The 1850s and the End of Compromise
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Topics of Consideration

I. Harriett Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852)

II. The Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

III. Creation of the Republican Party (1854-56)

IV. George Fitzhugh, *Sociology for the South* (1854)

V. Dred Scott case (1857)

VI. John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry (1859)

VII. The Election of 1860 and Secession
The 1850s and the End of Compromise

I. Harriett Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852)

- HBS born in Connecticut in 1811
- Daughter of Rev. Lyman Beecher – Calvinist
- Father President Lane Theological Seminary
- HBS taught at Lane for a time
- Married Prof. Calvin E. Stowe, Bible scholar, 7 children
- 1850, moved to Bowdoin College at Andover, Mass.
- 1851, UTC in *The National Era*, abolitionist paper
- 1852, published as a book – international bestseller
- Theme one: effect of slavery on morality and family
- Theme two: Christianity as force to overcome adversity.
- Heightened tensions between North and South
The 1850s and the End of Compromise

II. The Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

a. Stephen A. Douglas, chair Senate Committee on Territories
b. 1854: promotes bill to organize Kansas & Nebraska territories
c. Promotes popular sovereignty for 2 territories
d. Reasons: Railroad, Presidency, Needs Southerners
e. Debate = Repeal of Missouri Compromise
f. Sets off national debate
g. Bleeding Kansas, 1854-1856
The 1850s and the End of Compromise

III. Creation of the Republican Party (1854-56)

a. The extension of slavery into the territories split the 2 parties
b. Opponents of Kansas–Nebraska Act organized the Republican party.
c. Birthplace: Jackson, Michigan, July 6, 1854
d. Conglomeration of different groups: Know-Nothings, Free-Soilers, Abolitionists, anti-Nebraska Democrats.
e. Initial Leaders: William Seward, John Fremont
f. National organization solidified: Pittsburgh, 1856
g. First presidential candidate: John C. Fremont
h. “Free Labor, Free Soil, Free Men”
i. Opposed repeal of the Missouri Compromise, extension of slavery, and the Supreme Court’s decision in the Dred Scott
j. Favored the admission of Kansas as a free state.
The 1850s and the End of Compromise

IV. George Fitzhugh, Sociology for the South (1854)

a. George Fitzhugh a resident of Port Royal, Virginia
b. Practiced law and struggled as a small planter
c. Celebrated Southern Slavery
d. Critic of Northern Free Economy
e. North: free labor spelled class war and anarchy
f. South: perfect example of communism
g. Defense of slavery alarmed Republicans
h. Roused Southerners to new defense of slavery.
i. End of his life moved to Huntsville, Texas
j. Buried in Oakwood Cemetery
k. Grandson Marcellus Foster, founder Houston Chronicle
Huntsville's Department Store

Open April 4, 1893

The following departments are full to overflowing, bought direct from the manufacturers:

Dress Goods, Staples, Housefurnishings, Leather, Shoes, Men's and Ladies' Hats, Furnishing and Clothing, Notions, Cameras, and all photographic supplies.

Make This Store Your Headquarters.

A Modern Department Store.

Modern Equipment, Modern Business Methods.

From the very beginning of our career we have strongly advocated the many and superior advantages of the Cash over the Credit system.

We did this because we knew from practical experience that the only way to buy goods right—to buy them cheap—to own them at such prices that we could compete with any and all competition, was to buy them for cash.

We have followed this system from the very beginning—because it pays.

It pays you as well as it pays us, from the fact that we save you, at all seasons of the year, from 25 to 40 per cent on regular prices.

We can always effect this saving for you, and it lays with yourself to put the matter to the test or not.

The above methods enable you to buy newer and better goods for less money than at any other point in the State of Texas.

Interior View Foster Bros.' Store.

Wholesale and Retail. Leaders of Low Prices.

Foster Bros.

Huntsville, Tex.

Spot Cash. One Price to the World.
Marcellus Elliott Foster,
Day Editor Houston Post.

The above named journalist is a Kentuckian by birth, but lived in Huntsville from early boyhood until he attained majority. His first experience in a newspaper office was acquired under the founder of the Huntsville Item, Mr. George Robinson, with whom Mr. Foster was a great favorite.

As soon as his age would admit he entered the Sam Houston Normal Institute, from which he graduated with honor two years later. He then spent a year of study at the State University in Austin, acting at the same time as a contributor to several of the leading State papers.

In 1893 he was tendered a position on the staff of the Houston Daily Post. Here his work is proving most satisfactory, and some of his editorials, regarding the commercial situation of the South, and of Houston as a commercial gateway, have been widely copied North and East, and have elicited much favorable comment.

