

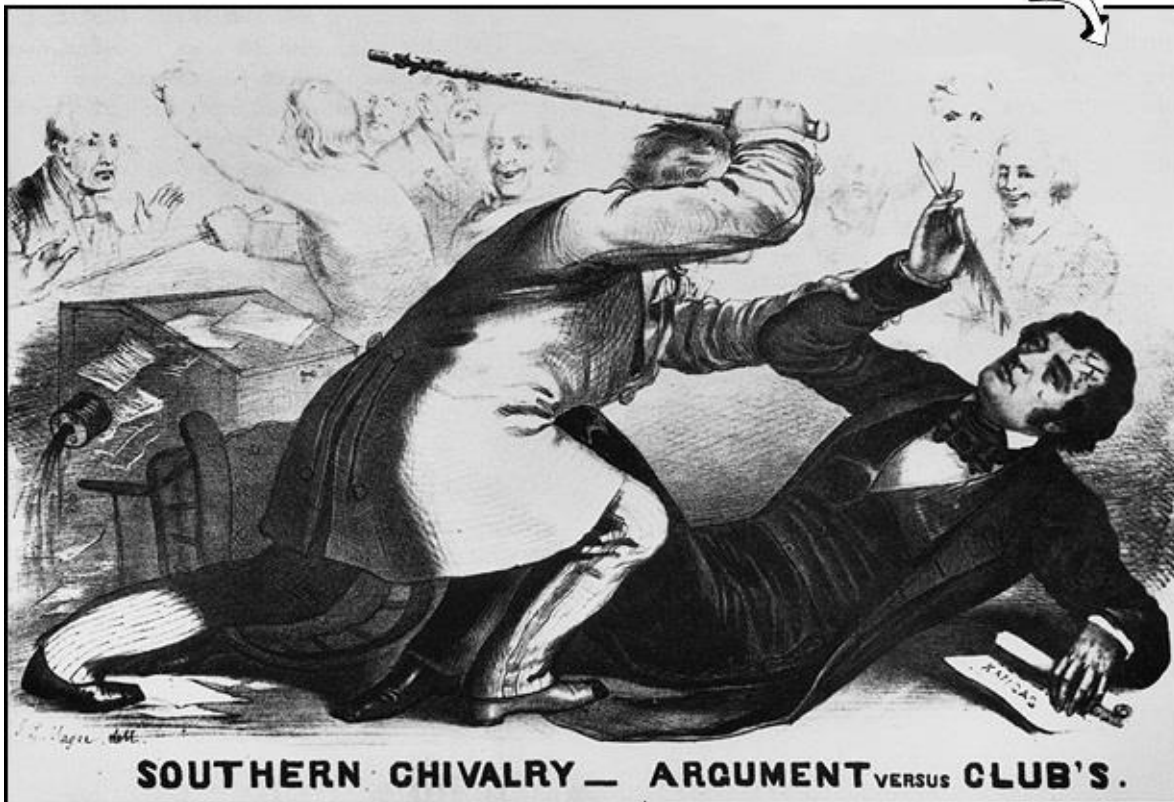
# SECTIONALISM & SECESSION

*“Can we as a nation continue together permanently—forever—half slave and half free?”*

