

- AMH 2010 & AMH 2020: AMERICAN HISTORY
- DR. ANDREW GOTTLIEB

1 – THE CIVIL WAR



Miami Dade
College

West Campus



The Civil War, the great conflict between the North and South (1861-1865), was a fight over slavery.

WHAT CAUSED THE CIVIL WAR: THE MYTH

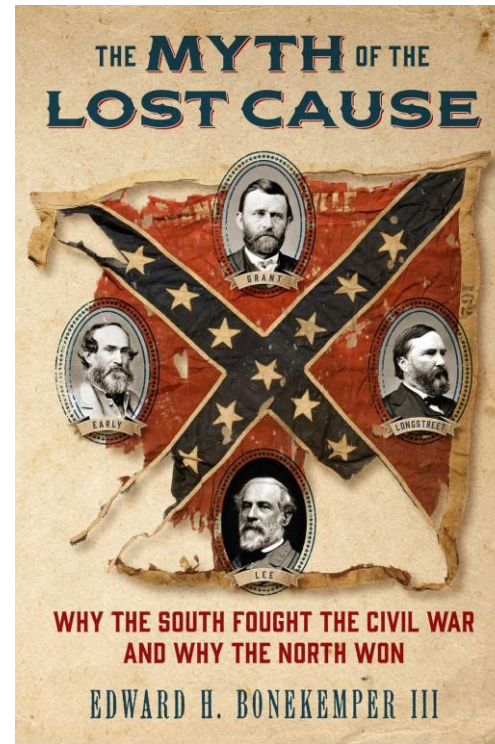
At the heart of the Myth of the Lost Cause is the insistence that secession, the Confederacy, and the Civil War were all about states' rights, not slavery.

This myth began almost as soon as the war ended. The newspaperman-turned-historian Edward A. Pollard in his immediate postwar histories described slavery as "an inferior object of the contest." His flimsy evidence included the rebels' supposed program of "Negro enlistments and consequent emancipation," which is discussed in detail through Bonekemper's text.

Robert E. Lee disavowed slavery's role in the war: "So far from engaging in a war to perpetuate slavery, I am rejoiced that slavery is abolished."

This myth has been put forward by many southern apologists, and characterized best in the text, *Lost Cause*, by Edward Bonekemper, and by the line from British historian--D. W. Brogan, who concludes, Southerners "seceded over one thing and fought over one thing: slavery."

<https://www.historyonthenet.com/what-caused-the-civil-war>



THE DIS-UNITED STATES—A BLACK BUSINESS.

Sectionalism refers to the loyalty many Americans felt towards their own geographic region- the North, South, or West- rather than to the country as a whole.

Sectionalism (as experienced prior to the Civil War)

- ▶ The country begins to be divided over arguments such as slavery, economics, social differences, etc., causing issues over what the role of government should be.
- ▶ Should the central government make decisions or state governments? = **called states' rights.**

Should the central govt or states make decisions on issues of today? Gun laws, marijuana, same sex marriages?



The Northeast saw the rise of manufacturing; the West was populated by independent farmers growing food and raising livestock; the South focused on growing cash crops for export, such as cotton and rice, and remained dependent on the use of slave labor.

North	South	West
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economy based on business and trade• Supported tariffs because they helped them to compete with Britain• Opposed the federal government's sale of public land at cheap prices.• Cheap land caused laborers to move from the North to the West• Opposed Slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economy was based on farming• Southern sold crops to foreign nations• Opposed tariffs because it made imports expensive.• High tariffs angered European trading partners• Supported Slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supported policies that boosted their farming and encouraged further settlement.• Biggest priority was keeping land prices down• Wanted to build better roads and transportation.• Slavery was a major cause of controversy.

19th Century Abolitionists & Reformers wanted to end the practice of slavery & other social ills.

AGE OF REFORM!



The Second Great Awakening:

A renewed interest in religion inspired a wave of social activism. This spiritual revival encouraged the emergence of new denominations.



Temperance Movement:

A movement to encourage people not to drink alcohol. The main leaders were mostly women whom later joined other reform movements.



Women's rights/ Suffrage:

Women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony fought for equal rights and suffrage (voting) for women. Stanton organized the Seneca Falls Convention in New York.



Mentally ill and Prison Reform :

Dorothea Dix fought to improve the conditions and treatment of people in mental asylums and prison.



Education Reform:

A movement to have all children, regardless of background, taught in a common place. This Common-School movement was led by Horace Mann.

ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT



Harriet Beecher Stowe:

Author of the antislavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Her novel influenced many to support the abolitionists movement.



William Lloyd Garrison:

Active abolitionist who published a leading antislavery newspaper, *The Liberator*. Helped found the American Anti-Slavery Society.



Frederick Douglass:

Former slave who became a famous orator (speaker) and published a personal narrative. Supported the abolitionist movement by publishing the newspaper, *The North Star*.



Harriet Tubman:

A former slave who became known as a **Conductor** for freeing more than 300 slaves by helping them escape using the **Underground Railroad**.

