

1  **The Union in Peril, 1850-1861**

American History  
American History Honors  
(Text, Chapter 10; Selected Resources)

2  **The Divisive Politics of Slavery**

(Section 10.1)  
Sectional tensions → Compromise of 1850

3  **Historiography**

- Could the Civil War have been avoided?
- "Two nations" concept
- Remember that the central issue is slavery, though there are several other key "causes"
- Why is the Civil War so important to American History?

4  **Industry & Immigration in the North**

- 1850s North was industrialized; makes large amount of goods and a variety of products
- Railroads carry raw materials east, manufacturers and settlers west
  - 20,000 miles of track laid in the 1850s
  - Small towns → cities
  - Telegraph
- Immigrants:
  - Where from? Why did they fear the expansion of slavery? What function did they provide?
  - Why did some actually support race-based slavery?
- Population

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6  **Agriculture & Slavery in the South**

- Predominantly rural; mostly plantations & small farms
- SOUTHERN SOCIAL STRUCTURE?
  - Depends on location
  - Slave society vs. societies with slaves
- Cash crops (manufacturing only 10%)
- Few immigrants
- Black population (see visual)
- Why do whites so ardently defend slavery?

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8  **Divisions in the West**

- 1848 Wilmot Proviso (never passed)
  - What did it propose? Significance in the context of the Mexican-American war?
  - Significance to sectionalism?
- What were the arguments of northern and southern political leaders?
- Election of 1848 – not even discussed!
- HOW did the Mexican-American War cause this?
- And then there's California...










(break: Presidents DVD)

9  **Compromise of 1850**

- Taylor supports California as a free state; suggests popular sovereignty for other territories
- Some threats of secession
- Northern fears of popular sovereignty? Southern fears of more free states?
- Henry Clay, the great compromiser, again!

10  **Details of the Compromise**

- California becomes a free state
- Strengthened Fugitive Slave Law

- Northerners: "The Bloodhound Bill" – why?
  - Southerners?
  - Popular sovereignty for Utah and New Mexico
  - Texas receives \$10M for eastern New Mexico
  - Slave trade banned in Washington, DC
- 11  **Great Debates of 1850**
- Honors: Old Guard vs. New Guard
  - Henry Clay's speech
  - John C. Calhoun's speech
  - Daniel Webster: "Seventh of March"
    - Shock?
  - Compromise deadlocked in Senate; Stephen Douglas introduces resolutions individually
  - Zachary Taylor dies... conspiracy? (no)
    - New President Milliard Fillmore signs compromise measures into law.
- 12  **Protest, Resistance and Violence**  
(Section 10.2)  
1850-1856
- 13  **Reactions to the "Bloodhound Bill"**
- Fugitive Slave Act is the most controversial
    - Why?
      - How did Northerners resist the law?
      - Personal Liberty Laws
      - How did Southerners react to this resistance?
- 14  **Combatting Slavery**
- Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman
    - How did the system work?
  - Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852)
    - How did it portray slavery?
    - Southern response?
  - George Fitzhugh's Southern response: *Cannibals All!*
  - HONORS: Voices of Crisis
- 15  **Tension in Kansas and Nebraska**
- Why did Stephen Douglas support incorporating Kansas and Nebraska (then, Nebraska Territory) into the Union?
  - Whose support would he need?
  - Popular sovereignty?
  - 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act (see map)
    - South supports, North reacts – why?
- 16  **Bleeding Kansas**
- Settlers pour into Kansas
  - Anti-slavery emigrant aid societies
  - 1855 Territorial election chaos
    - Result: Two governments – Lecompton and Topeka
  - 1856 Sack of anti-slavery Lawrence, KS
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- 18  **Terrible Results**
- John Brown, Pottawatomie Creek (May 1856)
  - Political results
  - Charles Sumner's "Crime Against Kansas" and his subsequent beating by Preston Brooks
- 19  **National Political Results**

(Section 10.3)

Birth of the Republican Party and almost secession in 1856

20  **Partisan Trouble**

- Whig Party, on the decline since the end of the Mexican-American War, splits over slavery
- Election of 1852 – Franklin Pierce defeats Winfield Scott
- Whig party non-existent after Kansas-Nebraska Act
  - Why did the Whig Party decline?

