



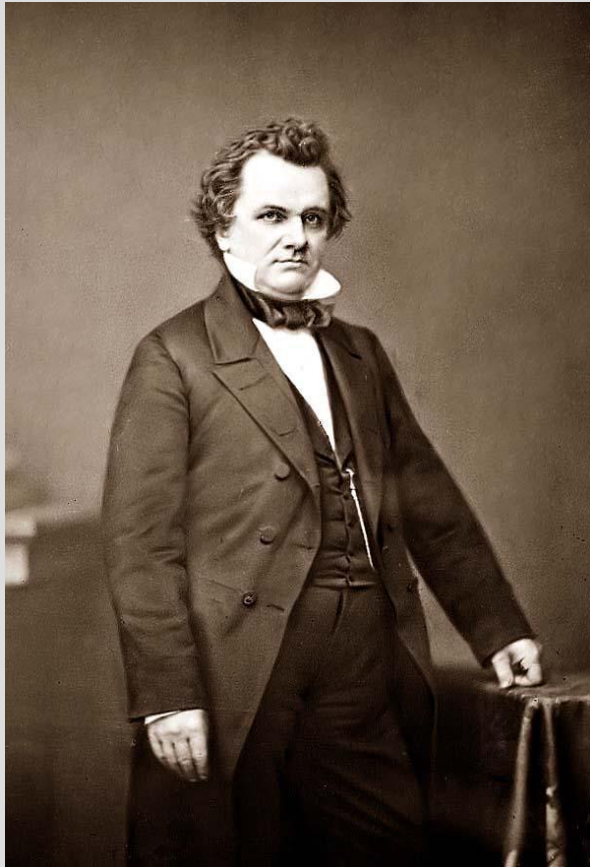
The Kansas-Nebraska Act
1854

[The Slave Issue Reborn!]

- Problems between North and South went from simmer to a boil as the Kansas-Nebraska Act proved to be the last phase toward Civil War.
- With Democrats in control of the Congress and the Presidency the act would have disastrous consequences on the nation.
- Feb. 1854- Sen. Stephen Douglas introduces a bill to **organize** the territory west of Missouri and Iowa.

WHY?

“Oh Why Mr. Douglas, Why?”



Stephen Douglas
“The Little Giant”

- To gain control of the Democratic Party-ambitions of running for President in 1856.
- To spread American culture as stated through manifest destiny
- To build a railroad in the region-eastern terminus in Chicago where he had land holdings.

“Politics As Usual”

- Key to getting bill passed was to get Southern Democratic support.
- Why would this be extremely difficult?



Sen. David Atchison (MO)

- **Successor to Calhoun. Wanted to see territory become slave.**
- **Did not want Missouri to be surrounded by free territory. Entire region lay north of the line.**
- **Atchison bitter over California.**
- **Atchison keeps pressing the issue for South.**