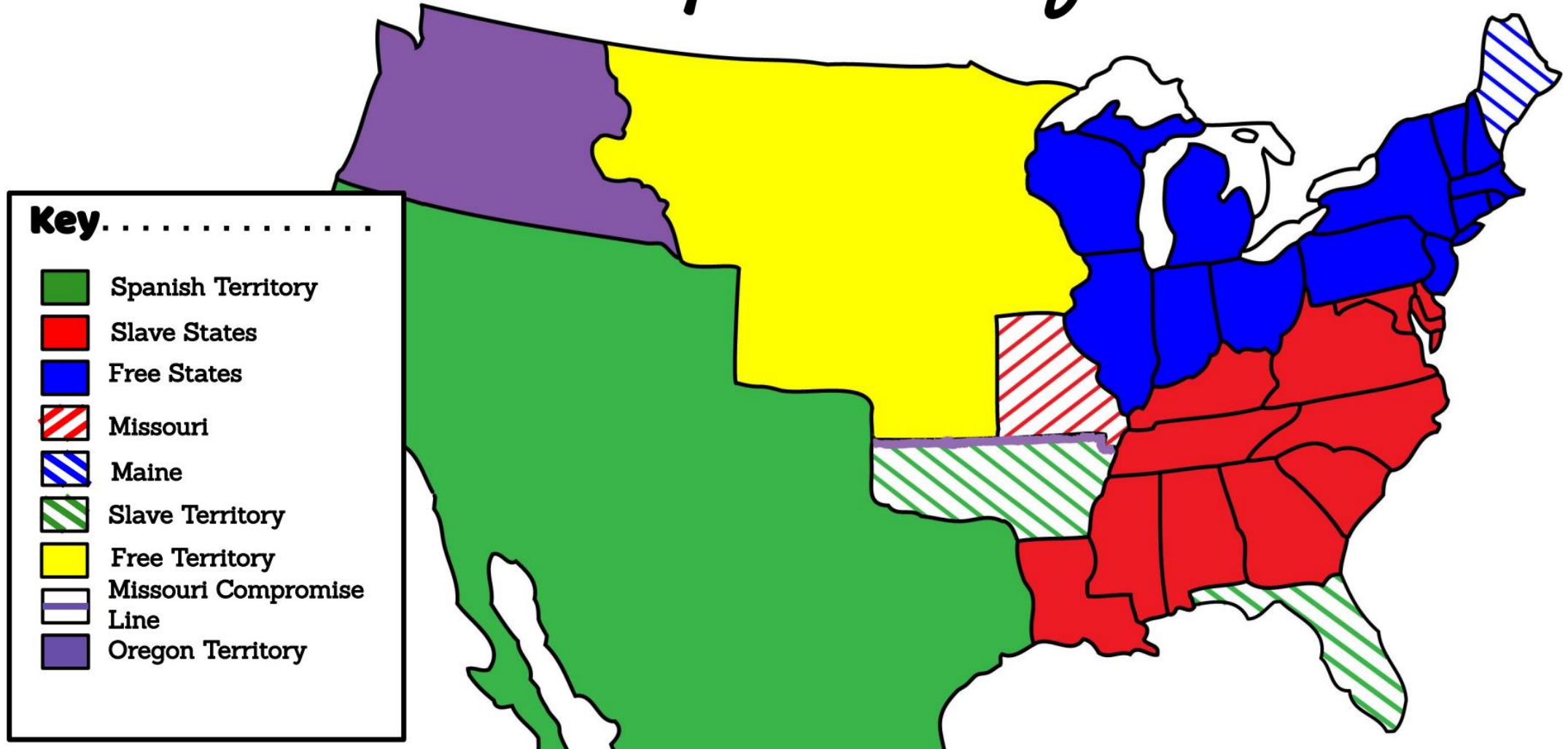


John Brown:

An abolitionists who believed violence was necessary to end slavery. He led a slave revolt at **Harpers Ferry**.

The issue of the extension of slavery to new territories arose as a result of the nation's westward expansion (gaining lands to the west). A series of compromises at first seemed able to resolve the issue. Under the Missouri Compromise (1820), Missouri became a slave state and Maine became a free state. Slavery was not otherwise to be permitted in the lands of the Louisiana Purchase above 36°30'N.

The Missouri Compromise of 1820



In the Compromise of 1850, California was admitted as a free state and a stricter fugitive slave law was enacted.

The Compromise

For the North...	For the South...
California would be added to the Union as a free state.	The Fugitive Slave Act was passed - This act made it easier for slaveholders to find and take back their slaves.
The slave trade in Washington D.C. ended (slavery didn't).	The Mexican Cession was divided into two territories - New Mexico and Utah - both would decide the issue of slavery by popular sovereignty.
Finally, a border dispute between Texas and New Mexico was decided in favor of New Mexico.	

Will this compromise survive? Will I?



Old Henry Clay

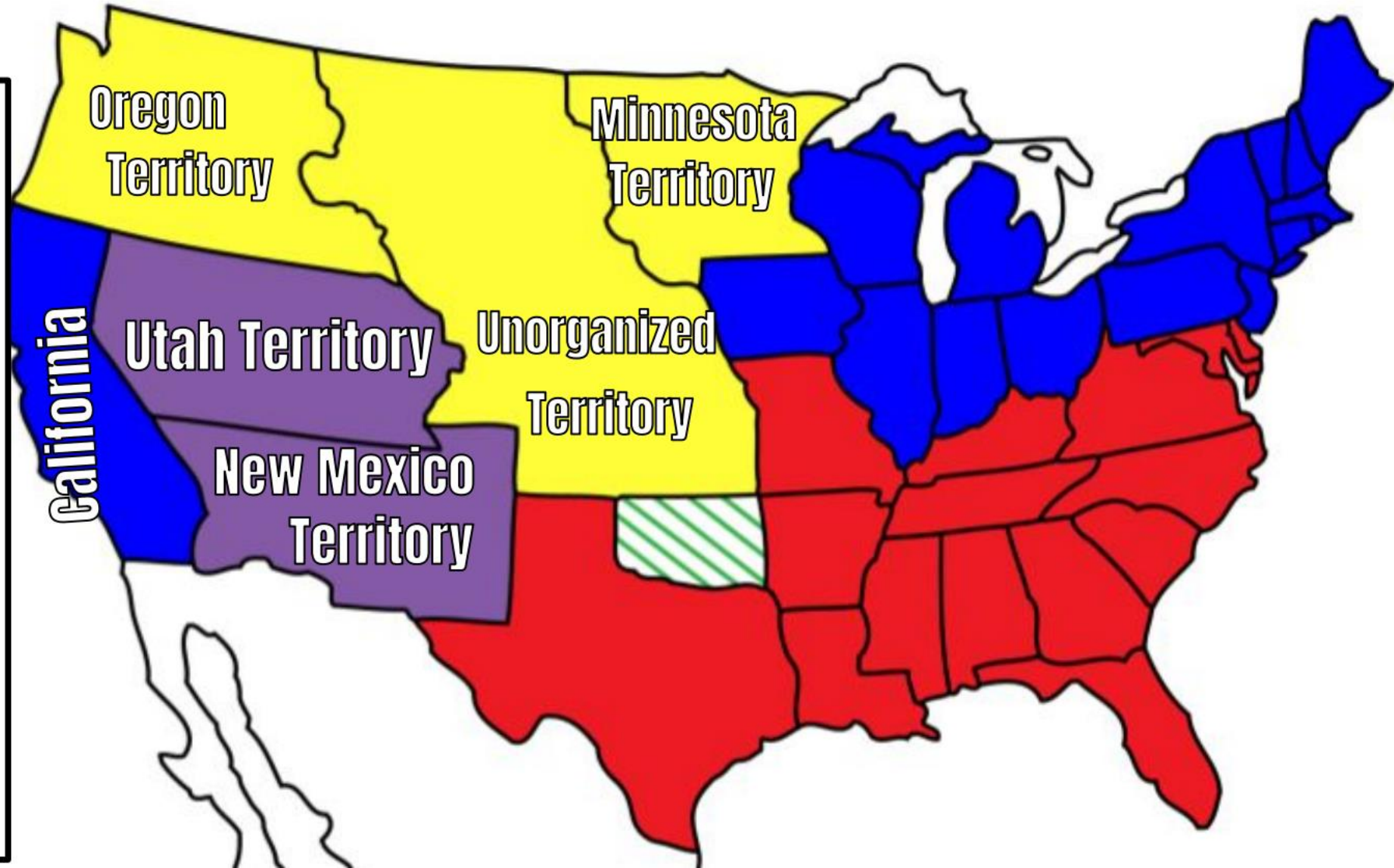
The Compromise of 1850

Label the Following:

- Utah Territory
- New Mexico Territory
- California
- Unorganized Territory
- Oregon Territory
- Minnesota Territory

Key

-  Slave States
-  Free States
-  Indian Territory
-  Free Territory
-  Mexican Cession - now open to popular sovereignty



The system of compromise broke down with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), which reopened the issue of slavery in territories from the Louisiana Purchase, and the Dred Scott decision (1857).

