

### Popular Sovereignty:

Popular sovereignty was a political doctrine that said that the people who lived in a region should determine what the nature of their government would be for themselves. This concept was first proposed by Senator Lewis Cass and made popular by Stephen A. Douglas in the mid-1800s. It mainly was applied to the discussion as to whether a state should allow slavery or not, especially in the Mexican Cession. It was also used by Kansas and Nebraska. It was invoked in the Compromise of 1850 and in the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Settlers were supposed to vote for what they wanted in their state. In some cases, it went against the Missouri Compromise. This idea was hopefully going to preserve the splitting Union and ease sectionalism, but it led to problems and only made it worse. Popular sovereignty is important because it led to events such as "Bloody Kansas" and led to even more arguments between the north and south. This in part led to the Civil War.

### The Compromise of 1850:

The Compromise of 1850 was needed due to the fact that the North and South could not agree on issues regarding slavery. The territory gained from the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo would upset the balance between free and slave states. No one knew how to handle the situation due to sectionalism in America; the South and North were at odds with each other. Issues also arose in the District of Columbia because northerners didn't want slaves in the nation's capital. At the same time, southerners felt that northerners were flouting the Fugitive Slave Act and not helping slave catchers capture runaways like they should be. In 1850, during the presidency of Taylor, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster proposed a compromise. From this compromise, the North would get California to be a free state, slave trade was prohibited in the District of Columbia, and Texas lost its border dispute with New Mexico (whose position on slavery was still being decided). The South was granted popular sovereignty in Utah or New Mexico territory, slaveholding was permitted in the District of Columbia, Texas was given \$10 million, and a more effective slave law was put in place. The Compromise of 1850 is important because it was a measure to preserve the Union and to prevent a Civil War. It ended the two-party system in America.

### Kansas-Nebraska Act:

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was created in the mid-1800s by Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas in Washington, D.C. Douglas wanted to use the Nebraska Territory for the creation of the Transcontinental Railroad from Chicago to California. Nebraska, according to the Missouri Compromise, would become a free state. Douglas feared southern opposition to this, so the Missouri Compromise was repealed and violated. The Nebraska Territory was split between Kansas and Nebraska. Whether or not the states would allow slavery was left up to popular sovereignty. Douglas hoped that this would preserve the Union. The Kansas-Nebraska Act was important because it led to fighting between Americans, divided the Democrats, and led to the end of the Whig party. It led to "Bleeding Kansas" and divided non-slavery and pro-slavery Americans. This act is in part to blame for the onset of the Civil War.

#### Dred Scott Case:

The Dred Scott Case (Dred Scott v. Sanford) was a court case that took place in the mid-1800s. This case was brought to the Supreme Court because Dred Scott was a slave who had been taken to free states and territories in the North by his masters (including Dr. John Emerson) and he was suing for his freedom. Chief Justice Roger B. Taney found that African Americans, slave or free, could not be American citizens and thus could not sue in federal court. The federal government could also not regulate slavery in federal territories. Technically, this ruling made slavery legal in any territory. The Missouri Compromise was seen as violating people's rights to property, and therefore it was formally repealed. The Dred Scott case is important because it was the second time an act of Congress was seen as unconstitutional and was seen as the worst Supreme Court decision in history. This decision pushed the issue of slavery and was one of the causes of the Civil War. It also showed the different viewpoints and philosophies at the time. The North saw slaves as people while the South saw slaves as property.

#### Uncle Tom's Cabin:

Uncle Tom's Cabin was a book written by Harriet Beecher Stowe in the mid-1800s in Connecticut. This book was created in order to make people more sympathetic to slavery. This book gained popularity quickly in the north and was read by many abolitionists. Millions of copies were sold; only the Bible has been purchased more. It was later turned into a successful play that was able to bring tears to the eyes of all. Uncle Tom's Cabin is important because it brought slavery in a new light and showed how families were affected. It made people see that slavery was morally wrong and terrible, and thus created many new abolitionists.