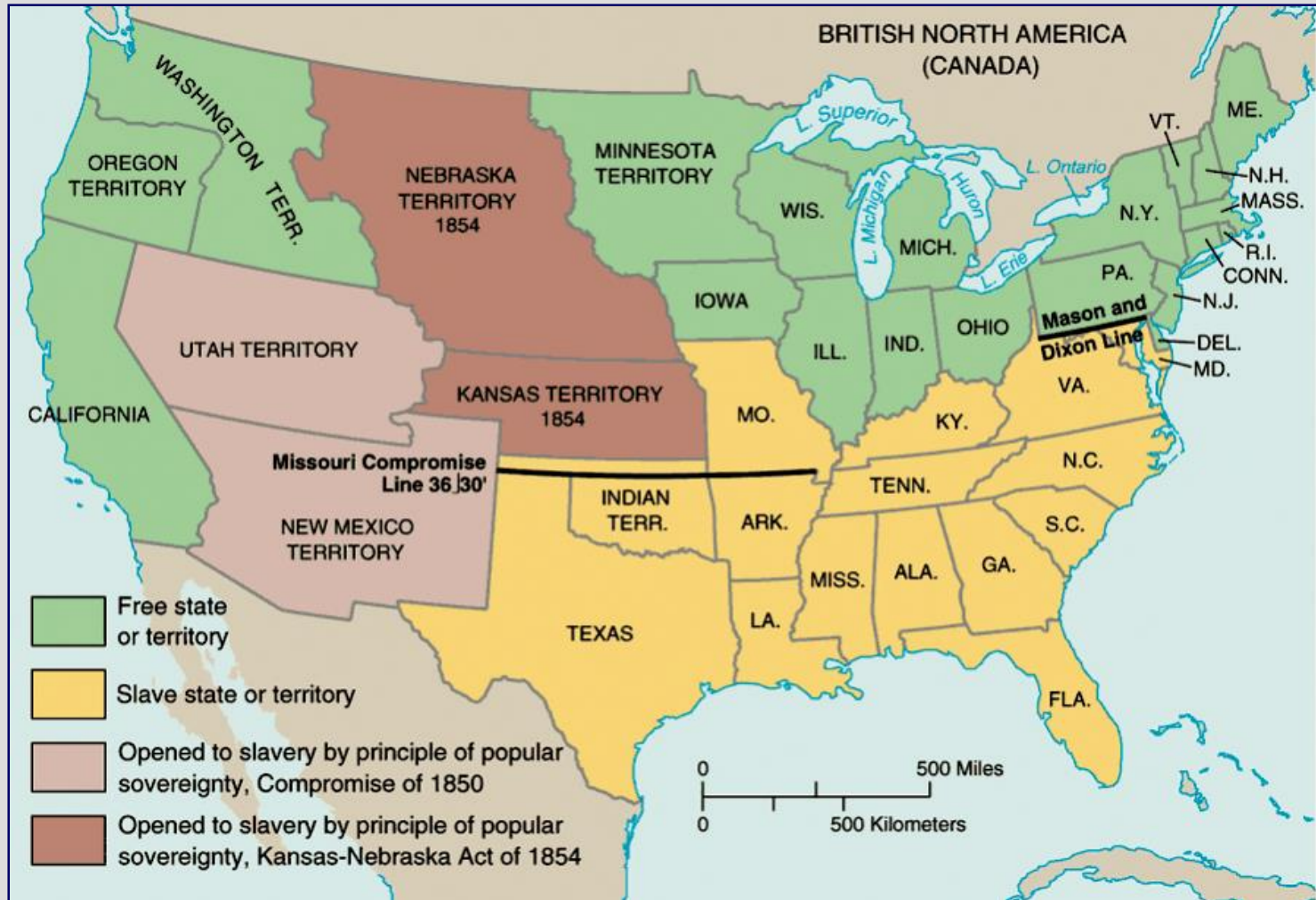
[The Kansas-Nebraska Act]

- *1st Version*- Any states organized in the territory would be open for slavery under popular sovereignty.
- Atchison and other South Democrats decline. Felt if Missouri Compromise still in place pro-slavers not move there.
- What does Douglas do to gain Southern Democratic support?



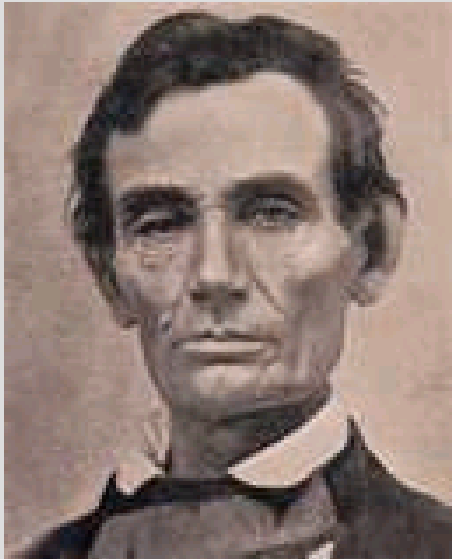
The 2nd version of the bill repeals the Missouri Compromise. It organizes the territory into two territories, Kansas and Nebraska, and opens up slavery under popular sovereignty.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act



Miscalculations of Mr. Douglas?

- Douglas underestimated the response to the Kansas-Nebraska bill. Believed it wouldn't reopen the slave question because soil/climate not suitable for slavery. Felt territory would eventually become free.



"Young Mr. Lincoln"

- **Lincoln called this a "lullaby argument"- soil and climate the same in Kansas territory the same as in Missouri where they are growing hemp/tobacco.**

Miscalculations of Mr. Douglas?

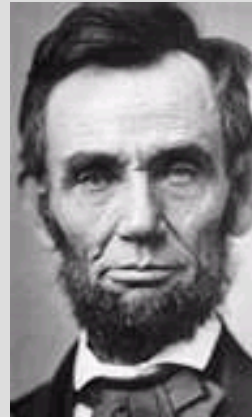
- Douglas also miscalculated the backlash of Northern Democrats.
- Northern Democrats saw this as a betrayal of the sacred oath of the Missouri Compromise as well as a plot to expand slavery.
- Douglas loses Northern Democratic support.



