

Scarborough YMCA: Getting Back on Track

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Thesis:

Civil war between the North and the South was unavoidable not only because of the vast political and socio-economic differences, but also because the very compromises intended to hold the union together dredged up intolerable sectional differences that inevitably tore the nation apart.



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Chapter 19

Drifting Toward Disunion

Stowe and Helper: Literary Incendiaries

- Harriet Beecher Stowe-wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin
 - She wanted to awaken the North to the evils of slavery
 - Help start and win the Civil War
 - caused northerners to not enforce the Fugitive Slave Act
 - Popular abroad, especially in Britain and France.
- The Impending Crisis of the South -written by Hinton R. Helper
 - tried to prove that poor whites suffered most from slavery
 - fueled planter elite's fears that non-slaveholders would abandon them

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The North-South Contest for Kansas

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- Popular sovereignty gone wrong
- There were actually only 2 slaves among 107,000 people that lived in Kansas
- Fight over “an imaginary Negro in an impossible place”
- On election day, proslavery Missourians crossed the border and voted----> Pro-slavery government in place.
- In reaction to the illicit voting, abolitionists established their own government in Topeka.
- In reaction to the establishment of the rebel government, pro-slavery raiders shot up and burned part of Lawrence, Kansas - a free city
- Choice for Kansans - one illegal government or one based on fraud.

Bully Brooks and His Bludgeon

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Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts
Hated

Senator Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina
Hothead

Sumner gives confrontational speech towards
South Carolina and a beloved congressman.
Brooks takes matters into his own hands and
beats down Sumner

North stands behind Sumner and South upset
at the amount at which Sumner's insulting
speech is applauded

Old Buck vs. The Pathfinder

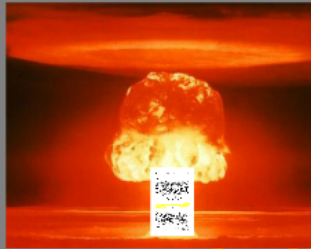
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- 1856-- Democrats met in Cincinnati to nominate their presidential candidate.
- As both Pierce and Douglas were tainted by their affiliation with the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the delegates nominated Pennsylvanian lawyer, James Buchanan.
- Enthusiastic Republicans nominated Captain John C. Frémont (nicknamed “The Pathfinder of the West”).
- Particular issues between the two parties included the extension of slavery (denounced by Republicans) and the emphasis on popular sovereignty (favored by Democrats).
- Increased xenophobia arose as a result of the recent influx of Irish and German immigrants, causing nationalistic “nativists” to form of the American party, a.k.a. The Know-Nothing party
- Mudslinging was a highly prevalent tactic used by both parties.

The Electoral Fruits of 1856

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- Buchanan won the presidency.
- Why did the advantageous Republicans lose?:
 - 1) Frémont could not be trusted as his honesty, capacity, and sound judgement were questioned by voters
 - 2) Southern “fire-eaters” violently threatened to secede if a “Black Republican” became president.



The Dred Scott **BOMBshell**

- Dred Scott vs Stanford
- Lived in Illinois/Wisconsin territory
- Stated Scott could not use courts because he was not a citizen
- Chief Justice Roger B Taney was pro-southern
- 5th amendment, Compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional the whole time.
- Wedge driven in between N & S
- Republicans outrage, state that the ruling is just an opinion
- Southerners happy for victory, but aghast at disobedience of North.

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