

Causes of the Civil War



Why Southern States Seceded from the Union

1787 The Three-Fifths Compromise

The Three-Fifths compromise was a compromise between southern and northern states that helped insure ratification of the Constitution.

Three-fifths of the population of slaves counted for purposes of the distribution of taxes and the number of members each state was allowed in the House of Representatives.

Effect: Led to increasing **sectionalism**

North

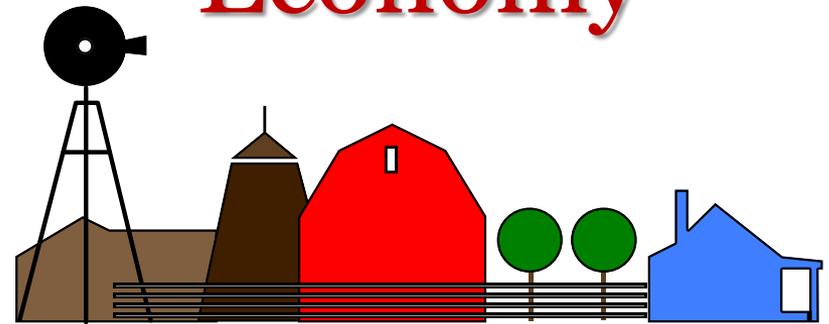
Industrial
Economy



“free”
States

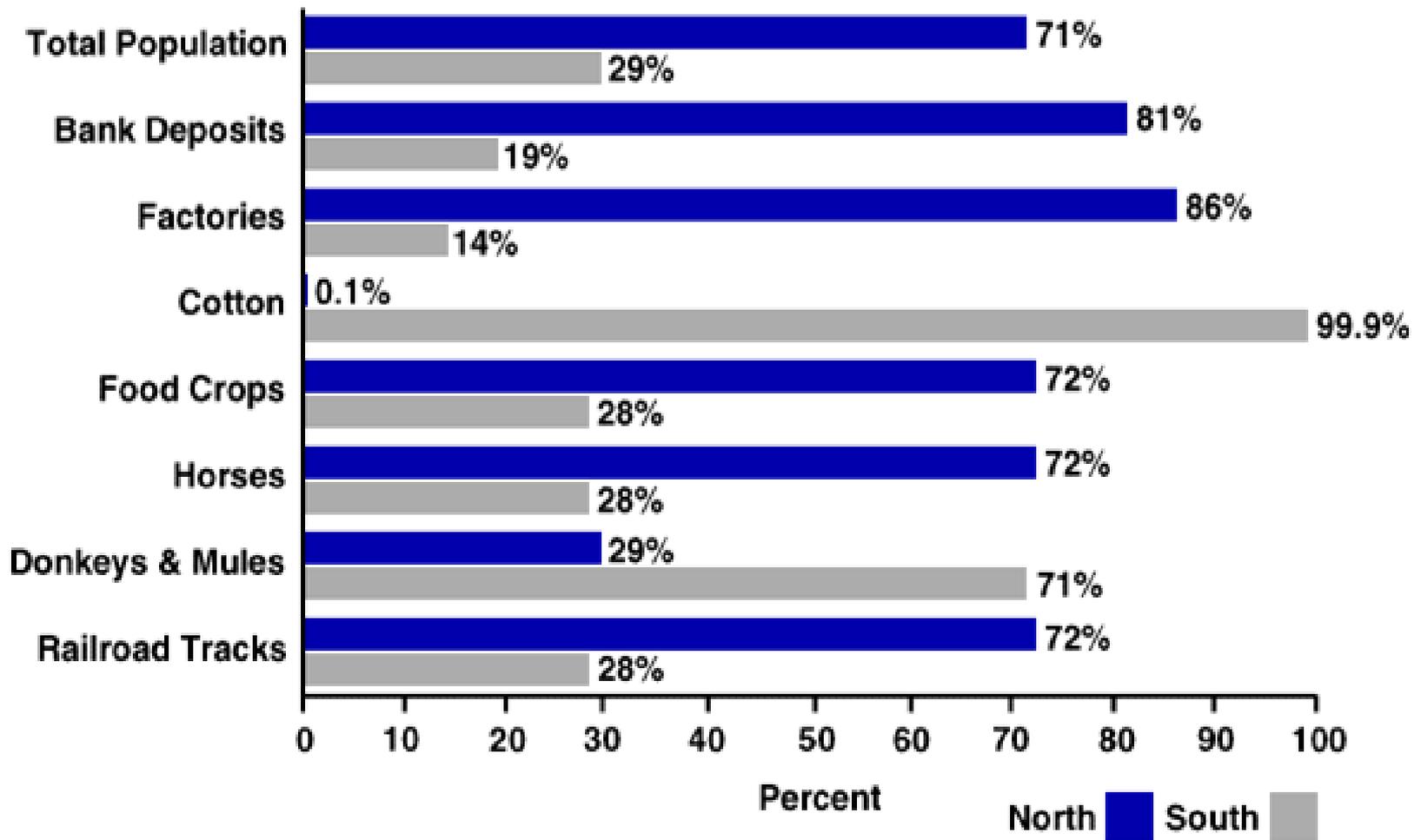
South

Agricultural
Economy



“slave”
States

Comparing the North with the South



1793 Invention of the Cotton Gin

Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin revolutionized the cotton industry in the United States. Removal of cotton seeds became 50 times faster.

