

# Section 2

The Compromise of 1850

# Compromise of 1850

- The Compromise Passes
  - Calhoun died in 1850, so did Zachary Taylor
  - Millard Fillmore took his place, supported Clay
  - Stephen Douglas (IL) took Clay's place as he got too sick
  - Compromise of 1850- 5 parts:
    - 1. CA would enter free
    - 2. rest of Mexican Cession divided into Utah and NM- slavery decided by popular sovereignty
    - 3. ended slave trade in DC
    - 4. strict fugitive slave law
    - 5. settled border dispute between TX and NM

# Compromise of 1850

- Fugitive Slave Act
  - Required all citizens to help catch runaways
  - If you helped a fugitive slave, you get jailed and \$1000 fine
  - Special courts w/o a jury
  - Judges got \$10 for returning a slave, \$5 for setting someone free
  - Some free men were sent to slavery
- Reaction
  - Enraged northern antislavery people
  - Tried to rescue runaways from captors in some cities
  - Tensions stayed high- neither side completely happy

# Uncle Tom's Cabin

- -Written by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- -Daughter of abolitionist minister- had met many escaped slaves
- -wrote novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which tells story of a kind old slave, Uncle Tom, who is abused by master Simon Legree
- -shocked many people who used to have little opinion on slavery
- -bestseller- made people think of slavery as more than a political issue
- -became morally unacceptable to many
- -the South called it propaganda and said it was an untrue depiction of slavery

# Kansas-Nebraska Act

- Compromise of 1850 had dealt mostly with lands from Mexican Cession
- Lands in LA Territory not included
- 1854- Stephen Douglas starts plans for Nebraska Territory to become a state
  - Texas to Canada, MS River to Rockies
- To avoid issues, Douglas said NE Territory should be divided into 2 states- each could choose issue of slavery based on popular sovereignty
- This bill was called the Kansas-Nebraska Act

# Kansas-Nebraska Act

- Support for the Act
  - Generally supported- seemed fair
  - Southerners felt that slave owners in MO would move across into KS and KS would become a slave state
  - Franklin Pierce (D), president, also supported it
  - Bill was pushed through Congress
  - “lit a fire under a powder keg”

# Kansas-Nebraska Act

- Northern Outrage
  - Many northerners said KS-NE Act repealed the MO Compromise
  - Felt that free states could now become slave
  - Some openly challenged Fugitive Slave Act in defiance

# The Crisis Turns Violent

- KS became a battle ground- proslavery and antislavery forces sent settlers to fight for the territory
- Most of the settlers were poor farmers (w/o slaves) looking to buy cheap land
- Abolitionist also sent in 1000 settlers
- Proslavery settlers from MO- Border Ruffians- battled antislavery forces



# The Crisis Turns Violent

- Two Governments
  - 1955- KS held elections
  - Thousands of Border Ruffians crossed into KS and voted illegally- created a proslavery legislature
  - Quickly passed proslavery laws
    - Helping an escaped slave- punishable by death
    - Speaking out against slavery- 2 years hard labor
  - Antislavery settlers refused this government- elected their own
  - 2 governments- leads to chaos
  - Armed gangs looking to pick fights

# The Crisis Turns Violent

- “Bleeding Kansas”
  - 1856- proslavery gang raided Lawrence, KS
    - Burned homes, destroyed Free-Soil newspaper press
  - John Brown- looked for revenge- claimed God sent him to KS to punish supporters of slavery
    - With 4 sons, rode to Pottawatomie, KS
    - Dragged 4 proslavery settlers out of homes at night and murdered them
  - Both sides used guerilla warfare (hit and run)
  - By 1856, over 200 people had been killed

# Violence in the Senate

- Charles Sumner (MA)- leading abolitionist Senator
  - Criticized out KS legislature
  - Denounced southern foes, singled out Andrew Butler (SC)
- Butler wasn't there on day of speech, but his nephew, Preston Brooks, a Congressman, heard about it
- Brooks went into Senate chamber with a cane, beat the junk out of Sumner until he was unconscious
- Southerners said Sumner got what he deserves- sent canes to Brooks for support
- Northerners said it was evidence slavery led to violence

The Crisis Deepens

# **SECTION 3**

# The Republican Party

- People that opposed slavery in territories knew no political party would take a stand against slavery
- 1854- group of FS, Dems, and Whigs met in MI- formed Republican Party
  - Goal- keep slavery out of territories
  - Some were abolitionists, most just wanted to stop slavery from spreading
- Grew quickly- 1856 chose John C. Fremont to run for Pres.
  - Frontiersman, had fought for Cali independence

# The Republican Party

- Democrat James Buchanan was opponent
  - “northern man with southern principles”
  - Thought he would gather votes from N and S
- Millard Fillmore ran for American (aka “Know Nothing”) Party
  - Feared a Republican victory would split the nation
  - Know-nothing based in nativist ideas- opposed immigration and naturalization of Catholic Germans and Irish
- Buchanan won but Fremont got 1/3 of popular vote without taking a single southern state

# Abe Lincoln of Illinois

- From the Backwoods of Kentucky
  - Born in the frontier
  - Moved often- KY to IN to IL
  - 1 year of school- taught himself to read\
  - Left home and opened a store- studied law on his own and started political career
  - 8 years in state legislature, 1 term in House
  - Hated KS-NE Act- decided to run for Senate in 1858
  - He was not a national figure but was well-liked- “just folks”

# The Lincoln-Douglas Debates

- Election of 1858 for Illinois Senator
- Both agreed to debate in 9 cities across IL
- Main issue- slavery- esp in territories
- Douglas was creator of KS-NE Act, Lincoln hated it
  - Douglas' stance- popular sovereignty
  - Lincoln's stance- no slavery in territories
    - “I agree with Judge Douglas he is not my equal in many respects— certainly not in color, perhaps not in moral or intellectual endowment. But in the right to eat the bread, without the leave of anybody else, which his own hand earns, he is my equal and the equal of Judge Douglas, and the equal of every living man.”
- Results- Douglas won the election
  - BUT it gave Lincoln NATIONAL exposure...enough to run for president



# The Dred Scott Case

- Scott was a slave in MO
- Moved to IL and WI with his owner- neither allowed slavery
- Moved back to MO where his owner died
- Antislavery lawyers helped Scott file a lawsuit- said since he lived in a free territory he was a free man

# The Dred Scott Case

- The Supreme Court's Decision
  - *Dred Scott v. Sandford*
  - Supreme Court said:
    - 1. Scott could not file a lawsuit bc as a slave, he wasn't a citizen
    - 2. slaves were property, not people
    - 3. Congress could not make decisions on slavery therefore MO Compromise was unconstitutional

# The Dred Scott Case

- The Nation Reacts
  - Southerners happy- allowed slavery in all territories
  - Freedmen (African Americans) protested and rallied across the North
  - White northerners, even non-abolitionists, thought the case was wrong
  - Frederick Douglass spoke out strongly as well

# John Brown's Raid

- 1859- John Brown and his followers (including 5 blacks) went to Harper's Ferry Virginia
- Planned to take federal arsenal (weapons warehouse)
- Wanted slaves to escape and find him where he could arm them and lead a revolt

# John Brown's Raid

- Sentenced to Death
  - Brown got the arsenal, but no slaves showed up
  - Robert E. Lee killed 10 raiders and captured Brown
  - Dumb plan- few slaves in Harper's Ferry, then when he got arsenal, he didn't do anything
  - At trial, defended his actions rationally
  - Was found guilty of murder and treason- sentenced to death