

Road to Secession Chart

Missouri Compromise (1820)

- Missouri wants to join as slave state which would upset balance of power in congress
- Maine breaks off from MA and joins as a free state – keeps balance at 12/12
- Missouri Compromise Line: Slavery prohibited north of Missouri line, but permitted south of line
- Missouri permitted as a slave state

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Wilmot Proviso (1846)

- Bill to outlaw slavery in territories taken from Mexico (Mexican Cession) Maine breaks off from MA and joins as a free state – keeps balance at 12/12
- Caused conflict in congress between northerners and southerners
- Never passed, but led to Free Soil Party

Road to Secession Chart

Compromise of 1850

- Goal – to end slavery “issue”
- California admitted a free state
- Territory gained in war with Mexico opened to slavery
- Abolished slave trade in Washington D.C
- New Fugitive Slave Law passed – caused conflict by failing to resolve slavery issue

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California Joins the Union (1850)

- Wanted to join as a free state
- California skipped territorial stage because of its large population
- Lead to the Compromise of 1850

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Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852)

- Written by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Written from her own experiences
- Portrayed brutality and hardships of slavery
- Appealed to people on a moral basis

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Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

- Law to organize Kansas and Nebraska territories
- Led to overturning Missouri Compromise
- Caused violence in Kansas
- Popular Sovereignty to decide – the people voted to decide on this issue

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Dred Scott Case (1857)

- Scott was taken by his master to (free) Wisconsin
- Shortly after returning to Missouri, his master died – Scott sued for his freedom
- Case went to Supreme Court: Taney dismissed case saying Scott was not a citizen so he couldn't sue
- Said Scott's suit violated his master's 5th amendment rights

Road to Secession Chart

Election of 1860

- Scott Candidates: Lincoln – Republican
Douglas – Northern Democrat
Breckenridge – Southern Democrat
Bell – Constitutional Union Party
- Lincoln won election
- South seceded (S. Carolina first) because they thought Lincoln was threat to their way of life
- They thought he would abolish slavery even though he said he wouldn't