Led to greater demand for slaves in the deep south.

Effects

Increase in numbers of slaves

slavery expands.



1803 Louisiana Purchase, Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States doubled in size.

Manifest Destiny principle spurred Westward Expansion and the fight over slavery.

This purchase gave the United States control of the vast lands west of the Mississippi.

Effect: As Americans pushed west, the issue of slavery came to the forefront. Would the new territories of the United States be slave or free?

The Slavery Debate

Unlike the industrialized North, the economy of the South was largely agricultural and depended on enslaved labor. Southerners felt that the states, rather than the federal government, should have the right to decide whether residents could own slaves or not.

People in the North and the South worried about whether the Western territories would enter the Union as slave or free states, since that could influence the balance of power in Congress. Most importantly, within this economic and political context, Congress grappled with the morality of slavery.

Was slavery morally acceptable, an evil to be tolerated or a reprehensible institution that must be abolished? Some opposed the mere spread of slavery but not the institution itself.

1820 The Missouri Compromise

The first confrontation over slavery in the West. Missouri applied as a slave state. The admission of Missouri would upset the balance of power in the Senate where at the time there were 11 free states and 11 slave states.

In 1820, it was suggested that Missouri enter as a slave state and Maine as a free state to keep the balance of power.

Effect: Cools sectional differences for a short time.
Shows how volatile issue of slavery is.

1832 The Nullification Crisis

South Carolina nullified the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 within their borders and threatened to secede if the federal government attempted to collect those tariff duties.

President Jackson immediately offered his thought that **nullification** was tantamount to treason and quickly dispatched ships to Charleston, SC.

Crisis was avoided with a new tariff acceptable to S. Carolina.

Effect: First act of defiance in south threatening secession over policies in the north.

1836- 1844 Gag Rule

In the late 1830s, Congress received more than 130,000 petitions from citizens demanding the abolition of slavery in Washington, D.C., and other federally-controlled territories.

In 1836, the House passed a resolution to its rules of procedure which banned the discussion of these petitions. The so-called "gag rule" was reinforced in 1839, 1841 and 1843 as part of the rules readopted by the House with each new Congress.

Representative and former President John Quincy Adams, who considered the gag rule a violation of his constituents' First Amendment rights, used creative tactics to stir debate on the floor. In 1844, the House repealed the gag rule on a motion made by Adams.

