

NATION: Clay's Compromise of 1850

Compromise of 1850 Saves Union

Washington, D.C., 1850

The battle in Congress is over. Once again, **Henry Clay** has pulled the North and South together.

The **Compromise of 1850** settles the latest fight over slavery. In a compromise, each side gets a little and each side gives a little. Both North and South are happy with this compromise.

The North gets:

- California added to the union as a free state.
- Popular sovereignty in the lands the U.S. won from Mexico. [Popular sovereignty gives the

people, not Congress, the right to choose slavery for their state.]

■ A stop to bringing new slaves into Washington, D.C.

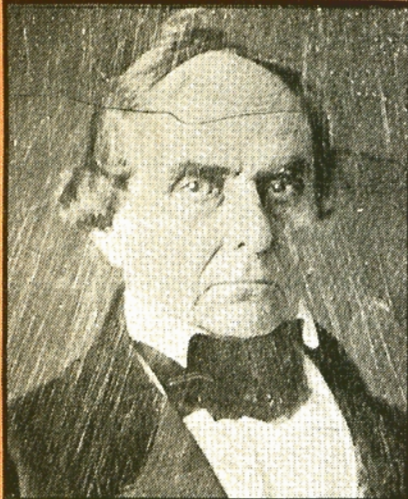
The South gets:

- To keep the slaves they have in Washington, D.C.
- To bring runaway slaves back to the South with a stronger fugitive slave law.

For 30 years, Congress has kept the Union together with compromises. Earlier compromises worked to keep the same number of **free states** [slavery not allowed] and **slave states** [slavery is allowed]. Before 1850, there

were 15 free states and 15 slave states.

But the Compromise of 1850 is different. California is a free state. There now are 16 free states and 15 slave states.



Daniel Webster

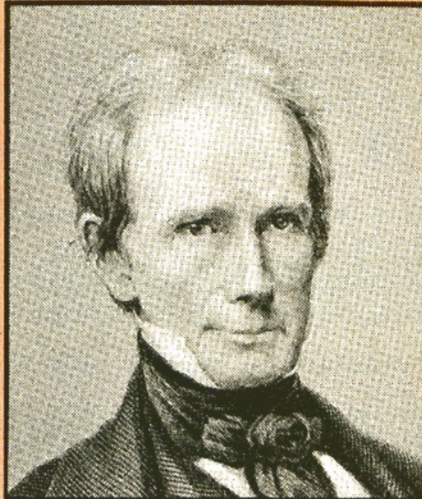
Who: Federalist senator from Massachusetts.

When: Came to Congress in 1813.

Background: Lawyer; a fiery speaker.

Which Side: Spoke for the North and against slavery.

For: The Compromise of 1850.



Henry Clay

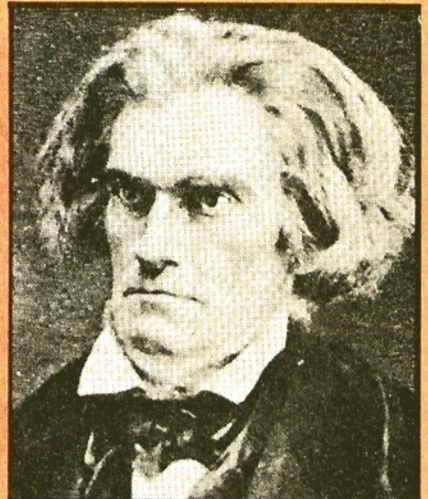
Who: Republican senator from Kentucky.

When: Came to Congress in 1811.

Background: Trained in law; a calming speaker.

Which Side: Tried to keep the North and South together.

Compromises: Known as the "Great Compromiser" because he brought the North and South together in the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850.



John C. Calhoun

Who: Republican Senator from South Carolina.

When: Came to Congress in 1811.

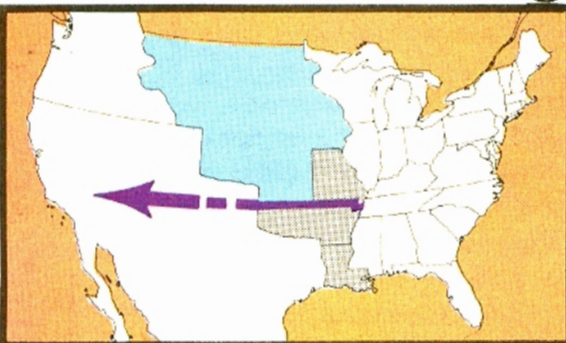
Background: Lawyer and powerful speaker.