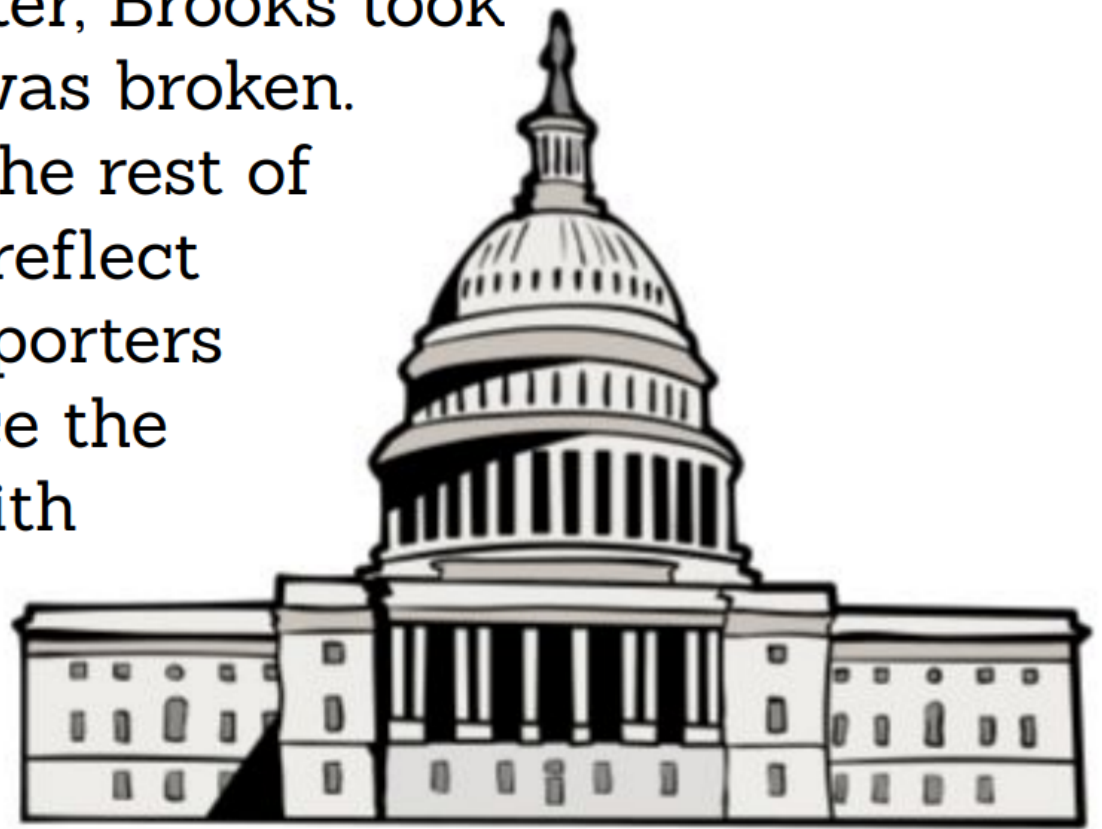
The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854

The Northern territory in the Louisiana Purchase had been classified as official Indian Territory since the territory became part of the U.S. However, in 1854, Senator Stephen Douglas proposed dividing the land into two areas - Kansas and Nebraska. Both would decide the issue of slavery through popular sovereignty. Douglass wanted to open up the land so that the transcontinental railroad could pass through.

While the act made it through Congress, it only encouraged more controversy. Soon, Kansas became a breeding ground for political violence. Settlers, both pro and anti-slavery, poured over the border of Kansas to support or oppose slavery. Two governments were set up, one supported slavery and the other was against it. Violence broke out between pro and anti-slavery settlers, and Kansas become known as "bleeding Kansas."



Washington D.C. - The halls of Congress also saw an outbreak of violence. When Charles Sumner, an abolitionist Senator from Massachusetts, gave a speech titled "The Crime against Kansas," he was assaulted by a Representative, Preston Brooks. Brooks felt that Sumner has insulted Brooks' uncle in the speech. Two days later, Brooks took his cane, and hit Sumner until his cane was broken. Sumner's injuries would impact him for the rest of his life. The reactions to Brooks' assault reflect how divided the nation has become. Supporters actually sent Brooks new canes to replace the one he had broken. One was engraved with the words "hit him again."