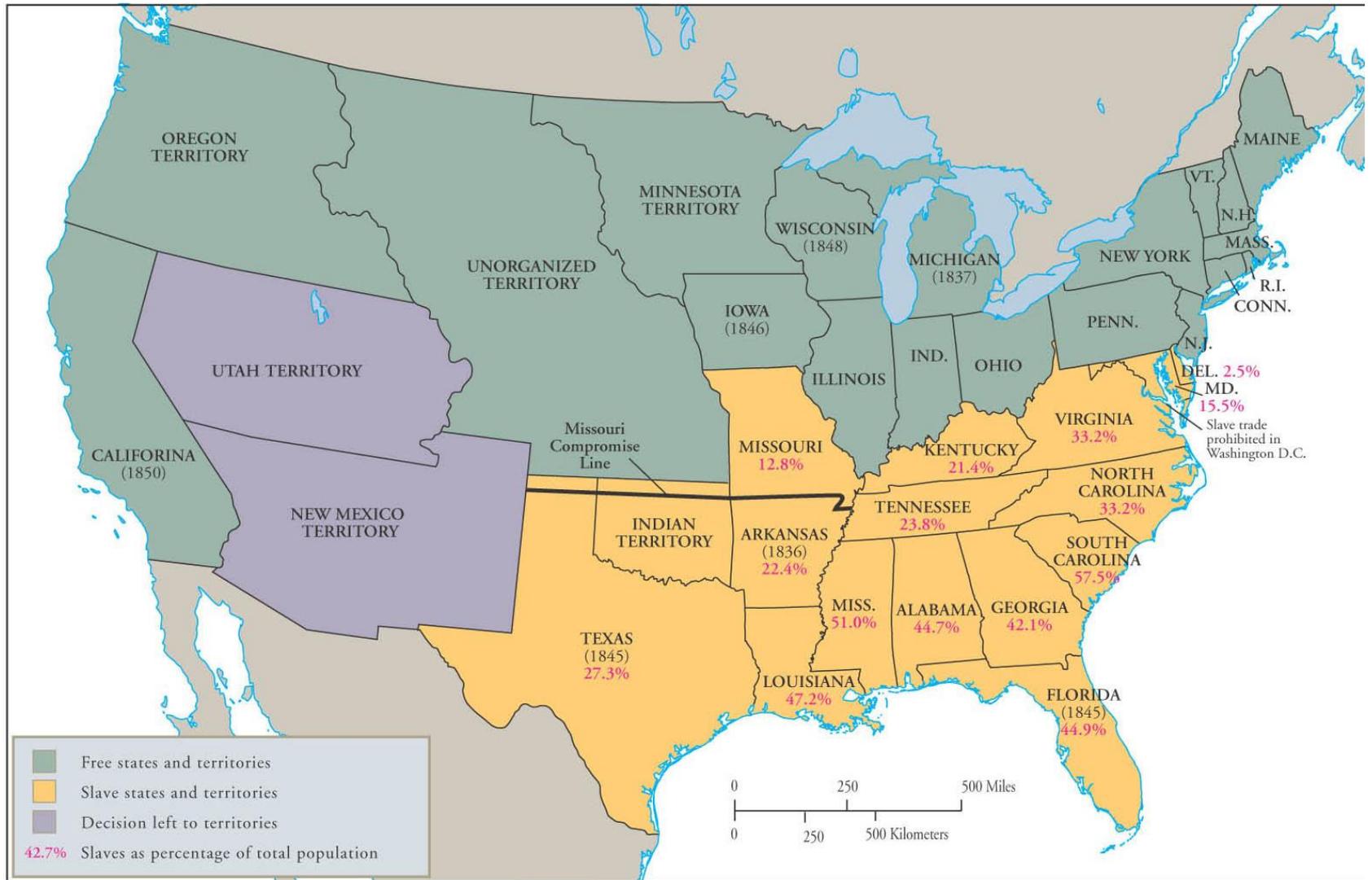
The Compromise of 1850

California applied for admission as a free state and the balance of power in the Senate was threatened again.

The Compromise of 1850 :

- 1) California entered as a free state.
- 2) The rest of the Mexican cession was divided into New Mexico and Utah. In each state, voters would decide (**popular sovereignty**) the issue of slavery.

Effect: Intensified battle over slavery in new territories by making the decision the responsibility of the state's citizens.



Slave and Free Territories Under the Compromise of 1850

1850 Fugitive Slaves Act

The law was very controversial.

It required that ALL (north and south) citizens were obligated to return runaway slaves.

People who helped slaves escape would be jailed and fined

Effects:

Law enraged Northerners because it made them feel a part of the slave system. Persons involved with the **Underground Railroad** worked to subvert the law.

1852 Uncle Tom's Cabin

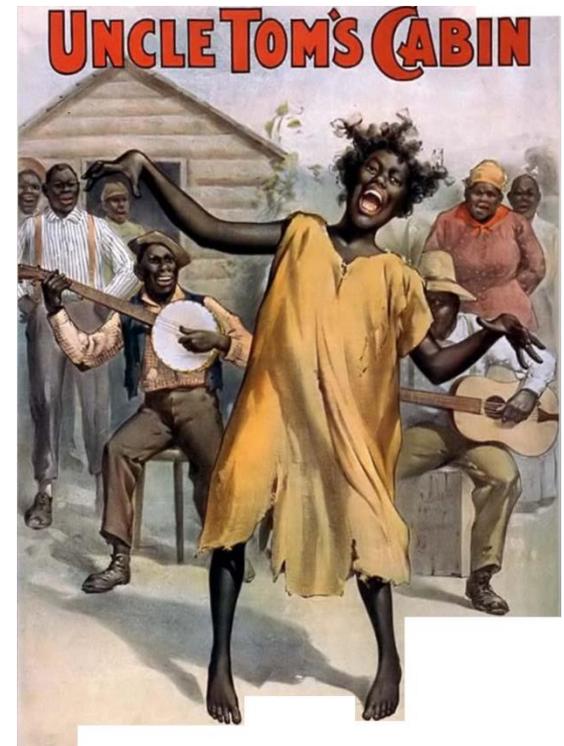
Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a novel that told the story of Uncle Tom, an enslaved African American, and his cruel master, Simon Legree.

In the novel, Stowe wrote of the evils and cruelty of slavery. The novel had an enormous influence in the north.

It helped change the way many Northerners felt about slavery.

Effect:

Slavery was now a **moral problem/issue**, intensifying the animosity and debate between North & South.



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***"So this is the lady
who started the Civil
War."***

