

# CHAPTER 13 - A House Dividing

Mexican Cession - bigger than the Louisiana Purchase

- Question of slavery in new territories
  1. Wilmot Proviso - proposed all slavery be prohibited in new territories
  2. Calhoun Resolutions (no slavery in territories until statehood)
  3. Compromise of 1850 (see below)

Election of 1848

- Zachary Taylor elected President
- last Whig President
- kept quiet about his views (!!)

Gold discovered in California - led to **California Gold Rush**

- "49er's" - went to CA looking for gold
- lawlessness, rush of settlers led to application for admission to Union as a free state
  - Pres. Taylor was encouraging New Mexico to do the same (I.e., apply for admission as a free state)
- **COMPROMISE OF 1850** (Henry Clay) *included*:
  - California admitted as a free state
  - a new fugitive slave law (i.e., runaway slaves must be returned)
  - Calhoun, Taylor opposed
  - D. Webster - from Massachusetts - gave it his much-needed support
  - Taylor dies in office, bill passes
  - country relieved

## RESULTS IN GREATER NORTH-SOUTH ANIMOSITY

- Ralph Waldo Emerson - encouraged civil disobedience of the fugitive slave law
- Harriet Beecher Stowe writes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
  - ✓ huge influence on Northern attitudes toward slavery
  - ✓ "so this is the little lady who made the big war" said Lincoln (reportedly)

*Underground Railroad* - continues to be a thorn in South's side

*Kansas - Nebraska Act*

- brainchild of Stephen Douglas
  - ✓ purpose: to make a RR line
  - ✓ make Kansas area into two territories - Kansas and Nebraska
  - ✓ each decide slavery by popular sovereignty
  - ✓ overturn Missouri Compromise
- Nebraska votes to be free
- **"Bleeding Kansas"**
  - ✓ range war erupts between pro and anti-slavery forces
  - ✓ illegal voting
  - ✓ Sack of Lawrence > Pottawatomie Massacre
  - ✓ John Brown
    - story "spun" by abolitionists
    - Congress suppressed evidence; Brown freed
- Senator Brooks' beating of Senator Sumner



## The DRED SCOTT DECISION

- Dred Scott - slave, had gone to free Illinois and returned
  - after master's death, he sues for freedom (*claimed he had been free in IL and couldn't be enslaved again*)
  - **Supreme Court's decision:**
    - Blacks are not citizens (*slave OR free!*)
  - slaves are property
  - gov't cannot take a person's property away
- Missouri Compromise declared unconstitutional**

Republican Party formed in 1856 - to oppose the EXTENSION of slavery

- Abraham Lincoln - Stephen Douglas debates for Senate seat (Illinois)
- (Lincoln a Republican) - defeated
- personally opposed to slavery
- politically opposed extension of slavery

**John Brown - raid on Harper's Ferry, VA**

- plan - arm slaves from the federal arsenal
- slaves to kill their master's families
- gov't found out
  - Col. Robert E. Lee arrested him
- Brown hung - BUT he became a martyr for the abolitionist cause



"Tragic Prelude" (1938-40) by John Steuart Curry (1897-1946)

Presidential Election of 1860

- Four-way race: Lincoln - Douglas - Breckenridge - Bell
- SC threatened secession if Lincoln elected
- Lincoln elected; SC secedes in December
- Buchanan sits on his hands till Inauguration Day