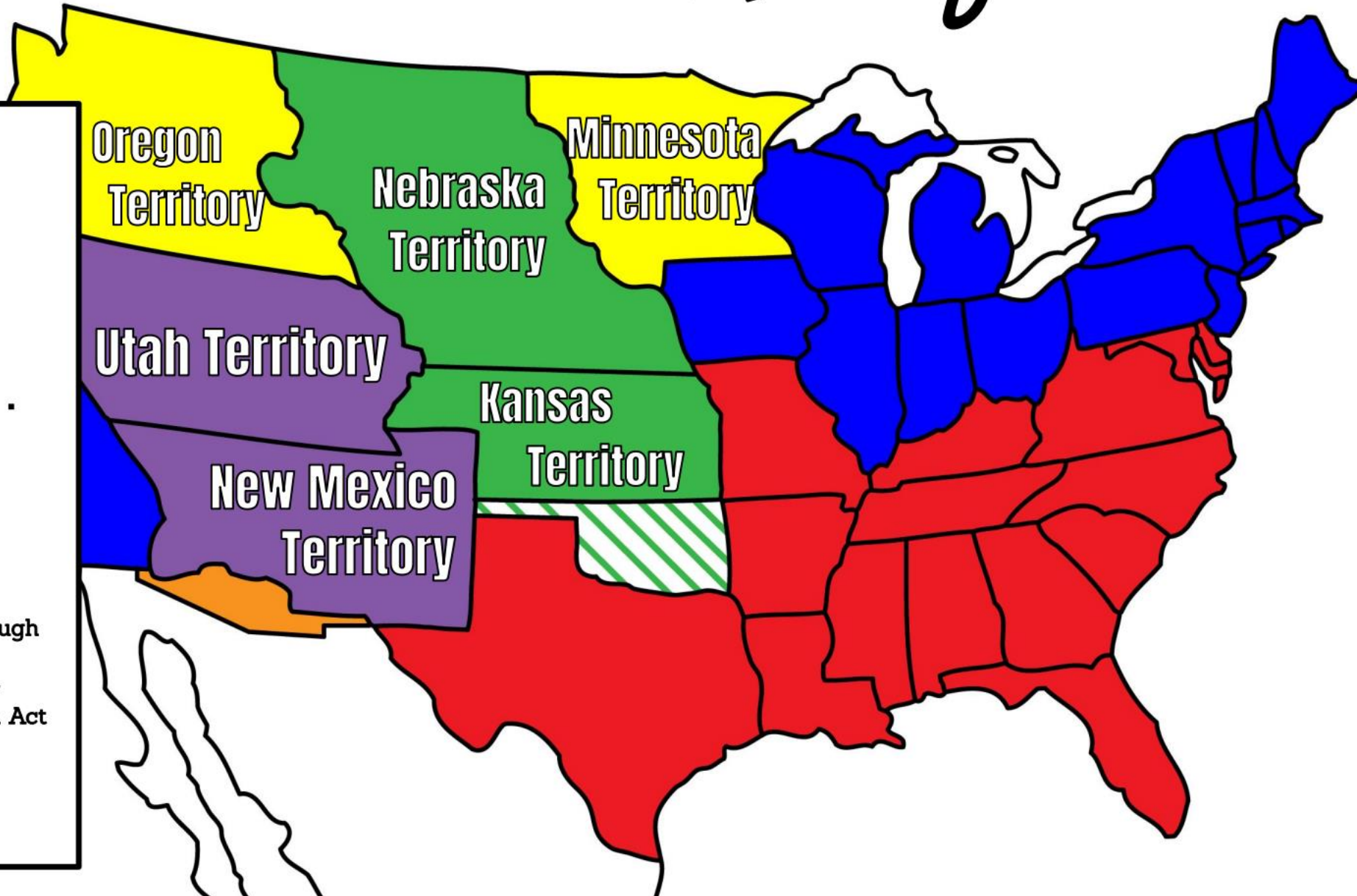
The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854

Label the Following:

- Utah Territory
- New Mexico Territory
- Nebraska Territory
- Kansas Territory
- Oregon Territory
- Minnesota Territory

Key

-  Slave States
-  Free States
-  Free Territory
-  Territory open to slavery through the Compromise of 1850
-  New Territory open to slavery through the Kansas-Nebraska Act
-  Indian Territory
-  The Gadsden Purchase



In Dred Scott v. Sanford, the Supreme Court ruled that African Americans had no rights and Congress could not prohibit slavery in western territories.

Chief Justice Roger Taney and six other Justices ruled that Missouri Compromise was illegal because Congress had no power to prohibit slavery in the territories, and slave masters were guaranteed property rights under the Fifth Amendment.

The Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution reads as follows: "Nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." (eminent domain)

DRED SCOTT DECISION

• **Supreme Court hands down the Dred Scott decision**

• **North refused to enforce Fugitive Slave Law**

• **Free states pass personal liberty laws.**

• **Republicans claim the decision is not binding**

• **Southerners call on the North to accept the decision if the South is to remain in the Union.**

- **Slaves cannot sue the U.S. for their freedom because they are property.**
- **They are not citizens and have no legal right under the Constitution.**
- **Supreme Court legalized slavery by saying that**
 - **Congress could not stop a slaveowner from moving his slaves to a new territory**
 - **Missouri Compromise and all other compromises were unconstitutional**

In his *Freeport Doctrine*, Stephen Douglas argued communities could still ban slavery despite the Dred Scott decision. Regardless of the Compromise of 1850, or the case of Dred Scott v. Sanford, states/communities could ban slavery on their own.

DOUGLAS STATES THE “FREEPORT DOCTRINE”

- IF STATES DO NOT ADOPT SLAVE CODES SLAVERY CANNOT SURVIVE.
- DOUGLAS WINS THE ELECTION
- BUT LINCOLN BECOMES NATIONALLY KNOWN
- A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN 1860.

Meanwhile, Southern diplomats hoped to annex Cuba as a new slave state, as revealed in the document known as the Ostend Manifesto.

Anti-slavery Northern states were appalled at the notion.

Southern leaders also feared that a slave revolt in Spanish-owned Cuba could spread to the U.S. This would solve the potential problem.

THE OSTEND MANIFESTO 1854



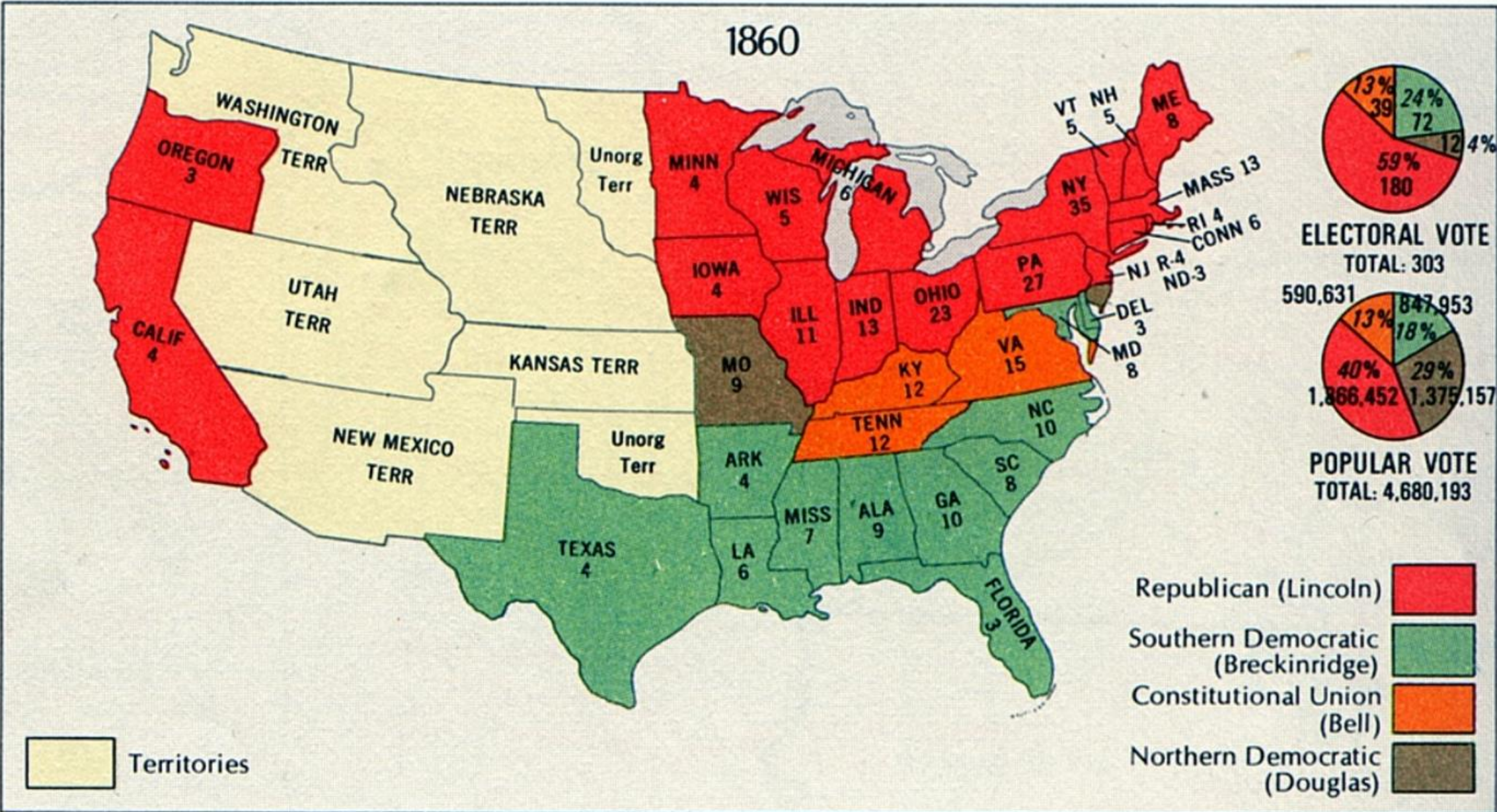
IF SPAIN WILL NOT SELL
CUBA WE SHOULD SIMPLY
TAKE IT.

