



# **Drifting toward Disunion**

**1854-1861**

# Uncle Tom's Cabin

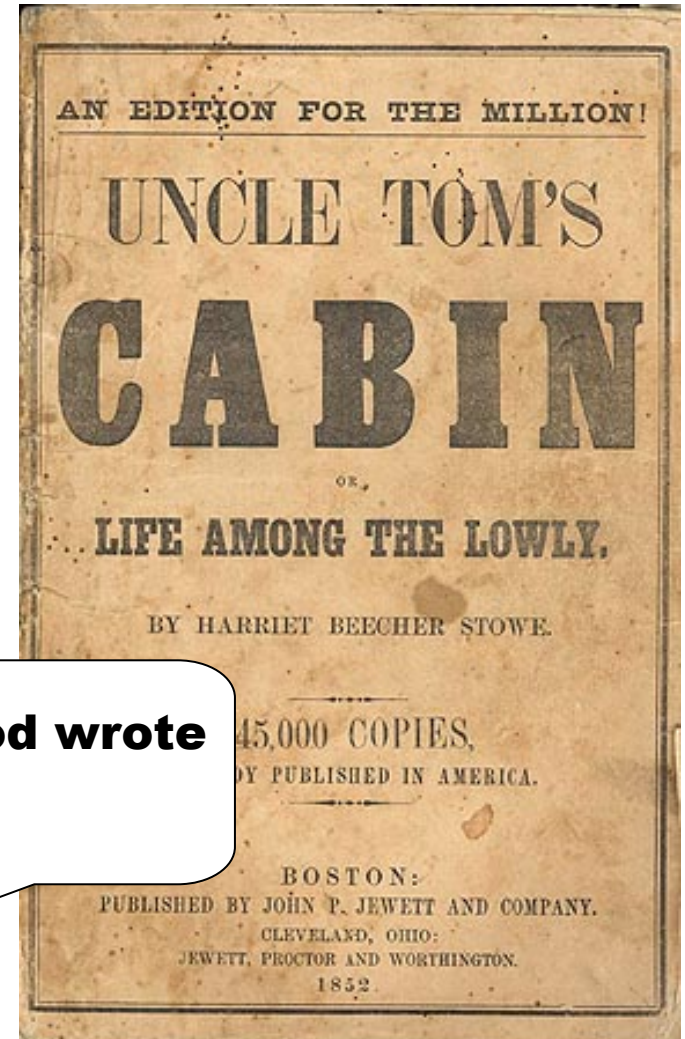
**With passage of Fugitive Slave Act (1850), Northern states became more opposed to slavery**

**Uncle Tom's Cabin, published in 1852, helped fuel the fire**

**Portrayed slavery as an evil system that tore at the fabric of the family and biblical Christian values**



**“God wrote it.”**



# **“Bleeding Kansas”**

**Both supporters and opponents of slavery flowed into Kansas as slavery issue was to be decided by Popular Sovereignty**



**In 1855, Proslavery “border ruffians” flowed into Kansas to vote early and often**

**After fraudulent elections, two governments were set up**

- Lawrence
- “Pottawatomie Creek Massacre”



# **Lecompton Constitution**

**In 1857, Kansas had a large enough population to apply for statehood**

**Pro-slavery minority in KS wrote a constitution**

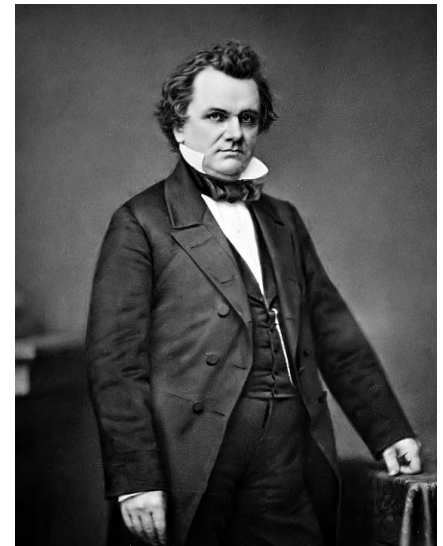
**It provided that the state constitution be voted on with or without slavery**

- **If the constitution was drafted with the antislavery clause, another clause protected slave-owners' rights in the state**

