warned they might also secede).

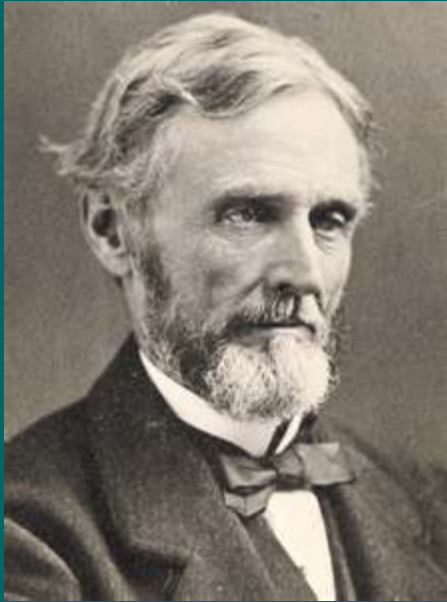
Reactions to Secession

- **State legislatures** passed secession not a popular vote by the people. Almost 30-40% of delegates were against secession.
- **Northerners:**
 - Many felt the nation would be better off without the slave states
 - Other worried about the long term effects

Secession



Confederate States of America



- 1861, the 7 seceded states met in Alabama to form a new nation.
- They wrote a new constitution that recognized slavery, chose Jefferson Davis as president, and created an association of states called the **Confederate States of America**.
- Lincoln promised in his inaugural address to not touch slavery where it existed, but would this be enough?