Accelerates the split of the Democratic Party!

Lincoln on the Rise

- “The monstrous injustice of slavery deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world---enables the enemies of free institutions, with plausibility, to taunt us as hypocrites... Let us re-adopt the Declaration of Independence, and with it, the practices, and policy, which harmonize with it. If we do this, we shall not only have saved the Union; but we shall have so saved it, as to make, and to keep it, forever worthy of the saving.”



A.Lincoln
1854

The Vote on the Kansas Nebraska Act

- Abolitionists, Free-Soilers, N.Whigs, and even Northern Democrats could not stop the passage of the act.

Kansas-Nebraska Act

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graph TD; A[Kansas-Nebraska Act] --> B[Senate]; A --> C[House of Reps.]
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Senate

- All Southerners support
- 15 of 20 N. Dems support

House of Reps.

With backing and pressure from Pierce and Douglas, 113-110- where half N.Dems voted for it.

The Vote on the Kansas Nebraska Act

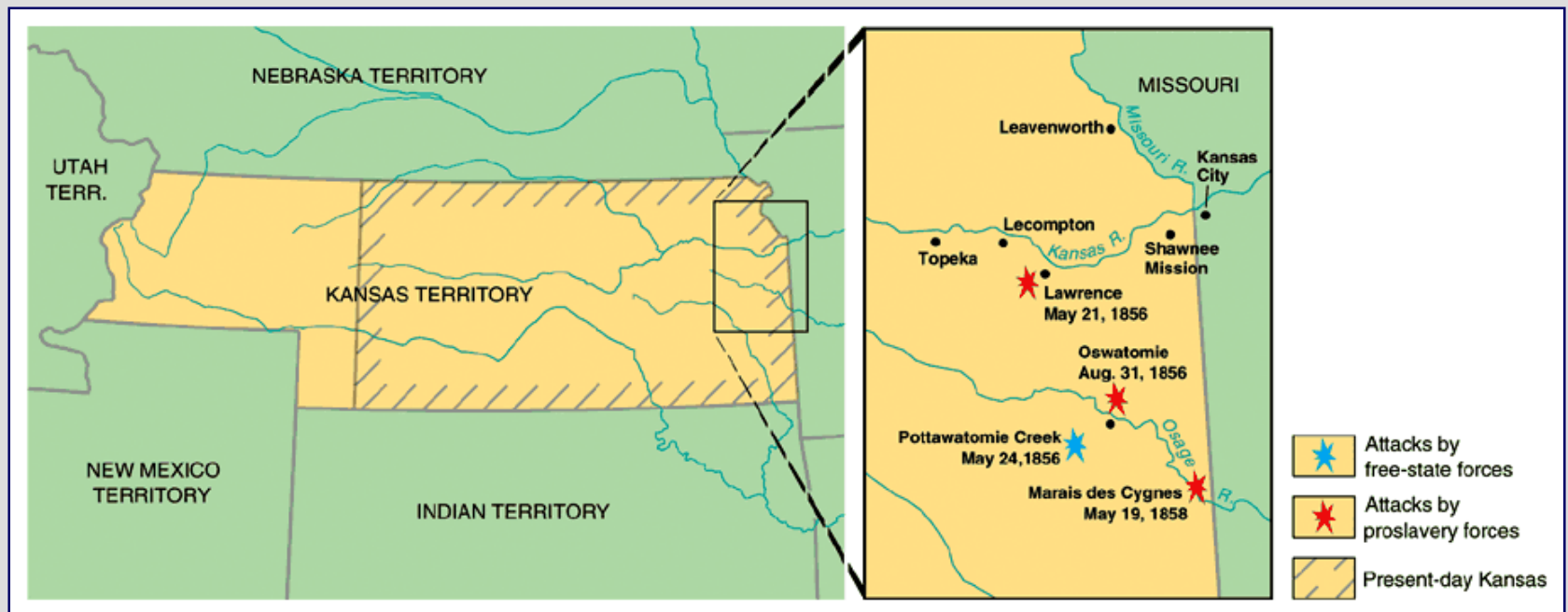
Why would N.Democrats vote for a bill that nullified the Missouri Compromise and replace it with a policy of popular sovereignty?