PIERCE WANTS CUBA AS A
SLAVE STATE TO BALANCE
SENATE.

ANTI-SLAVE FORCES
DENOUNCE THE OSTEND
MANIFESTO.

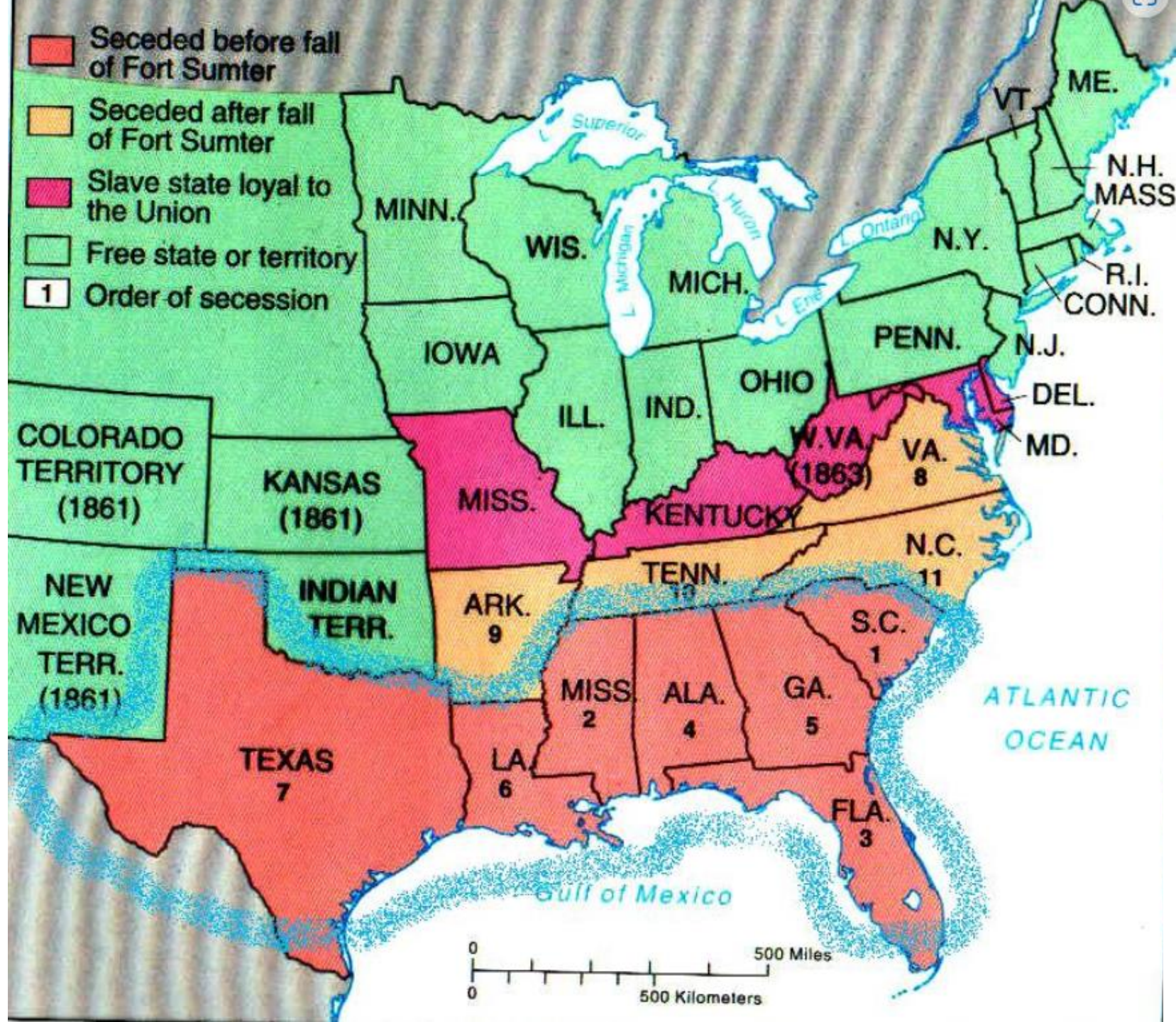
PIERCE BACKS DOWN.

In the Presidential election of 1860, Democrats were divided. Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln won the election with only 39% of the popular vote and no electoral votes from Southern states.