Abraham Lincoln

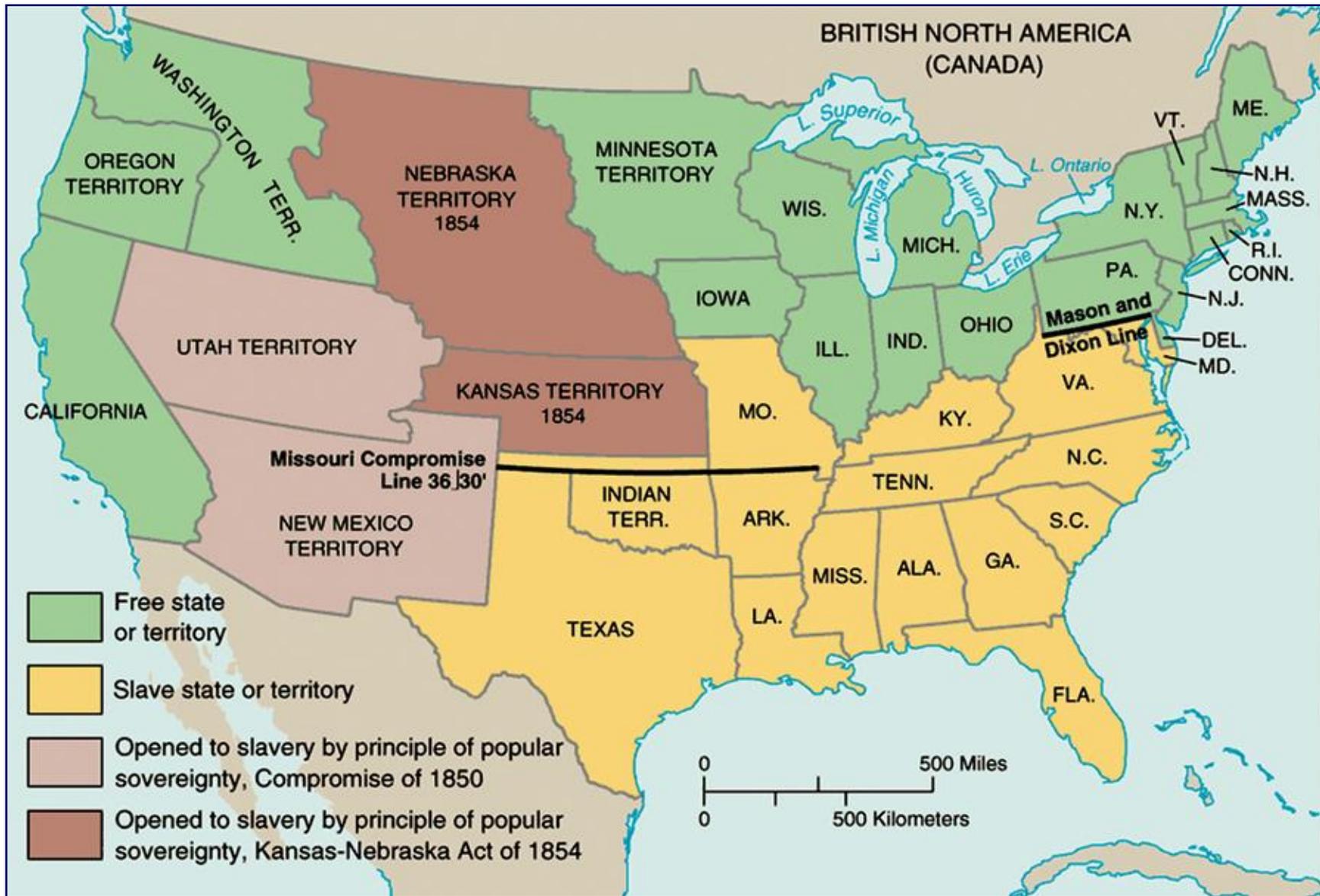
1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act

Stephen Douglas of Illinois proposed that Nebraska be divided into two territories — Kansas and Nebraska.

The settlers of the new territories would decide (popular sovereignty) whether they would be slave or free.

Southerners supported the act, while Northerners felt it was a betrayal.

Effect: Thousands of pro and anti slavery supporters flood Kansas to vote and fight for their position on slavery – Civil War about to erupt.

