



CHAPTER
10

The Union in Peril

CHAPTER OBJECTIVE

INTERACT WITH HISTORY

TIME LINE

- SECTION **1** The Divisive Politics of Slavery
- SECTION **2** Protest, Resistance, and Violence
- SECTION **3** The Birth of the Republican Party
- SECTION **4** Slavery and Secession

MAP

GRAPH

VISUAL SUMMARY

A circular logo with a blue outer ring and a red inner circle. The word "CHAPTER" is written in white, uppercase letters along the top inner edge of the red circle. The number "10" is written in large, white, serif font in the center of the red circle.

CHAPTER
10

The Union in Peril

CHAPTER OBJECTIVE

To understand the conflict over slavery and other regional tensions that led to the Civil War



CHAPTER
10

The Union in Peril



INTERACT
WITH HISTORY

The year is 1850. Across the United States a debate is raging, dividing North from South: Is slavery a property right, or is it a violation of liberty and human dignity? The future of the Union depends on compromise—but for many people on both sides, compromise is unacceptable.

How can the Union be saved?

Examine the Issues

- Is it possible to compromise on an ethical issue such as slavery?
- What are the obstacles to altering an institution, such as slavery, that is fundamental to a region's economy and way of life?



CHAPTER
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The Union in Peril

TIME LINE

The United States

1850 Congress passes Compromise of 1850. California enters the Union.

1852 Franklin Pierce is elected president. Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

1854 Congress approves the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The Republican Party forms.

1856 James Buchanan is elected president.

The World

1850 Taiping Rebellion in China begins.

1853 Crimean War begins.

1854 Charles Dicken's *Hard Times* is published.

1856 The 13.5-ton bell "Big Ben" is cast in Britain.

continued . . .



CHAPTER
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The Union in Peril

TIME LINE

The United States

1857 The Supreme Court rules against Dred Scott.

1859 John Brown attacks the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

1860 Abraham Lincoln is elected president.

1861 The Confederacy is formed.

The World

1859 Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* is published.

1861 Russian serfs emancipated by Czar Alexander II.

The Divisive Politics of Slavery

KEY IDEA

The issue of slavery dominated U.S. politics in the early 1850s.

[OVERVIEW](#)[ASSESSMENT](#)

The Divisive Politics of Slavery

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

The issue of slavery dominated U.S. politics in the early 1850s.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

U.S. society continues to be challenged by issues of fairness, equality, race, and class.

TERMS & NAMES

- Stephen A. Douglas
- Millard Fillmore
- secession
- Wilmot Proviso
- Compromise of 1850
- popular sovereignty

The Divisive Politics of Slavery

ASSESSMENT

1. List the issues or trends that were covered in this section. For each issue or trend summarize the North's position and the South's position.

Issue or Trend	North	South
Industry	Extensive industry and railroads	Little industry and few railroads
Immigration	High immigration	Little immigration
Economy	Rural, based on slavery	Urban, based on paid workers
Extension of slavery	Opposed slavery in California	Supported slavery in California

continued . . .

The Divisive Politics of Slavery

ASSESSMENT

2. Do you think there are any points at which a different action or leader might have resolved the conflict between the North and the South? **Think About:**

- issues raised by the Wilmot Proviso, California statehood, and the Compromise of 1850
- constitutional issues raised by Southerners

ANSWER

Yes: A president stronger than Taylor or congressional leaders less opinionated than Calhoun might have been able to bring the North and the South to compromise earlier.

No: No one could have headed off the conflict because of the complete division over slavery.

continued . . .

The Divisive Politics of Slavery

ASSESSMENT

3. When California applied for statehood in 1850, Mississippi senator Jefferson Davis warned, “*For the first time, we are about permanently to destroy the balance of power between the sections.*”

Why might Davis have felt this way?

ANSWER

California’s constitution forbade slavery. With California’s acceptance into the Union, the free states outnumbered the slave states.

continued . . .

The Divisive Politics of Slavery

ASSESSMENT

4. Do you think the North or the South won more significant concessions in the Compromise of 1850? Explain your answer.

ANSWER

POSSIBLE RESPONSES:

- The compromise favored the North, because the measures on California, New Mexico, and Utah could strengthen future antislavery interests in Congress.
- It favored the South by strengthening the Fugitive Slave Act which reinforced the legal basis for slavery.

SECTION
2

HOME

Protest, Resistance, and Violence

KEY IDEA

Proslavery and antislavery factions disagreed over the treatment of fugitive slaves and the spread of slavery to the territories.

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

Protest, Resistance, and Violence

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

Proslavery and antislavery factions disagreed over the treatment of fugitive slaves and the spread of slavery to the territories.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The antislavery leaders became role models for leaders of civil rights movements in the 20th century.

TERMS & NAMES

- Fugitive Slave Act
- Harriet Tubman
- Harriet Beecher Stowe
- personal liberty laws
- John Brown
- Underground Railroad
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Bleeding Kansas
- Kansas-Nebraska Act

SECTION
2

Protest, Resistance, and Violence

ASSESSMENT

1. Look at the time line to help organize your thoughts. List the major events in the growing conflict between the North and the South.

1849

Harriet Tubman escapes slavery and reaches Philadelphia.