Which Side: Spoke for the South and states' rights. Said Congress had no right to stop slavery in the Southwest.

Against: Compromise of 1850.

NATION: Kansas-Nebraska Act

Kansas-Nebraska Act Passes—Fighting in Kansas

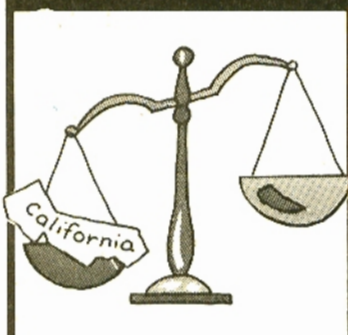


What happened in the Missouri Compromise (1820)?

Set a 36°30' line across the U.S.

South of this line, territories that became states could have slaves.

North of this line, territories that became states could not have slaves.



What happened in the Compromise of 1850?

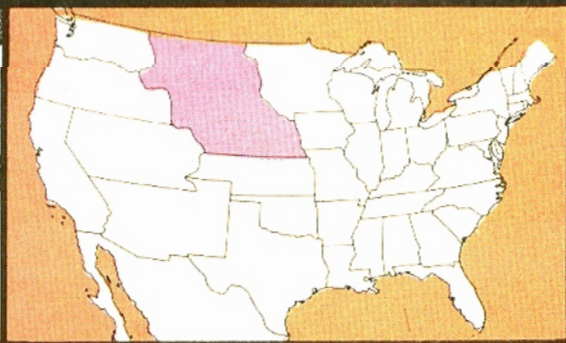
Let California into the Union as a free state.

Let settlers in the new Mexican Territory decide for themselves if they wanted slavery.

Shifted the balance of power between slave and free states in favor of the North.

Stopped slave trading in Washington, D.C., but let people in Washington keep their slaves.

Gave the South a tough, new fugitive slave law to bring back runaway slaves.



What happened in the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)?

Erased the 36°30' line set by the Missouri Compromise.

Let settlers in the Kansas and Nebraska territories decide for themselves if they wanted slavery.

Kansas, 1856

U.S. troops are trying to stop the killing in **“bleeding Kansas.”** Northern and Southern settlers are fighting there over slavery.

The fighting broke out after the Kansas-Nebraska Act passed in 1854. **The Kansas-Nebraska Act** says:

- The line set by the Missouri Compromise no longer divides free states from slave states.

- The people who settle in Kansas and Nebraska can decide if they want slavery [popular sovereignty].

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act passed:

- The North got angry. They did not want slavery in the West. Anti-slavery people raced to settle Kansas to get control of the government.

- The South was happy. The Kansas-Nebraska Act could open the West to slavery. Pro-slavery people rushed to Kansas to form a government allowing slavery.

Two governments have been formed. One is for slavery. One is against slavery. The fighting goes on between pro-slavery settlers and anti-slavery settlers.

Republican Party to Fight Slavery

Michigan, 1854

A new political party has been formed to fight slavery—the **Republican Party**.

Other political parties—Democrats, Whigs, and Free-Soilers—are not fighting slavery. They don't want to lose the Southern vote.

NATION: Leading to the Break

Uncle Tom's Cabin Angers South



The South, 1852
Southern slave owners cry, "Un-fair! *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is making

people want to help slaves run away!" The book, written by a northern white woman named **Harriet Beecher Stowe**, tells how bad slavery is.

In the story, Uncle Tom is an old slave. His owner beats him to death. Eliza, another slave, risks her life to run away.

Uncle Tom's Cabin says slave owners:

- Work slaves too hard.
- Beat slaves who do not obey.
- Break up slave families by selling mothers, fathers, and children separately.
- Kill slaves who run away.

Slave owners say the book is unfair:

- Most slave owners are kind to their slaves.
- In fact, two of Uncle Tom's owners were kind.

Ostend Manifesto—Secret Plan to Gain Land

Ostend, Belgium, 1854

U.S. officials have made a secret plan to get more land. This plan is the **Ostend Manifesto**. It says:

- The U.S. should buy Cuba.
- If Spain won't sell Cuba, the U.S. should take it by force.

The South likes the plan. Cuba could become the next slave state. Then the number of free and slave states would be even.