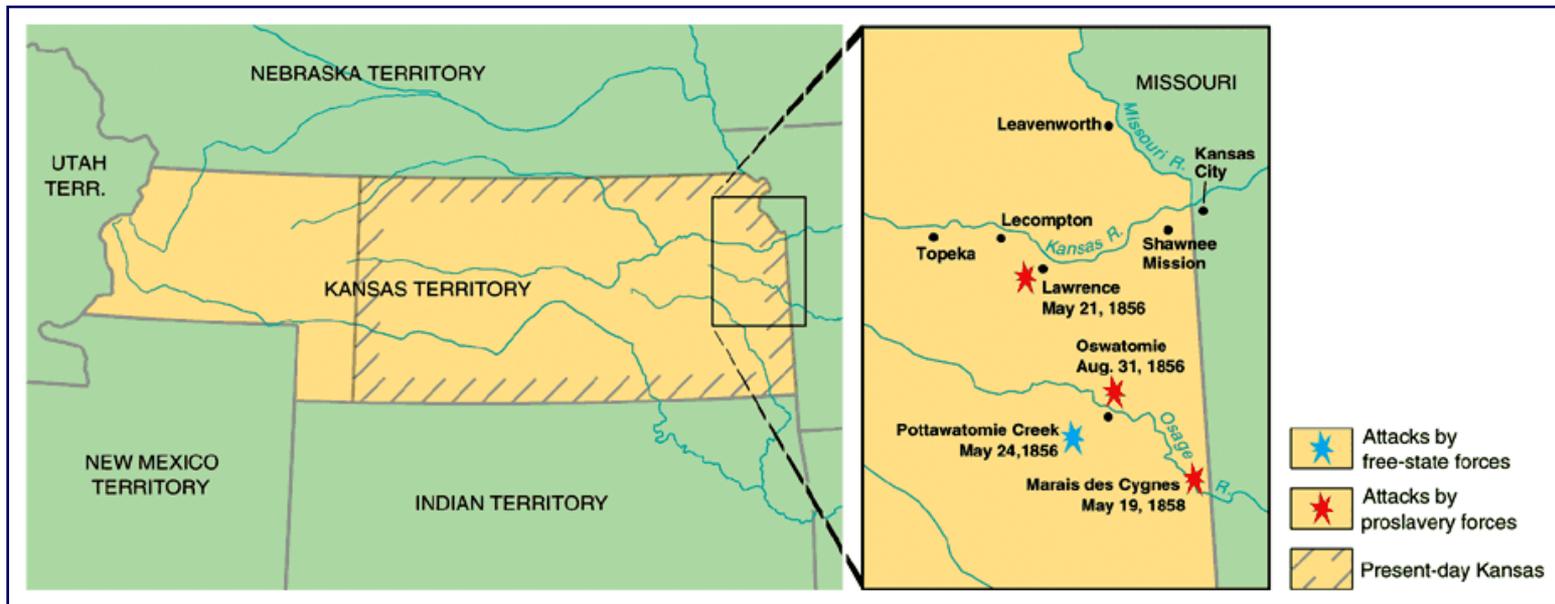


1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act Map

1855 Bleeding Kansas

The Act set off bitter violence in the Kansas territory. More than 200 people died over the issue of slavery. The area became known as Bleeding Kansas. Anti- and pro-slavery forces set up rival governments. The town of Lawrence was destroyed by pro-slavery forces.

Effect: Little room left for compromise.
Both sides willing to fight for their beliefs.



1856 Charles Sumner is Attacked by Preston on the Floor of the Senate

One of the most publicized events in Bleeding Kansas was when on May 21, 1856 Border Ruffians ransacked Lawrence, Kansas which was known to be a staunch free-state area. One day later, violence occurred on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Pro-slavery Congressman Preston Brooks attacked Charles Sumner with a cane after Sumner had given a speech attacking the pro-slavery forces for the violence occurring in Kansas.



Charles Sumner
(R-MA)



Preston Brooks
(D-SC)

1857 Lecompton Constitution Rejected

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act passed, Kansas was allowed to determine whether it would enter the union as free or slave.

Numerous constitutions were advanced by the territory to make this decision. In 1857, the Lecompton Constitution was created allowing for Kansas to be a slave state.

Pro-slavery forces supported by President James Buchanan attempted to push the Constitution through the US Congress for acceptance.

However, there was enough opposition that in 1858 it was sent back to Kansas for a vote.

Even though it delayed statehood, Kansas voters rejected the Constitution and Kansas became a free state.

1857 Dred Scott

Dred Scott was a slave who claimed that because his master had taken him to the free territories of Illinois and Wisconsin, he should be free.

The court ruled that because Scott was not considered a citizen, but property, he could not file a lawsuit.

The Court also ruled that Congress had no power to decide the issue of slavery in the territories. This meant that slavery was legal in all the territories and the **Missouri Compromise** was **unconstitutional**.

Effect: The issue of slavery reaches a boiling point. Becomes a moral issue in north and constitutional issue in the south – NO MORE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE!

1859 John Brown and Harpers Ferry

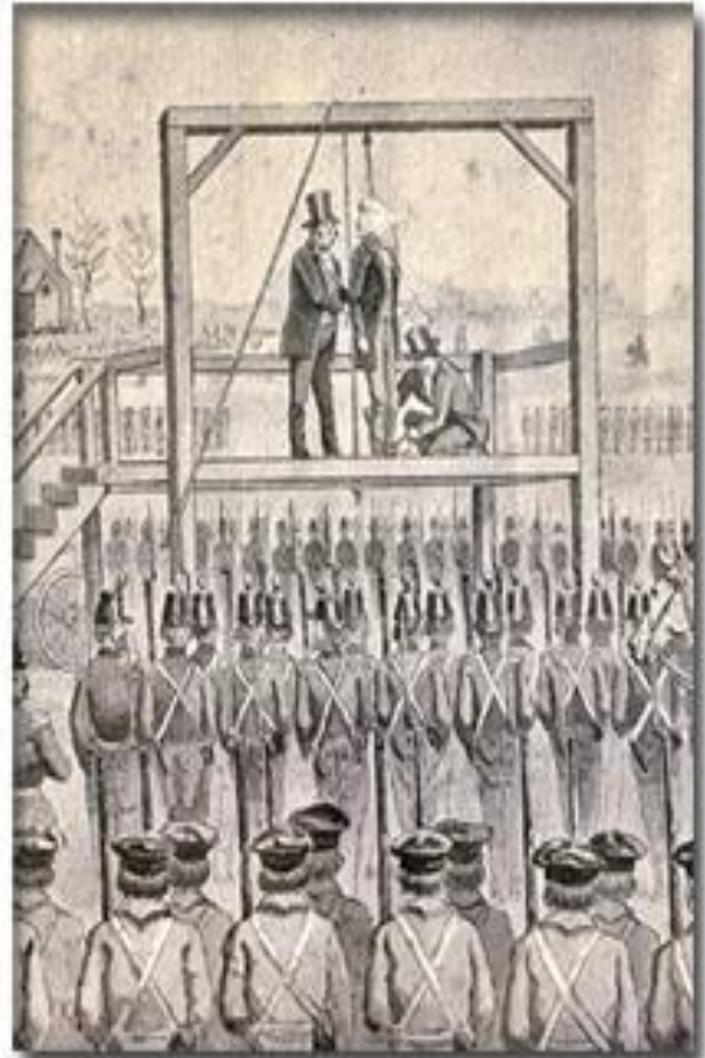
John Brown was a radical abolitionist involved in anti-slavery violence in Kansas. On October 16, 1859, he led a group of seventeen including five black members to raid the arsenal located in Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia).

