

The Crises of the 1850s

Readings:

Boyer, et al., *The Enduring Vision*: Chapter 14-- From Compromise to Secession, 1850-1860

Questions For Consideration:

1. How did the introduction of the Wilmot Proviso affect the North and the South?
2. What was the impact of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* on both the North and the South?
3. How were northerners and southerners in Congress convinced that passing the Compromise of 1850 was in their best interest? How did the Compromise affect the balance between South and the North? Why did it prove to be only a temporary solution?
4. Why did the North so strongly resent the Fugitive Slave Law, and why did the South resent north resistance to enforcing it?
5. Could Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan have handled the issues in such a way as to avoid the breakup of the Union?
6. Discuss the role of the *Dred Scott* decision in the deepening divisions of North and South. What were the constitutional implications of the *Dred Scott* decision?
7. What was the impact of the Kansas-Nebraska Act? What brought about civil war in Kansas in 1856? What evidence did each side have to support their claims against their adversaries?
8. Why did the Whig Party break up in the 1850s? Why did the Republican Party form? What was the Republican platform? How did issues in the 1850s impact these two parties?
9. What were the positions of Lincoln and Douglas in their debates?
10. What was the impact of the issues of the 1850s on the election of 1860? What was the platform of each party in the election of 1860? What were the electoral results of the election? Why did Lincoln win?

Identifications:

<u>William Walker & filibustering</u>	Free Soil / Free Labor
David Wilmot's Proviso	Popular Sovereignty
Stephen A. Douglas	<u>"fire-eaters"</u>
Franklin Pierce	<u>Ostend Manifesto</u>
James Buchanan	<u>Kansas-Nebraska Act, & Bleeding Kansas</u>
Zachery Taylor	New England Emigrant Aid Society
<u>American Party</u>	Lecompton versus Topeka legislatures and the Lecompton Constitution
<u>William H. Seward and "irrepressible conflict"</u>	Charles Sumner, the <u>"Crime against Kansas"</u> and Rep. <u>Preston S. Brooks</u>
<u>The Gadsden Purchase</u>	<u>Uncle Tom's Cabin</u>
Millard Fillmore	<u>Panic of 1857</u>
<u>Treaty of Kanagawa</u>	<u>"House Divided" speech</u>
<u>Free Soil Party</u>	<u>Dred Scott v. Sandford</u>
<u>Prigg v. Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Abelman v. Booth</u> (1859)
Compromise of 1850	<u>Lincoln-Douglas Debates</u> and <u>the Freeport Doctrine</u>
<u>Fugitive Slave Act of 1850</u>	John Brown and Harper's Ferry
"personal liberty laws"	<u>Crittenden Compromise</u>