*A. Lincoln*

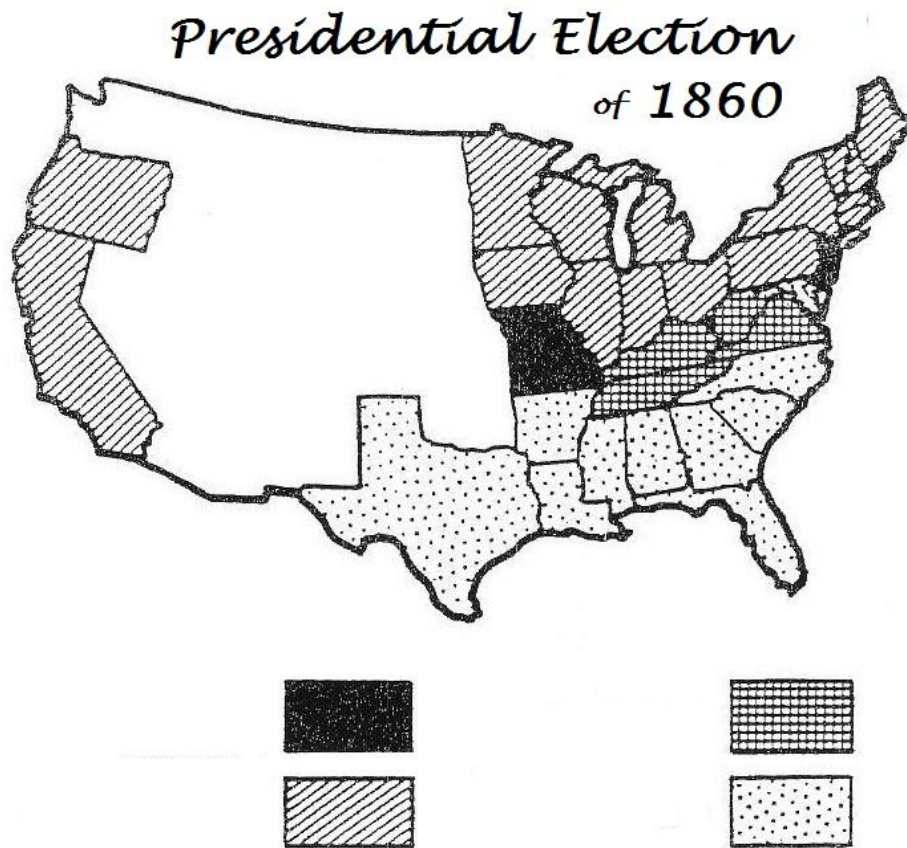
- SECTIONALISM** → pockets of various states w/ related interests
- ✓ Since Colonial Era due to geographical vastness of America
  - ✓ Peaks & valleys during 1800-50 owing to other impending concerns
  - ✓ Exists thru time; can be good, bad, indifferent
- ◆ States’ rights → theory that a state could nullify “unconstitutional” fed’l law
    - ✓ Challenged constitutionality as function of Supreme Court only
    - ✓ Essential to prevent selfish majority of states from dominating minority
    - ✓ Applied historically to numerous issues, inc. slavery
    - ✓ Failure of Articles ... Kentucky/Virginia Resolutions ... Nullification Crisis
    - ✓ Secession was lawful response to denial of states’ rights by fed’l gov’t
  - ◆ Nat’l politics → lack of wisdom & reason; partisanship & pettiness instead
    - ✓ Westward migration (slavery?) aroused \_\_\_\_\_
    - ✓ Opposition to Fugitive Slave Act angered \_\_\_\_\_
    - ☞ Benton, Calhoun, Clay, Webster all gone; Douglas emerges
    - ☞ Pierce & Buchanan provide ineffectual White House leadership
    - ☞ Supreme Court dominated by \_\_\_\_\_
  - ◆ Republican Party → replaced Whigs (“conscience” & “cotton”) in 2-party system
    - ✓ Anti-slavery (but not abolitionist)
    - ✓ Favored free land to settlers in West
    - ✓ Supported manufacturing interests via protective tariff
    - ✓ First candidate in 1856; first President in 1860
  - ◆ Compromise of 1850 → emerged from array of proposals
    - ①
    - ②
    - ③
    - ④
    - ⑤

- ◆ *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852) → elevated awareness
- ◆ Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) → torched sectional animosity
  - ✓ Stephen Douglas (Illinois) & Andrew Butler (So. Carolina)
  - ✓ “Popular sovereignty” (Lewis Cass of Michigan) to determine slavery
  - ✓ Missouri Compromise line of 36° 30' therefore repealed
- ◆ “Bleeding Kansas” → microcosm of chaotic 1850s
  - ✓ Jayhawkers (free) vs. Bushwhackers (pro-slavery)
  - ✓ Pro-slavery gov't at \_\_\_\_\_ (fraudulent)
  - ✓ Anti-slavery gov't at \_\_\_\_\_ (extralegal)



One of the most violent episodes in congressional history took place in May of 1856 when South Carolina Representative Preston Brooks entered the Senate chamber to avenge insults imposed by Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner against Senator Andrew Butler of South Carolina, a cousin of Brooks. Sumner was busy at his desk when Brooks began his vicious attack, striking the northern senator repeatedly with a walking cane (which splintered due to force of the blows). Before other lawmakers intervened to end the assault, Sumner lay unconscious, having ripped loose his desk from the bolts holding it to the floor in his effort to escape. In the aftermath, Sumner was hospitalized and martyred; Brooks resigned and was promptly re-elected by his South Carolina constituents; and a cascade of retaliatory threats and confrontations ensued among other members of Congress.