His goal was to start a slave uprising using the captured weapons. However, after capturing several buildings, Brown and his men were surrounded and eventually killed or captured by troops led by Colonel Robert E. Lee.

Brown was tried and hanged for treason. Many northerners saw him as a hero. Southerners felt that the North wanted to destroy slavery and the South along with it. This event was one more in the growing abolitionist movement that helped lead to open warfare in 1861.

Effect: Convinced many southerners that war was inevitable.

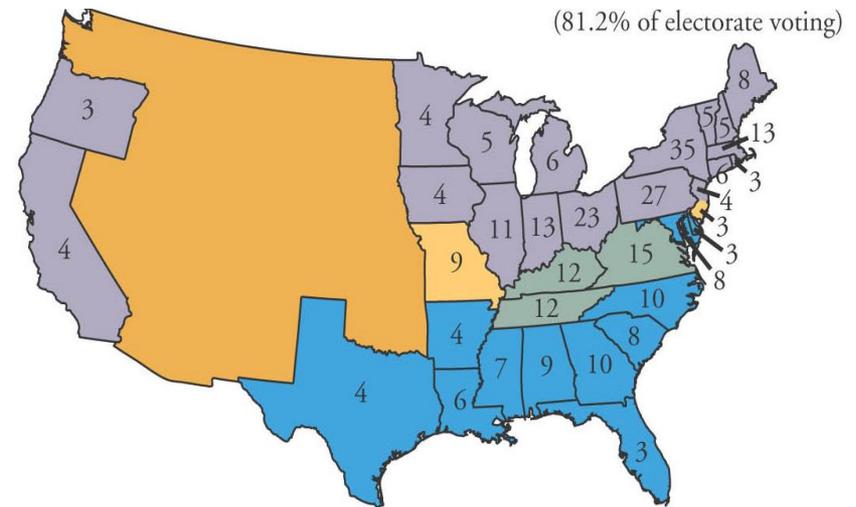
The execution of John Brown after Harper's Ferry made him a martyr for the cause of abolition.



1860 The Election of President Lincoln

The Southerners' reaction to the election of President Lincoln was strong. They felt that the country had put an abolitionist in the White House. The South felt that secession was the only option.

The South felt they had the right to **secede**. The Declaration of Independence stated that "*it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish*" a government that denies the rights of its citizens. Lincoln, they believed, would deny them the right to own slaves.