**Free-soilers boycotted the vote**

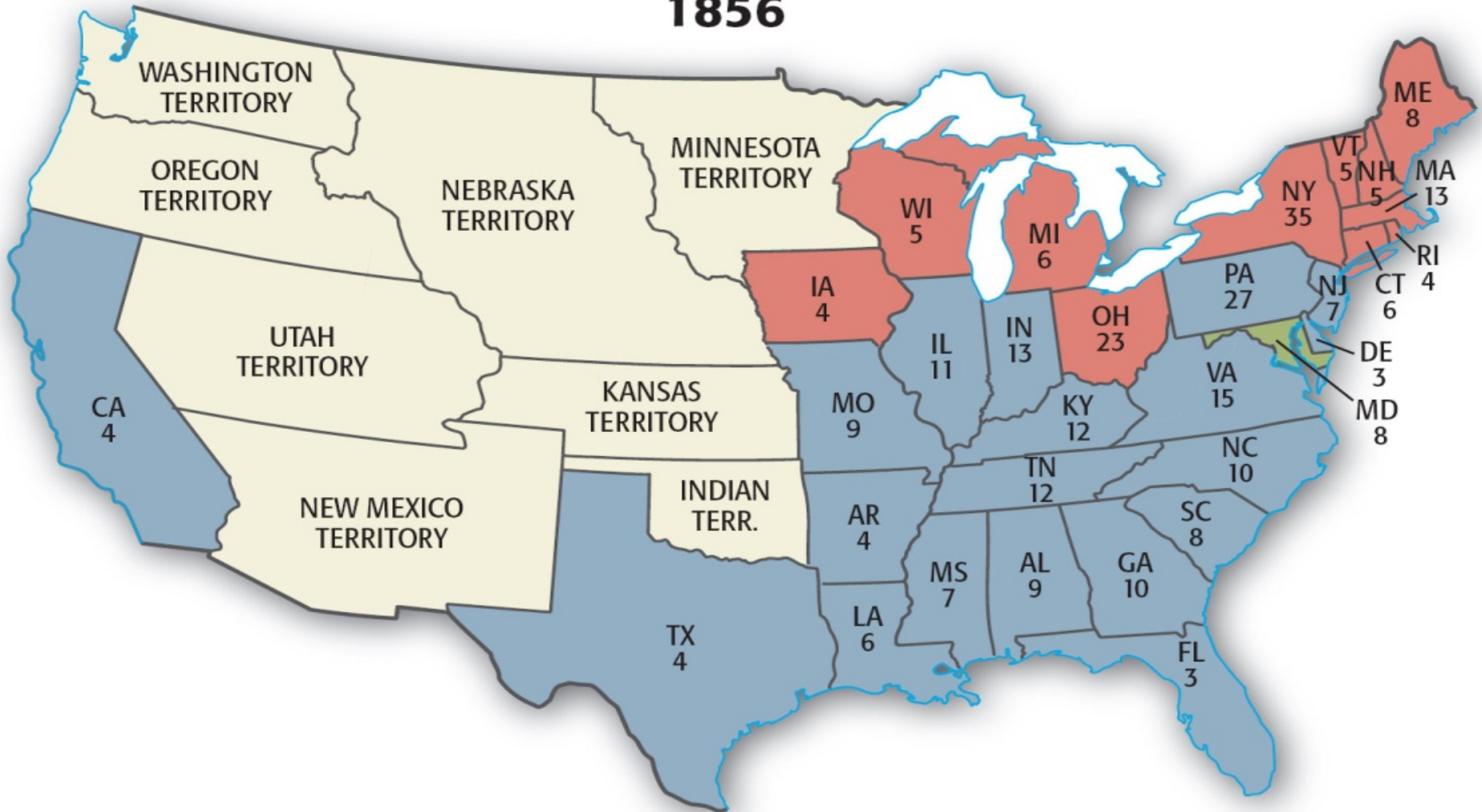
**Throwing away the Southern vote, Douglas brokered a compromise that would put the entire Lecompton Constitution to an up or down vote**

**Free soil majority voted it down, keeping Kansas as a territory until 1861**





# 1856



**Candidate (Party)**

**Electoral Vote**

**Popular Vote**

 Buchanan (Democrat)	174	59%	1,832,955	45.3%
 Frémont (Republican)	114	38%	1,339,932	33.1%
 Fillmore (American)	8	3%	871,731	21.6%
 Territories				