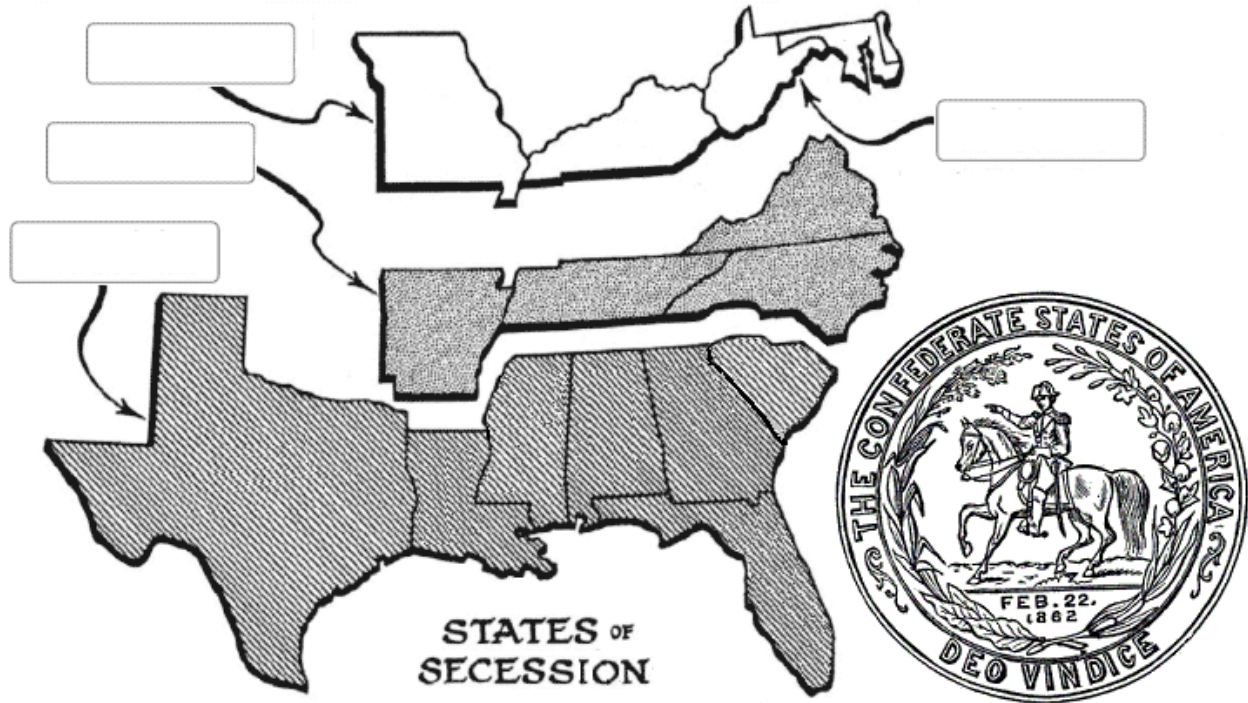
- ◆ *Scott v. Sandford* (1857) → Chief Justice Roger B. Taney
  - ✓ Blacks not citizens, hence could not sue in fed'l court
  - ✓ Laws of Missouri, not visited states, applied to Dred Scott
  - ✓ Good gov't obligated to protect citizens' personal property
- ◆ Lincoln-Douglas debates (1858) → exaggerated political differences
- ◆ John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia (1859) → epitome of fanaticism
- ◆ Presidential election of 1860 → dreadful to South
  - ✓ Lincoln (R), Douglas (N/D), Breckinridge (S/D), Bell
  - ✓ Lincoln exceeded combined results of three opponents
  - ✓ Douglas second in popular vote, but won only 12 electoral votes
  - ✓ Republican victory direct cause of secession



- ◆ Lincoln as President → realist
  - ✓ No government-based action could end slavery peacefully
  - ✓ Willing to accept slavery in present status, but opposed \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Ultimate presidential goal was to \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Faced with dilemma (withdraw vs. attack) to address orderly secession

**SECESSION** → ultimate solution vs. ultimate cause

- ✓ South Carolina secedes (follows Alabama's threat); six more states
- ✓ Est'd provisional capital at \_\_\_\_\_ (then \_\_\_\_\_)
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ = president; \_\_\_\_\_ = vice-president
- ✓ Confederate Constitution ... ① \_\_\_\_\_ & ② \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Sent diplomats to enlist support of foreign countries (esp. Britain)
- ✓ Seized most fed'l property in South (except Ft. Sumter)



- ◆ Both sections demonstrate foolishness
  - ✓ North ...
  - ✓ South ...
- ◆ Crittenden Compromise
  - ✓ Amendment forever guaranteeing slavery south of 36° 30'
  - ✓ Lincoln refused to consider extending slavery into new territories

**CIVIL WAR** → not just a war to end slavery

- ✓ Conflicting views of slavery (moral question vs. economic survival)
- ✓ Slavery & racism were not confined to South
- ✓ Lincoln known as "Great Emancipator"