Mr. Foster’s parents are residents of Huntsville, also his two brothers, Messrs. F. H. and Arthur, who compose the firm of Foster Brothers, owners of one of the largest dry goods houses in the city. Mrs. Foster, mother of Marcellus E. Foster, was Miss Mary Ella Fitzhugh, a daughter of George Fitzhugh of Virginia, who, in by-gone days, was a contributor to the Review and other periodicals.
The 1850s and the End of Compromise

V. Dred Scott case (1857)

a. Scott born around 1800
b. Scott migrated westward with his master, Peter Blow.
c. Traveled from Virginia to Alabama to St. Louis, Missouri.
d. 1832: Scott’s master dies
e. Bought by John Emerson, and taken to Illinois (free state)
f. 1836: Scott taken to Wisconsin territory
g. Later: Scott goes to Louisiana
h. After Emerson’s death in 1843, Scott seeks freedom
i. 1847: Trial begins – Scott v. Sanford (name Sanford)
j. 1856: Case heard at Supreme Court of US
k. Decision . . . .
VI. John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry (1859)

a. Leader of Pottawatomie Massacre in Kansas, 1856
b. Harper’s Ferry Virginia
c. Slave Rebellion
d. Executed in Virginia
e. Martyr for abolitionists
VII. The Election of 1860 and Secession

a. Lincoln’s Position on Slavery
b. Split in Democratic Party
   - Northern – Stephen Douglas
   - Southern – John C. Breckinridge
c. Constitutional Union Party – John Bell
Abraham Lincoln to Joshua Speed, August 24, 1855

You know I dislike slavery; and you fully admit the abstract wrong of it. So far there is no cause of difference. But you say that sooner than yield your legal right to the slave -- especially at the bidding of those who are not themselves interested, you would see the Union dissolved. I am not aware that any one is bidding you to yield that right; very certainly I am not. I leave that matter entirely to yourself. I also acknowledge your rights and my obligations, under the constitution, in regard to your slaves. I confess I hate to see the poor creatures hunted down, and caught, and carried back to their stripes, and unrewarded toils; but I bite my lip and keep quiet. In 1841 you and I had together a tedious low-water trip, on a Steam Boat from Louisville to St. Louis. You may remember, as I well do, that from Louisville to the mouth of the Ohio there were, on board, ten or a dozen slaves, shackled together with irons. That sight was a continual torment to me; and I see something like it every time I touch the Ohio, or any other slave-border. It is hardly fair to you to assume, that I have no interest in a thing which has, and continually exercises, the power of making me miserable. You ought rather to appreciate how much the great body of the Northern people do crucify their feelings, in order to maintain their loyalty to the constitution and the Union.

I do oppose the extension of slavery, because my judgment and feelings so prompt me; and I am under no obligation to the contrary.

(II, 320)
Abraham Lincoln, First Debate with Stephen A. Douglas at Ottawa, Illinois, August 21, 1858 (excerpt)

I hate [indifference to slavery] because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world - enables the enemies of free institutions, with plausibility, to taunt us as hypocrites…. Before proceeding, let me say I think I have no prejudice against the Southern people. They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not now exist among them, they would not introduce it. If it did now exist amongst us, we should not instantly give it up. …

When [Southern people] remind us of their constitutional rights, I acknowledge them, not grudgingly, but fully and fairly; and I would give them any legislation for the reclaiming of their fugitives, which should not, in its stringency, be more likely to carry a free man into slavery, than our ordinary criminal laws are to hang an innocent one…. But all this, to my judgment, furnishes no more excuse for permitting slavery to go into our own free territory, than it would for reviving the African slave-trade by law…. Now, gentlemen … this is the true complexion of all I have ever said in regard to the institution of slavery and the black race. This is the whole of it…. that I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and the black races. There is a physical difference between the two, which, in my judgment, will probably forever forbid their living together upon the footing of perfect equality, and inasmuch as it becomes a necessity that there must be a difference, I, as well as Judge Douglas, am in favor of the race to which I belong having the superior position. I have never said anything to the contrary, but I hold that, notwithstanding all this, there is no reason in the world why the negro is not entitled to all the natural rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. [Loud cheers.] I hold that he is as much entitled to these as the white man. I agree with Judge Douglas he is not my equal in many respects-certainly not in color, perhaps not in moral or intellectual endowment. But in the right to eat the bread, without the leave of anybody else, which his own hand earns, he is my equal and the equal of Judge Douglas, and the equal of every living man. [Great applause.]
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<th>Party</th>
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<td>John C. Breckinridge</td>
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<td>CONSTITUTIONAL UNION</td>
<td>John Bell</td>
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D. Southern leaders threatened to secede from the Union if Lincoln was elected in 1860.

E. When the election result was clear, THE South Carolina legislature summoned a convention to secede.

F. December, 1860: the convention unanimously passed an ordinance dissolving "the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States."

G. 6 Southern states held conventions and seceded.

H. Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas all left the Union by 1 February 1861.
VII. The Election of 1860 and Secession

1. The establishment of the Confederate States of America on March 11, 1861

J. After secession, delegates from six southern states met in Montgomery, Alabama on 4 February 1861 to set up a provisional government for the Confederate States of America.

K. On 8 February, they adopted a constitution, and the next day the provisional Confederate Congress elected Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as President and Alexander Stephens of Georgia as Vice President.
The eastern portion of Kansas Territory was admitted as the state of Kansas on January 29, 1861. The western portion was not transferred to Colorado Territory until February 28, 1861. It is unclear what the status of this land was during that time, it was also de facto under control of Jefferson Territory.

The Confederate States of America (CSA) was created on February 4, 1861. The states all seceded from the Union and joined the CSA at different dates. Confederate States of America shown in green.

States and Territories of the United States of America
February 4, 1861 to February 28, 1861