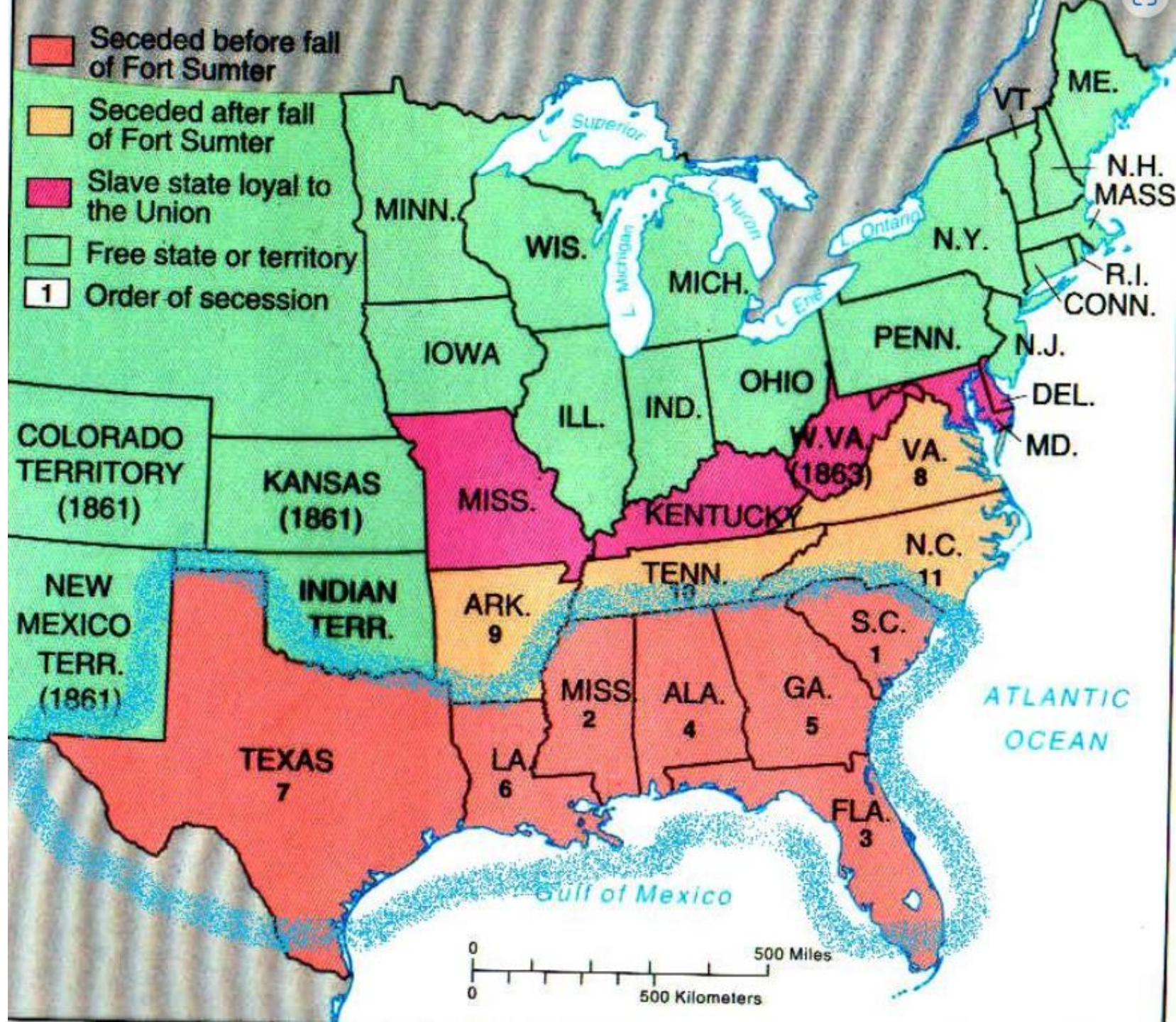


Following Lincoln's victory in December of 1860, South Carolina and six other Southern states immediately seceded (withdrew from the Union) on the basis of states rights, if you take them at their word. Most scholars believe that the singular reason for secession was to defend slavery.

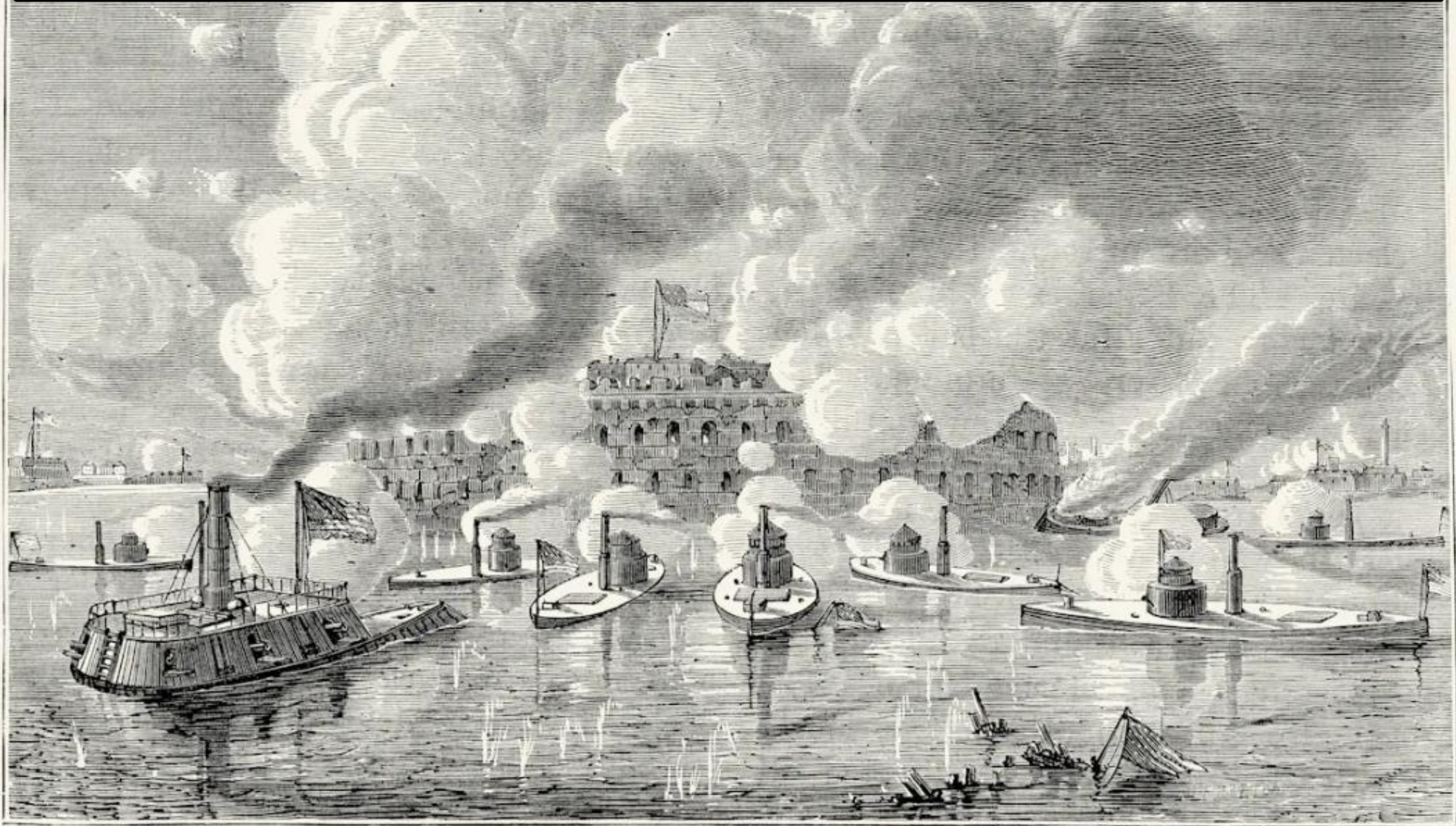
The seceding states formed the Confederate States of America, and included Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.