21  **Other Parties**

- American Party (1854), or the “Know-Nothings”
  - What did they oppose?
  - Split over slavery
  - Break from slavery issue: what else was going on during this time in the struggle between nativists and immigrants?
- Liberty Party (short-lived, ran candidate in 1844)
- Free-Soil Party
  - Party platform? Why did they oppose slavery?
  - Moral grounds?

22  **Birth of Republicans**

- Horace Greeley (abolitionist) forms Republican Party
- Unhappy Whigs, Democrats and Free-Soilers join
- What is their official platform on slavery?
- Voting base?
- Know-Nothings are still competing

23  **Election of 1856**

- Democrats reject Pierce (why?); nominate the moderate James Buchanan
- Republicans nominate John C. Fremont of California
  - Base support?
  - Platform: no expansion of slavery; protective tariff; free homesteads
- Know-Nothings nominate Milliard Fillmore who does gain 20%
- Split of Know-Nothings & Republicans = Buchanan
- Secession is averted..... for now!

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25  **Slavery and Secession**

(Section 10.4)









1856-1860

26  **Upheavals in 1857**

- *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857) and Roger Taney’s decision
  - Slaves have no rights
  - Congress cannot forbid slavery
  - Legal philosophy?
  - Significance?
- Lecompton Constitution (1857)
- Panic of 1857 (tariffs reduced)

27  **Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858)**

- Seven Debates
- Lincoln’s “House Divided” speech
- Douglas: slavery backward, not immoral; popular sovereignty will undo slavery
- Lincoln: slavery immoral; legislation needed to prevent its spread west
- Douglas’s “Freeport Doctrine”

- Douglas wins, but how does he also lose?
  - Why are these debates significant?
- 28  **John Brown**
- October 1859 raid at Harper's Ferry
  - Intercepted by R.E. Lee
  - Brown hanged for treason in Dec. 1859
  - Northern and Southern reactions?
- 29  **Turmoil of the 1860 Election**
- Republicans hold convention in Chicago
    - William H. Seward was favorite
    - Lincoln wins nomination, why?
  - Democrats hold convention in Charleston, SC.
    - Why? Was this doomed for failure?
  - Second convention held in Baltimore, MD, with the same result → southerners leave
  - Secession in the Democrat Party!
    - Northern Democrats: Stephen Douglas
    - Southern Democrats: John Breckinridge
  - Border states support John Bell (Const. Union Party)
- 30  **Results of the 1860 Election**
- 31  **Reactions to Lincoln's Election**
- Lincoln wins with no southern votes
  - South Carolina secedes (12/20/1860) and 6 southern states follow
    - Reasons for secession? (The "Top Ten" list)
  - Feb. 1861 – Confederate States of America formed in Montgomery, Alabama
    - Jefferson Davis of Mississippi elected President
    - Each state's sovereignty formally recognized (this will be a problem!)
- 32  **Reactions to Secession**
- President-Elect Lincoln: secession illegal, refused to recognize the Confederacy, slavery promises?
  - Failed Crittenden Compromise of 1860-1861
  - Stand-off at Fort Sumter, South Carolina
    - Background story
    - Buchanan's failures
    - How to re-supply Major Robert Anderson?
    - (See pictures)
- 33  **Beginning of Civil War**
- Lincoln inaugurated March 4, 1861
  - Ft. Sumter bombarded April 12, 1861
    - First shots of the Civil War
    - Why is it important that the South fired first?
  - Lincoln calls up troops in response (75,000)
  - Result: Upper South secedes (VA, NC, TN, AR)
  - Confederacy moves capital to Richmond, why?
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- 35  **And, that's the ball game!**  
The Civil War begins, next unit.  
Study!