- Didn't think slavery would exist in the area
- Money/profit involved with the railroad
- Political expertise and pressure of Douglas/Pierce

Effects of the Kansas-Nebraska Act

What started as a railroad measure had a major impact on the future of the country?

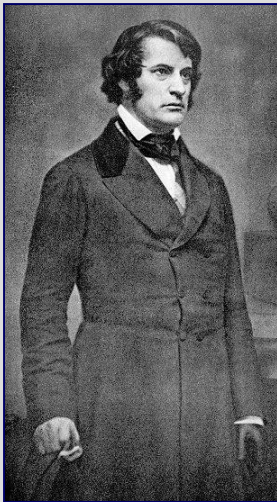
- Measure was intended to keep peace but would result in conflict/violence in Kansas.



“Bleeding Kansas”

Effects of the Kansas-Nebraska Act

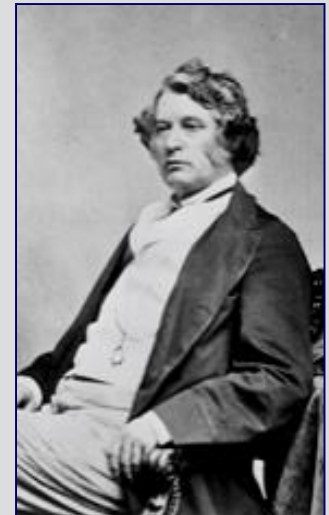
- What began as a way of strengthening party lines would cause the destruction of the Whigs, the weakening of the Democrats, and the creation of two new parties the Know-Nothings and the Republicans.
- Would lead to violent behavior in Congress.



Sen. Charles Sumner- (R-MA)



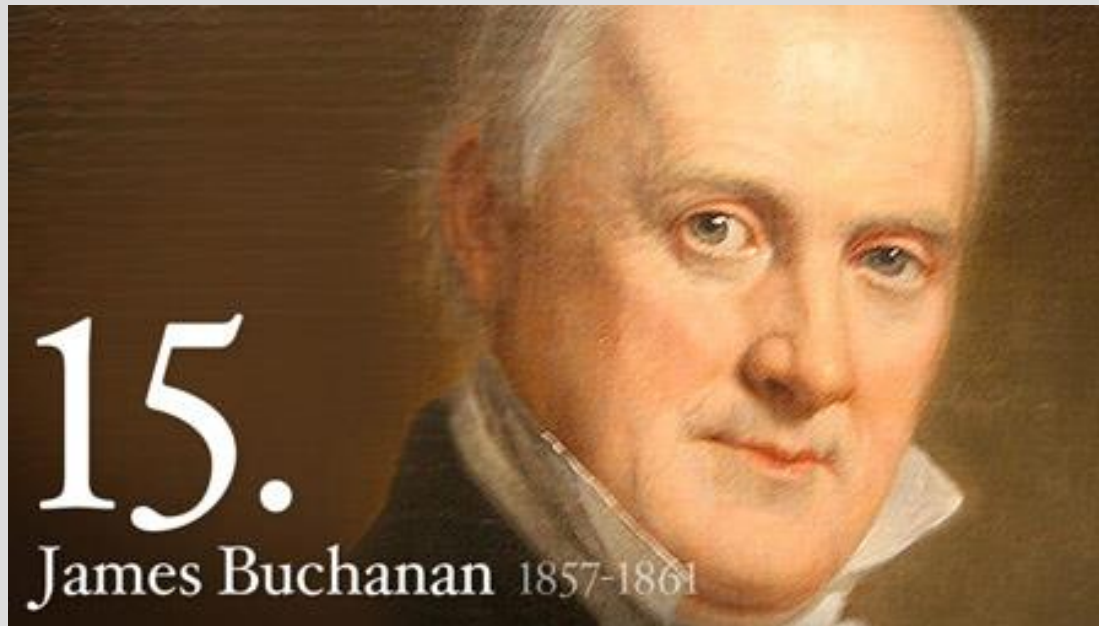
“Caning of Sumner”



Sen. Preston Brooks-(D-SC)

Effects of the Kansas-Nebraska Act

- Would lead to possibly the worst President in our country's history-James "the backbone of a chocolate éclair" Buchanan.



Effects of the Kansas-Nebraska Act

- But Stephen Douglas got his railroad, and sealed the fate of the nation.