During the spring of 1861, four more states seceded—Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina.



In his inaugural address, Lincoln called on Southern states to remain in the Union and promised not to end slavery in the South. When he sent supplies to Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina fired on the fort, beginning the Civil War.

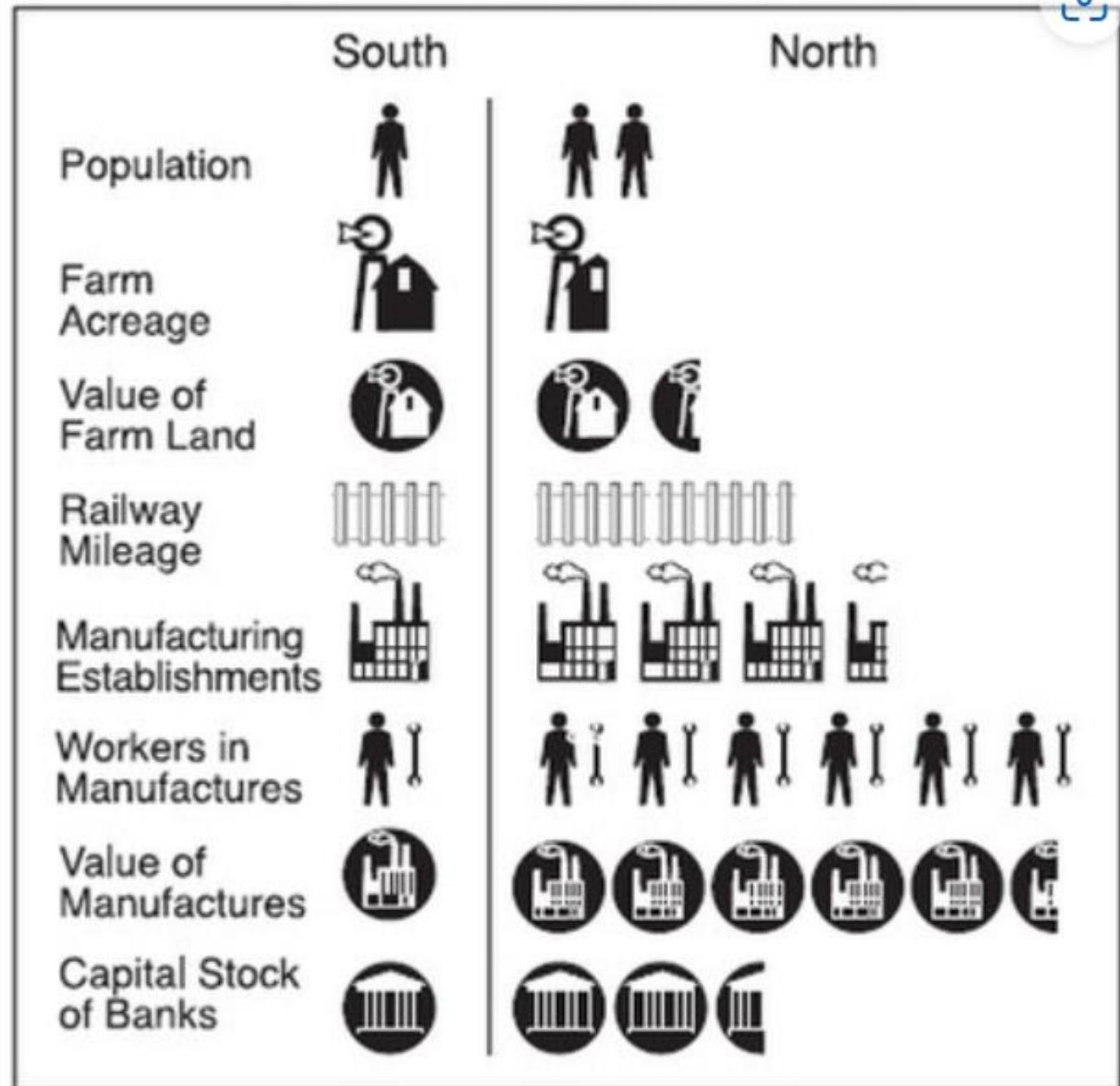


ATTACK ON FORT SUMTER.



The Year 1860: A Comparison

The North had many advantages: a larger population, greater revenues, more railroad lines and factories, and superior naval power.



The South had its military traditions and the fact that white Southerners were fighting to preserve their way of life. The existence of a large population of Southern slaves created an additional element of uncertainty, while the South's specialized export economy (often derisively referred to as a *banana republic*, and devotion to states rights, at the expense of any centralized leadership, further weakened the Confederacy.

British historian, John Keegan notes, "many Southerners had no personal connection with slavery at all, neither as owners of slaves nor as employers of their labour. The considerable slave owners were ... often resented by their non-slave-owning neighbours, though that did not deter them from joining in their thousands in the new Confederate army." So why would these poor, non-slave owners fight?

Shelby Foote, author of *The Civil War: A Narrative* (3 vols.) offers an explanation for the motive of the Confederate soldier in Chapter Three ("Forever Free") of Ken Burns' documentary *The Civil War*:

The answer a Southerner would give you as to "why are you are fighting?" if you were a Northerner, he would say: "I'm fighting because you're down here." He was being invaded and he thought ... to defend his home.

"Because you're here" seems both a legitimate reason to fight a war, and also a sound precept for preventing one. It illuminates the true nature and folly of many of our historic conflicts.

In the early campaigns, the South repelled Northern invasions, but could not successfully advance into the North itself. Meanwhile the North applied General Winfield Scott's *Anaconda Plan* to strangle the South - imposing a naval blockade of the Atlantic Coast and attempting to obtain control of the Mississippi River.

The “Anaconda Plan”

The Union’s strategy:

- Naval blockade from Louisiana to Virginia
- Control of the Mississippi River
- Capture Richmond

Confederate strategy primarily defensive



In September 1862, Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. It announced the emancipation of slaves in those states still in rebellion on January 1, 1863.



