

Events Leading to the Civil War

Compromise of 1850

Dred Scott

One state was admitted to the Union as a slave state while another state, Maine, was admitted as a free state to maintain the balance in the Senate. It prohibited slavery north of latitude 36° 30' in the Louisiana Purchase territory, with the exception of the newly admitted slave state, and allowed it south of that line.

The Supreme Court declared that slaves and freed blacks were not citizens of the United States and did not have the right to sue. Additionally, it declared that slaves were property and the government could not restrict where citizens could or could not take their property.

Disagreements erupted over whether land acquired from Mexico after the Mexican-American War would become slave or free states. This agreement admitted California as a free state, and the inhabitants of the territories of New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah would be allowed to decide whether or not to permit slavery in their territories when they applied for statehood. The agreement also included the Fugitive Slave Act

The North supported high tariffs to support their new manufacturing industry while the South opposed the tariffs because they would take away from cotton profits (Britain would impose a retaliatory tariff on cotton). South Carolina threatened to void the tariffs.

Secession

Nullification

Abraham Lincoln is elected president. After the election, the southern states voted one by one to leave the Union.

This act repealed the Missouri Compromise. It allowed settlers in two territories to decide whether they would allow slavery within their borders when they applied for statehood. It allowed for the rise of the Republican Party and split the Democratic Party.

Missouri Compromise

Kansas-Nebraska Act