# ***Dred Scott v Stanford***

Slaves can't sue,  
since they aren't  
citizens

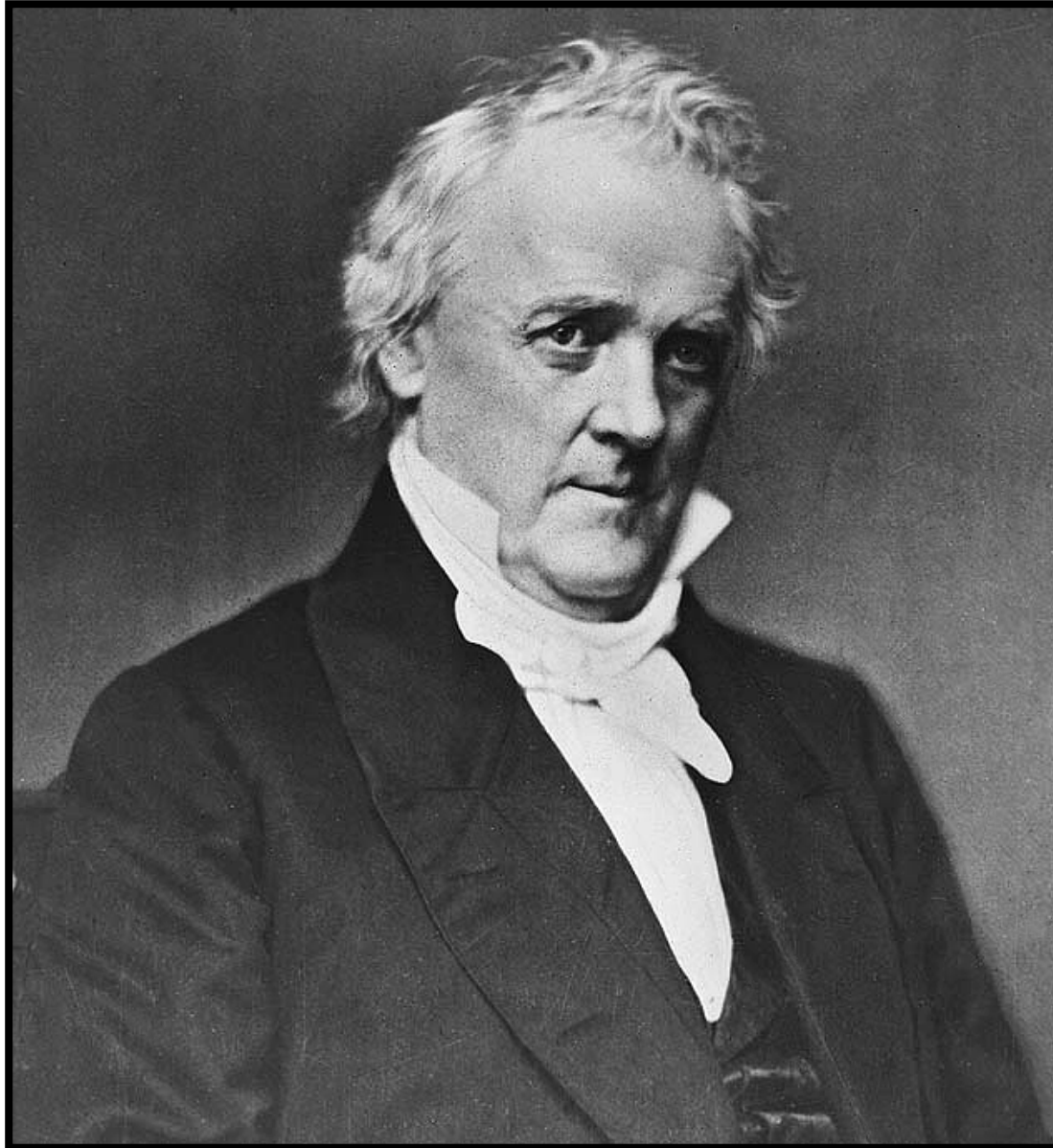
**Roger B. Taney:**  
Slaves = property.  
Congress is  
forbidden to  
legislate on  
depriving people of  
their property (5<sup>th</sup>  
Amend.)