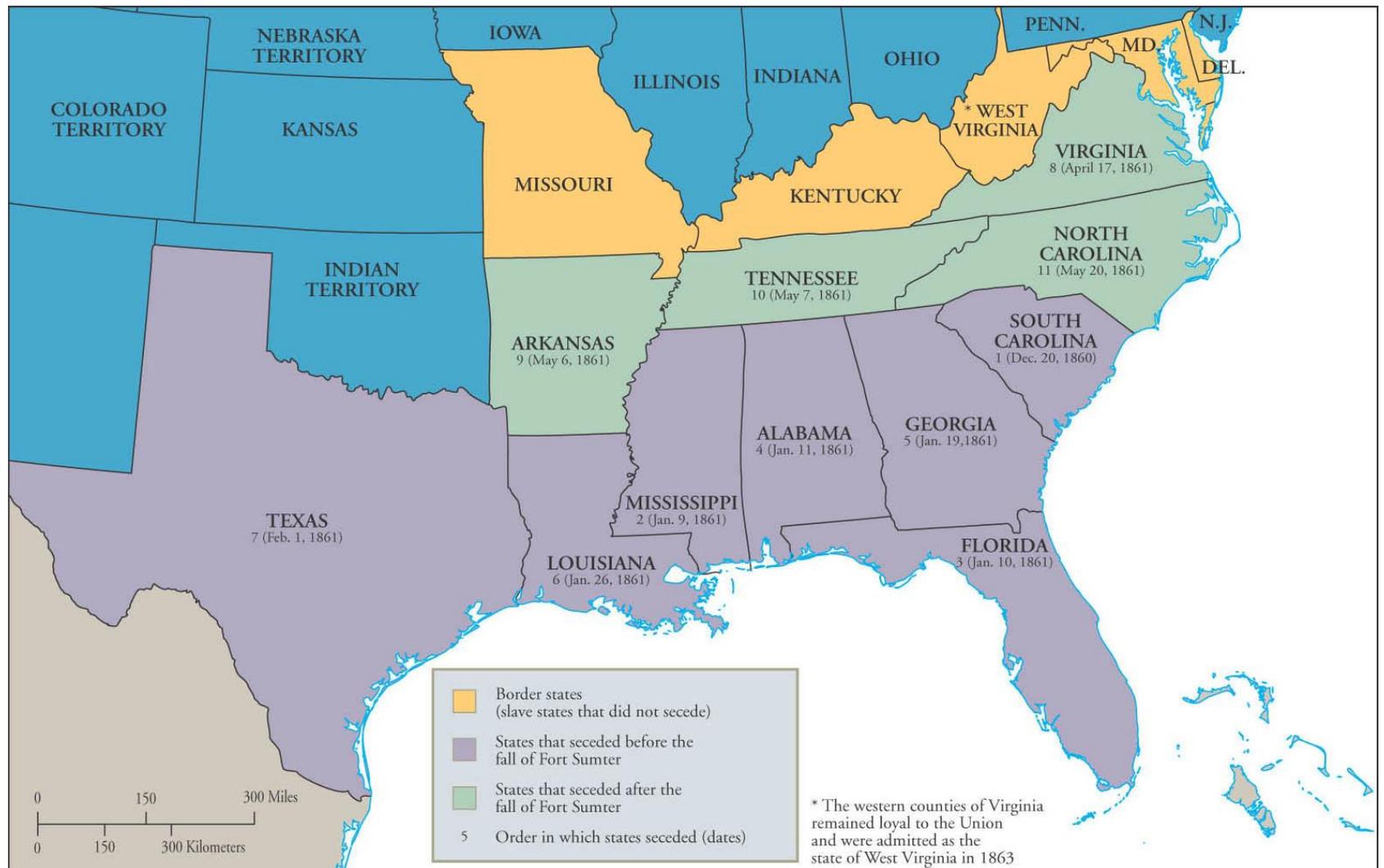
	ELECTORAL VOTE	POPULAR VOTE (%)
Abraham Lincoln <i>(Republican)</i>	180	1,865,593 (39.8)
J. C. Breckinridge <i>(Southern Democratic)</i>	72	848,356 (18.1)
John Bell <i>(Constitutional Union)</i>	39	592,906 (12.6)
Stephen A. Douglas <i>(Northern Democratic)</i>	12	1,382,713 (29.5)
Nonvoting territories		

After Lincoln took the oath of office in 1861, he announced that no state can lawfully leave the Union. He declared, however, there would be no war unless the South started it.

Effect: In 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union. By February of 1861, Alabama, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi had seceded.



"Our heritage depends on inherent weakness of a republic too strong to maintain liberties yet too weak to maintain its existence."