The North hates the plan. Northerners don't want even one more slave state.

President Franklin Pierce is also against the plan.

Dred Scott Decision Angers North

Washington, D.C., 1857

The Supreme Court has ruled on the side of slave owners. **Dred Scott** is not a free man. He is property.

Dred Scott is a slave from Missouri. His owner took him into a free state and into free territory. After four years, his owner took him back to Missouri.

Dred Scott claimed he was a free man because he had lived on free land. His case went to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Roger Taney ruled:

- Dred Scott does not become free by living in a free state.



■ Dred Scott is not a citizen of the U.S. or the state of Missouri.

■ Dred Scott has no right to sue in a state or federal court.

■ Dred Scott, like all slaves, is property. If slaves are property, the Missouri Compromise is unconstitutional. Slaves can be taken anywhere in the U.S. and not be free.

Lincoln Loses Debates to Douglas

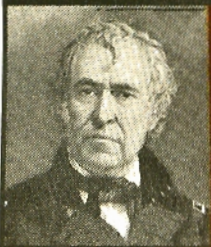
Illinois, 1858

Stephen Douglas has been re-elected to Congress after beating **Abraham Lincoln** in debates here. [Debates are public arguments.] But Lincoln still may be a winner:

The debates made Lincoln:

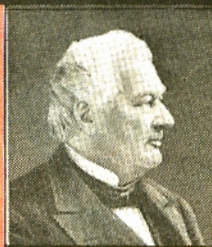
- Known to people across the U.S.
- Liked by the people for his wit and wisdom.
- A clear leader against slavery.
- Able to run for president in 1860.

PRESIDENTS in the News



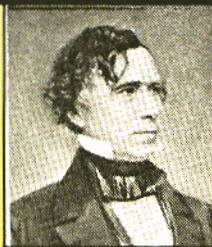
Zachary
Taylor #12

1849-1850
He opposed the spread of slavery in the West.



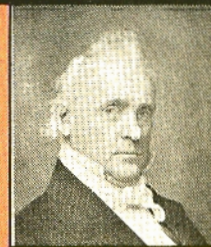
Millard
Fillmore #13

1850-1853
He signed the Compromise of 1850 into law.



Franklin
Pierce #14

1853-1857
He signed the Kansas-Nebraska Act into law.



James
Buchanan #15

1857-1861
The Dred Scott Decision was handed down during his term in office.

NATION: War is Soon

John Brown Hanged for Harper's Ferry Attack

Harper's Ferry, Virginia, 1859

John Brown has been found guilty of murder and treason—and has been hanged.

John Brown was a northern white man who hated slavery. But he went too far.

His crime:

- Attacking U.S. Marines at **Harper's Ferry** to get guns.
- Planning to lead slaves in a

war against owners.

■ Killing five men in cold blood in an earlier fight in Kansas.

Most Northerners say John Brown was wrong. They do not want to use guns and killing to end slavery.

But some Northerners say John Brown was a good man because he tried to free slaves. They are calling him a hero and a

saint.

Southerners are afraid and angry. Many think the North will now try to free the slaves through war.

John Brown's raid means:

- The time for talk is over.
- War between the North and South may start soon.

Will The U.S. Break Over Slavery?

A look at the steps leading to a break between the North and South.

1850: Compromise of 1850

Clay's compromise:

- Admits California into the Union as a free state.
- Lets new settlers to the Mexican Territory make up their own minds on slavery. **Calms both North and South.**

1852: Uncle Tom's Cabin

A book about the life of a slave. Slavery is seen as cruel and inhuman. **Stirs up both North and South.**

1854: Ostend Manifesto

The plan of some Americans to make Cuba a new slave state. **The North hates it, the South likes it.**

1854: Kansas-Nebraska Act

Opens up Kansas and Nebraska to slavery—if people vote for slavery. **Settlers from both North and South race to Kansas—to get the most votes for their side.**

1856: "Bleeding Kansas"

The race to get the most votes boils over. **Settlers from North and South begin killing one another.**

1857: Dred Scott Decision

The Supreme Court rules Dred Scott, a slave, is not a citizen. He is property. He has no rights.

It also makes the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional. Slaves can now be taken anywhere in the U.S.—and never be free.

1859: John Brown's Raid

John Brown raids Harper's Ferry. He plans to take the guns and give them to slaves to fight against their owners. **War now seems certain.**