Event One**1852**

Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Event Three**1855**

Two governments are established in Kansas.

Event Five**Event Two****1850**

Congress passes Fugitive Slave Act.

Event Four**1854**

Congress passes the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

Event Six**1856**

The sack of Lawrence and the Pottawatomie massacre occur.

continued . . .

Protest, Resistance, and Violence

ASSESSMENT

2. Explain how *Uncle Tom's Cabin* affected the abolitionist cause.

ANSWER

The book caused abolitionists to increase their protests against the Fugitive Slave Act. It also reinforced the idea that slavery was evil.

continued . . .

Protest, Resistance, and Violence

ASSESSMENT

3. Why was the Kansas-Nebraska Act so controversial?

ANSWER

It repealed the Compromise of 1850 and allowed for popular sovereignty in the Kansas and Nebraska territories.

continued . . .

SECTION
2

Protest, Resistance, and Violence

ASSESSMENT

4. Explain the concept of popular sovereignty and describe Northern and Southern reactions to it as a way of making decisions about slavery in the territories. **Think About:**

- Douglas's view on continued expansion
- Douglas and the Missouri Compromise
- the congressional balance of power

ANSWER

Popular sovereignty let inhabitants vote to determine whether slavery would be allowed in their territory. The North feared more slave states joining the Union; the South feared the addition of more free states. Both the North and the South wanted to shift the congressional balance of power between the slave and free states.

The Birth of the Republican Party

KEY IDEA

In the mid-1850s, the issue of slavery and other factors split political parties and led to the birth of new ones.

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

SECTION
3

The Birth of the Republican Party

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

In the mid-1850s, the issue of slavery and other factors split political parties and led to the birth of new ones.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The Republican and Democratic parties remain the major political forces in the United States today.

TERMS & NAMES

- Franklin Pierce
- John C. Frémont
- James Buchanan
- nativism
- Free-Soil Party
- Horace Greeley
- Republican Party
- Know-Nothing Party

SECTION
3

The Birth of the Republican Party

ASSESSMENT

1. Look at the graphic to help organize your thoughts.
List the events that led to the growth of the Republican Party in the 1850s.

Events

Whig Party divides over slavery, as does the Know-Nothing Party.

Free-Soil Party opposes slavery in the territories.

Opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act

Hoped to resurrect the Missouri Compromise

Fraudulent territorial election in Kansas

Sack of Lawrence

The Pottawatomie massacre

The caning of Sumner in 1856

**Growth of
Republican Party**

continued . . .

The Birth of the Republican Party

ASSESSMENT

2. How did the attitudes toward slavery held by abolitionists, Free-Soilers, and Know-Nothings differ? **Think About:**

- the ultimate goal of abolitionists
- the reason free-soilers objected to slavery
- what caused the split in the Know-Nothing Party

ANSWER

Abolitionists opposed slavery on moral grounds.

Free-Soilers opposed it because it reduced the number of jobs available to whites, not because of moral principles.

Know-Nothings were divided over slavery, with Southerners generally for it and Northerners generally against it. *continued . . .*

The Birth of the Republican Party

ASSESSMENT

3. How did the way in which the Republican Party was formed indicate that the party stood a good chance at success?

ANSWER

The party was united in opposing slavery but also embraced a wide range of opinions. By drawing support from conservatives and radicals, it had the strength to overpower other political parties.

Slavery and Secession

KEY IDEA

A series of controversial events heightened the sectional conflict that brought the nation to the brink of war.

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

Slavery and Secession

OVERVIEW

MAIN IDEA

A series of controversial events heightened the sectional conflict that brought the nation to the brink of war.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Secession created deep divisions in American society that persist to the present time.

TERMS & NAMES

- Roger B. Taney
- Harpers Ferry
- Jefferson Davis
- Dred Scott
- Confederacy
- Abraham Lincoln
- Freeport Doctrine

Slavery and Secession

ASSESSMENT

1. List six major events described in this section and explain how each one sharpened the North-South conflict.

Event

Result

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Dred Scott decision | → | Northerners feared the spread of slavery. |
| 2. Lecompton Constitution | → | Divided Democrats |
| 3. Lincoln-Douglas debates | → | Highlighted the slavery conflict |
| 4. Harpers Ferry raid | → | Increased Southern fear of slave rebellions |
| 5. John Brown's hanging | → | Northerners found a martyr for abolition. |
| 6. Election of 1860 | → | Southern secession |

continued . . .

Slavery and Secession

ASSESSMENT

2. How did Lincoln and Douglas disagree about slavery?

ANSWER

Douglas believed in popular sovereignty and thought slavery was a backward labor system, but not immoral. He thought that people understood this and would vote Kansas and Nebraska free.

Lincoln viewed slavery as immoral and based on greed. He believed that it would spread unless the territories passed laws against it.

continued . . .

Slavery and Secession

ASSESSMENT

3. In *Dred Scott v. Sandford* of 1857, the Supreme Court found that:

“ A free negro of the African race, whose ancestors were brought to this country and sold as slaves, is not a "citizen" within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States.”

How did the Supreme Court decision add to the tensions over slavery in the 1850s?

ANSWER

It officially named former slaves as non-citizens, and decided that neither slaves nor former slaves could sue.