Compromise of  
1820 was  
**unconstitutional**  
all along as it  
forbade slavery in  
regions of the US

**Northern Republicans = decried the authority of the Supreme Court (Partisanship politics)**

**Southern Dems = Wondered how much longer they could put up w/ a region who refused to honor the decisions of the Supreme Court**

# **Crash of 1857**



**Economic woes for  
President Buchanan**

**Inflation and  
overstimulation of  
markets (grain to  
Crimea) hurt the  
North**

**The South enjoyed  
booming markets for  
their cotton**

**This made them  
assume they could be  
independent of  
Northern Industry**

# Lincoln-Douglas Debates

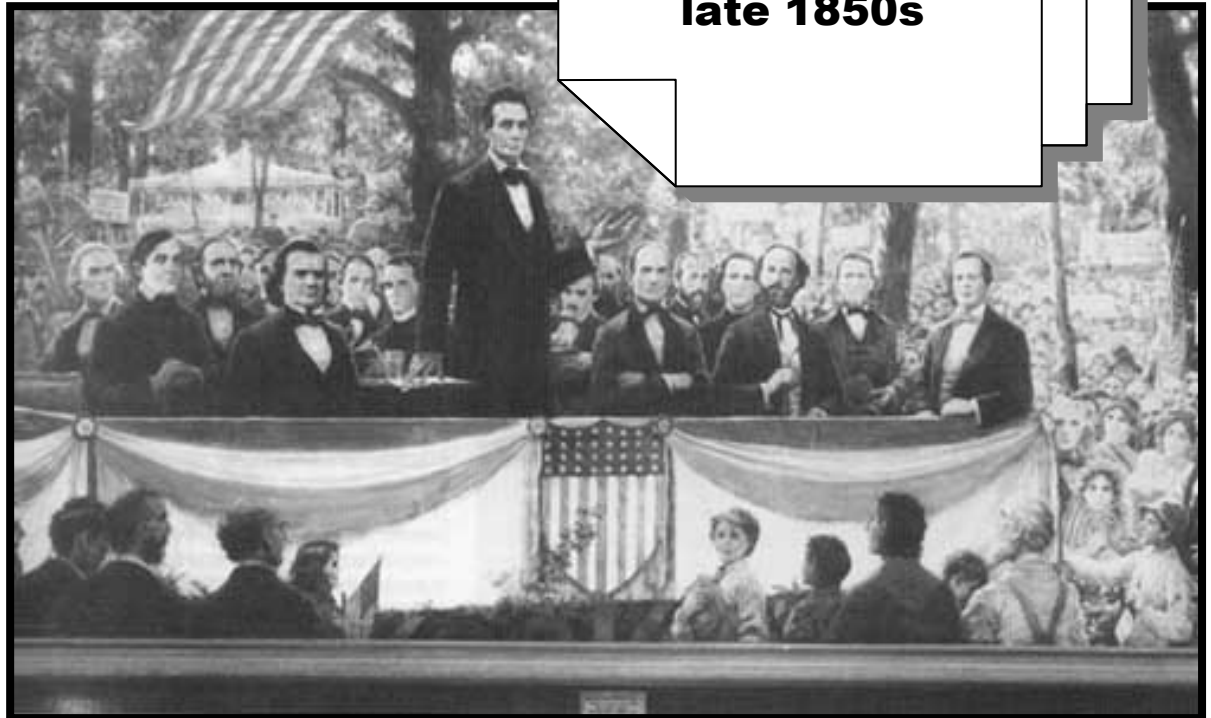
## **Lincoln:**

- **Whig/Republican**
- **Opposed Kansas-Nebraska Act**

**Challenged Douglas to debate during race for Senate seat (1858)**

**Freeport Doctrine:  
Peoples' vote/will  
overrides Supreme  