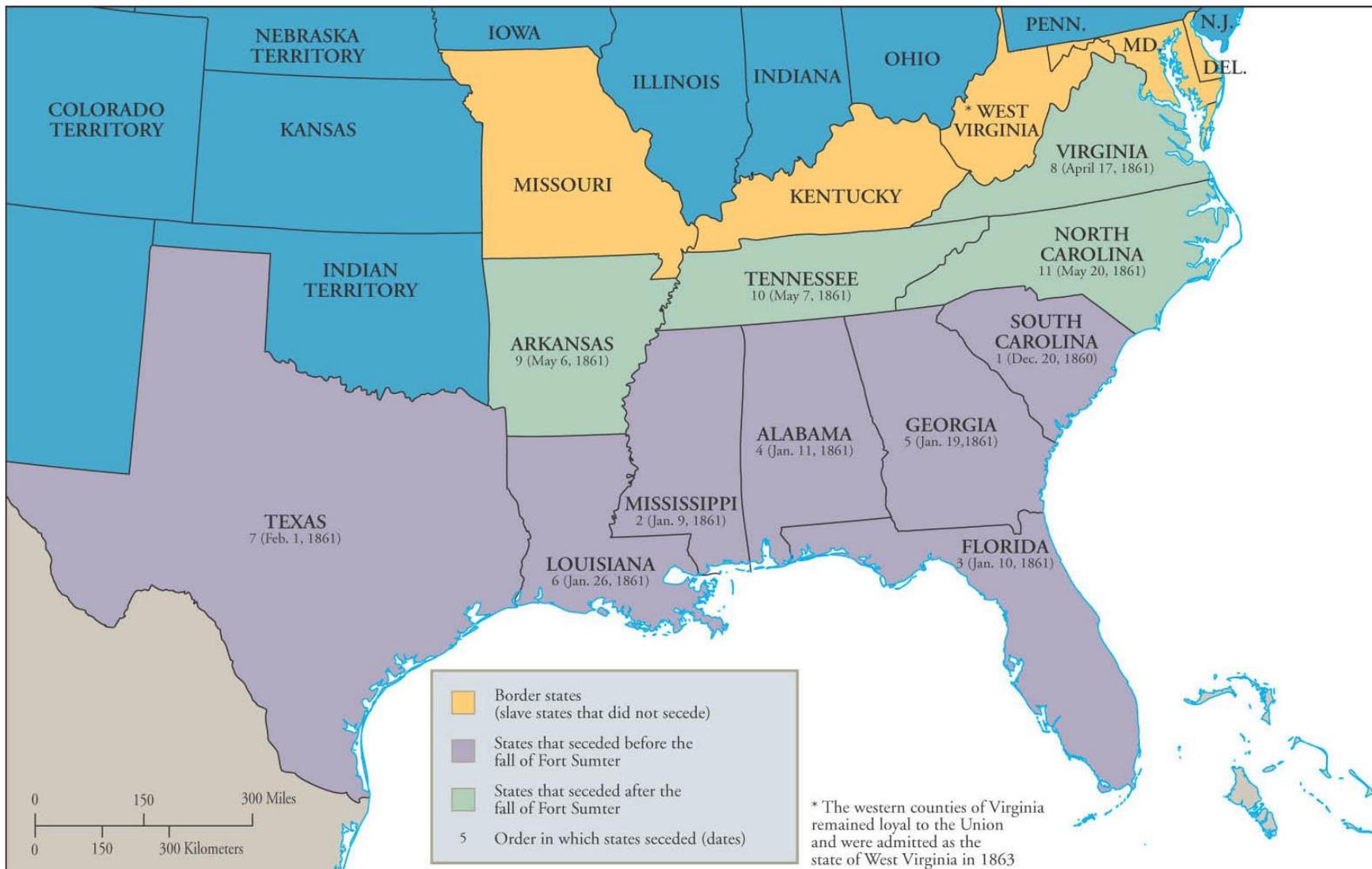
The Process of Secession

1861 Fort Sumter

The South started to take possession of all Federal buildings, forts, and post offices. The South took control of the three forts in Florida and was ready to take control of Fort Sumter in South Carolina. In April, 1861, the Confederates asked for the fort's surrender. Major Robert Anderson of the Union refused to surrender. The Confederate troops proceeded to shell Fort Sumter. Anderson ran out of ammunition and was forced to surrender.

Effect: America's brutal, but inevitable, Civil War had begun.





The Confederate States of America

Motives Leading to the Civil War

1. Conspiracy

President	Country
North Abraham Lincoln 1860	United States of America
South Jefferson Davis 1861	Confederate States of America

Each side felt the other was conspiring against the other:

DAVIS

Laws & measures inhibited the south.
Congress controlled by north

LINCOLN

North doesn't want to control south
South wants to expand into the west

Each side didn't trust each other in an economic or political sense.

2. Constitutional

UNITED STATES VS. CONFEDERATE STATES

South - separate individual states form the union;
since states formed the union they can opt out.

North - the union created the states by the constitution
If the union is dissolved, there is nothing.

LINCOLN WAS FIGHTING TO SAVE THE UNION, NOT
TO FREE THE SLAVES (a political move)

Lincoln was a federalist & constitutionalist

3. Growth of Slavery

a. South had 4 million slaves:

Slave owners	25%
17 %	1-9 slaves
7%	10-99 slaves
.1%	100+

Very few had large plantations

Small minority of controlling whites controlled southern society.

b. Labor intensive agricultural society

Slaves imported because can't get enough whites to do the labor.

Davis

The Blacks have a better condition under the superior White race.

"Docile savages to bodily comforts and religious instruction"

Lincoln

Not in favor of bringing about the social or economic equality of Negroes.

"There must be the position of inferior/superior"
Lincoln 1858

Freeing of slaves not a matter of equality.
Yet he was against the concept of slavery.
He wanted above all to save the Union.

4. Economic

a. Labor

South	free labor
North	paid labor

b. Tariffs

North wanted to protect their products
artificial inflation of imports.

South faced reciprocal tariffs when they
exported their agricultural products.

South	Against High Tariffs
North	Against Free Labor

c. North passes laws in congress because of an imbalance in voting power:

19 Free States
15 Slave States

5. Nature of a Republic

What is a Republic?

A Representative Democracy

Freedom to choose

South choose to leave under this freedom

Under another system this would not have happened.



"... it presents the question whether discontented individuals too few in numbers to control administration according to organic law in any case, can always upon the pretenses made in this case, or on any other pretense, break up their government, and thus practically put an end to free government upon the earth. It forces us to ask: Is there, in all republics, this inherent and fatal weakness? Must a government, of necessity be too strong for the liberties of its own people or too weak to maintain its own existence?"

Lincoln - July 4, 1861 following Ft. Sumter