The turning point of the war was reached in 1863, when the North defeated Southern forces at Gettysburg (Pennsylvania) and General Ulysses S. Grant captured Vicksburg, gaining control of the Mississippi. Lincoln put Grant in supreme command of Union forces. Grant aimed at destroying Confederate forces and their sources of support. In his Gettysburg Address, Lincoln said the war was a test of democracy.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

November 19, 1863

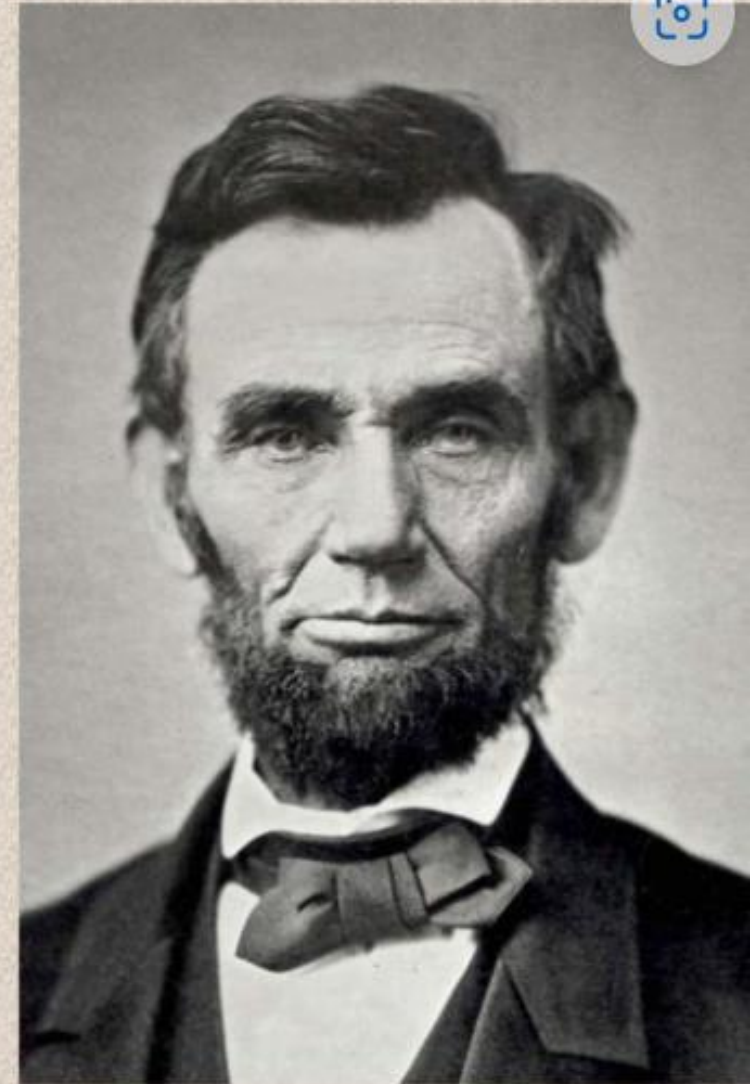
At the Dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

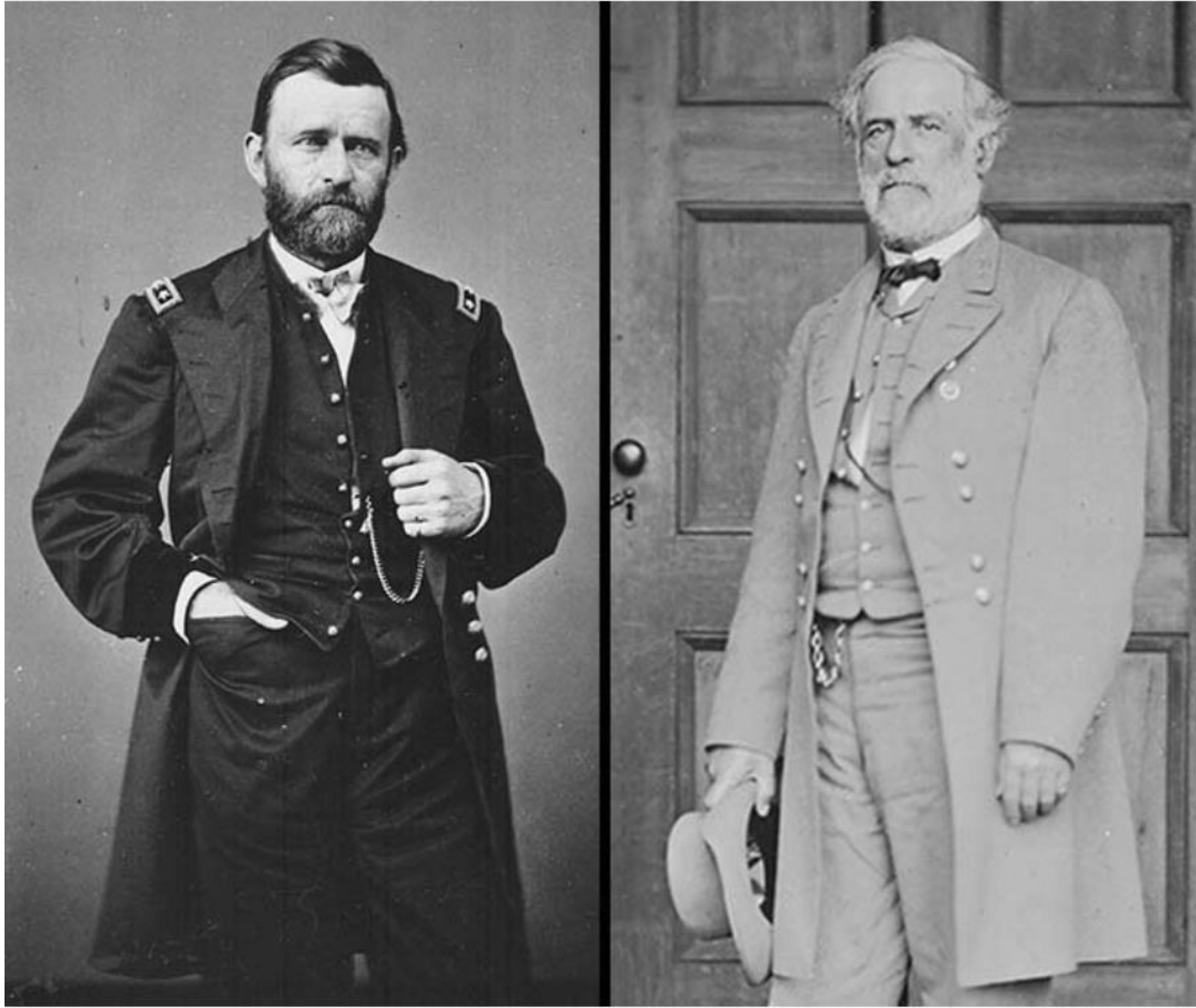
Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate – we can not consecrate – we can not hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln



In April 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. Less than a week later, President Lincoln was assassinated.



The Civil War Ended slavery, preserved the Union, and strengthened the federal government.

The Civil War

The Civil War put constitutional government to its most important test as the debate over the power of the federal government versus states' rights reached a climax. The survival of the United States as one nation was at risk, and the nation's ability to bring to reality the ideals of liberty, equality, and justice depended on the outcome of the war.