Courts' decisions**

**These debates show the multi-layered arguments surrounding slavery in the late 1850s**





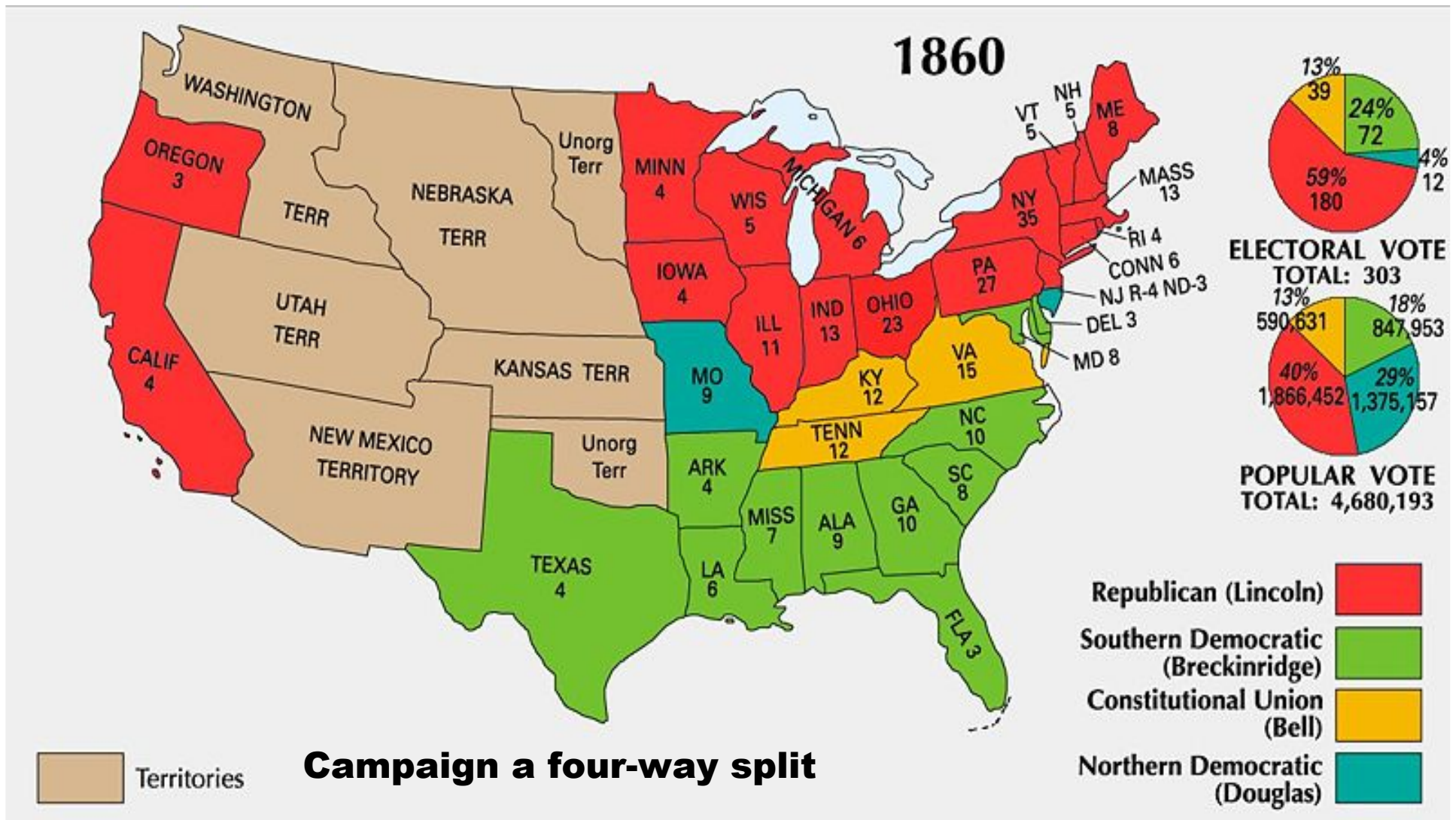
# Harper's Ferry



**John Brown and followers attacked the Federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry Virginia in an attempt to foment a slave rebellion**

**He was captured, tried, and executed**

**Hero or Villain?**



**Republicans defeat the splintered Democrat party, and the “Do Nothing” party who wanted to compromise**

# Secession

**After the election of 1860, South Carolina's State legislature called for a special convention**

**At that convention, delegates voted unanimously to secede**

**10 more states follow their lead to form the Confederate States of America:**

**TX, LA, AR, MS, AL, TN, GA, FL, NC, VA**

## **Crittenden Amendments:**

- **Proposed to avoid bloodshed**
- **Lincoln rejected them**

