

1855 - Bleeding Kansas

- Kansas - Nebraska - Repealed Missouri Compromise, + opened territories up to popular sovereignty
- Bleeding KS - Fighting erupted b/w pro- and anti-slavery factions
- John Brown - Radical abolitionist who fought pro-slavery men in KS

1856 - "Bleeding Summer"

- Preston Brooks was a Congressman from SC + Charles Sumner was a Senator from Mass.
- Brooks beat Sumner w/ his cane b/c Sumner gave speech against slavery.
 - Southerners celebrated, while Northerners were outraged.

1857 - Dred Scott Decision *

- Dred Scott sued his owner for freedom, b/c he had been taken to a free territory as a slave.
- Supreme Court ruled:
 1. Dred Scott was still a slave b/c African Americans weren't citizens
 2. Congress had no authority to ban slavery.

1858 - Lincoln-Douglas Debates

- Abe Lincoln + Steve Douglas debate for US Senate seat in Illinois.
- Lincoln believed that country couldn't remain 1/2 slave + 1/2 free
- Lincoln predicted that slavery would exist everywhere (Dred Scott) or slavery would be abolished.

1859 - Brown Raids Harpers Ferry

- Brown believed slavery would end only through violence.
- Brown + his followers raided a federal arsenal to cause rebellion
- Brown is captured + executed, dies for slavery.

1860 - Lincoln's Election + South's Secession

- The election results were sectional - N + S were divided.
- Lincoln win majority of Electoral votes, but only 39% of popular vote and no electoral votes from South
- Southerners feared that Lincoln would abolish slavery.
- In his inaugural address, Lincoln tried to unite the country + said that states could not secede.