

# Background to Compromise of 1850

## Boarder Disputes

Oregon—49th Parallel

Texas—Rio Grande River

Mexican War—Wilmot-Calhoun

Election 48

Taylor (W), Cass (D) Free Soil (VB),

Then the Gold rush to CA

Comp 1850

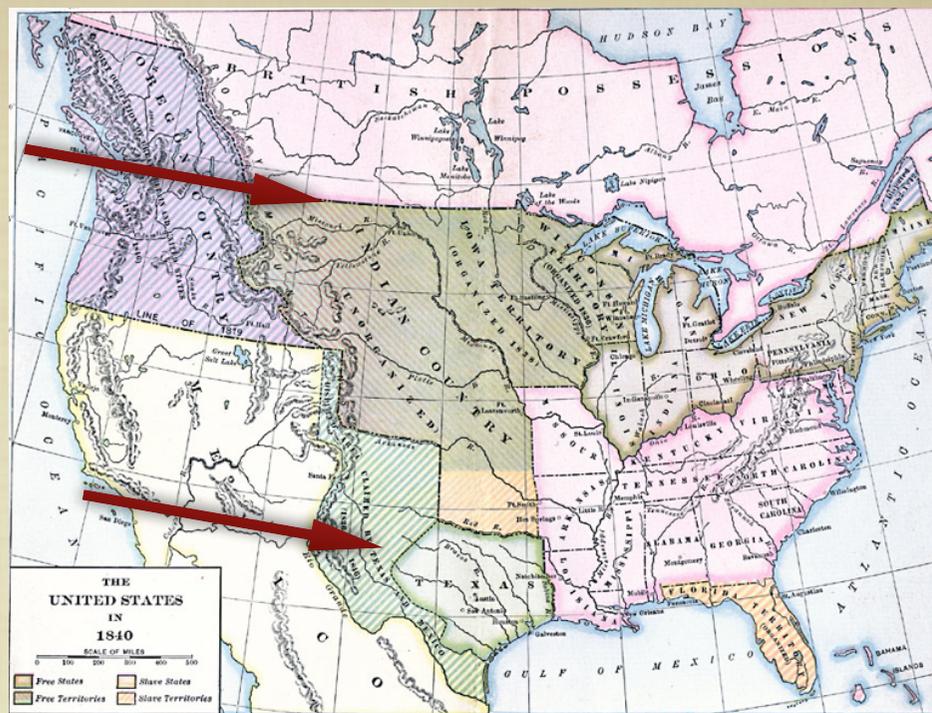
CA in as free state

New Mexico territory with Pop Sovereignty

Pay Texas Debts

Fugitive Slave law

Banning slave trade in DC



Did the Compromise work? One way to tell is Election of 52

If not, is war inevitable?



**How did the American Intellectuals view these events?**

**In 1849 Longfellow, the insightful intellect, feared for the republic**

**He wrote “Oh Ship of State”**

**a. Sail on! Sail on! O Ship of State!**

**For thee the famished nations wait!**

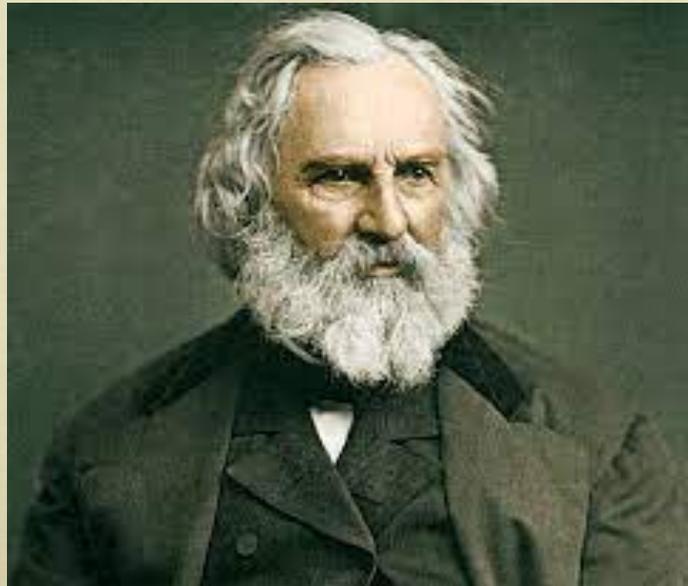
**The world seems hanging on thy fate!**

**b. “Where oh where shall end this form so rare,**

**Wrecked upon some treacherous rock,**

**Rotting in some loathsome dock;**

**Such the end must be at length on all this loveliness and strength.”**



**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

**Pastoral State**



**Consumption**



**Thomas Cole  
Course of Empire**

**Desolation**



**Walt Whitman—“Leaves of Grass”**

**“I ordain myself loos’d of limits and imaginary lines... my own master total and absolute.”**

**Herman Melville—Moby Dick and Ahab’s self-consuming and unrestrained obsession for vengeance.**

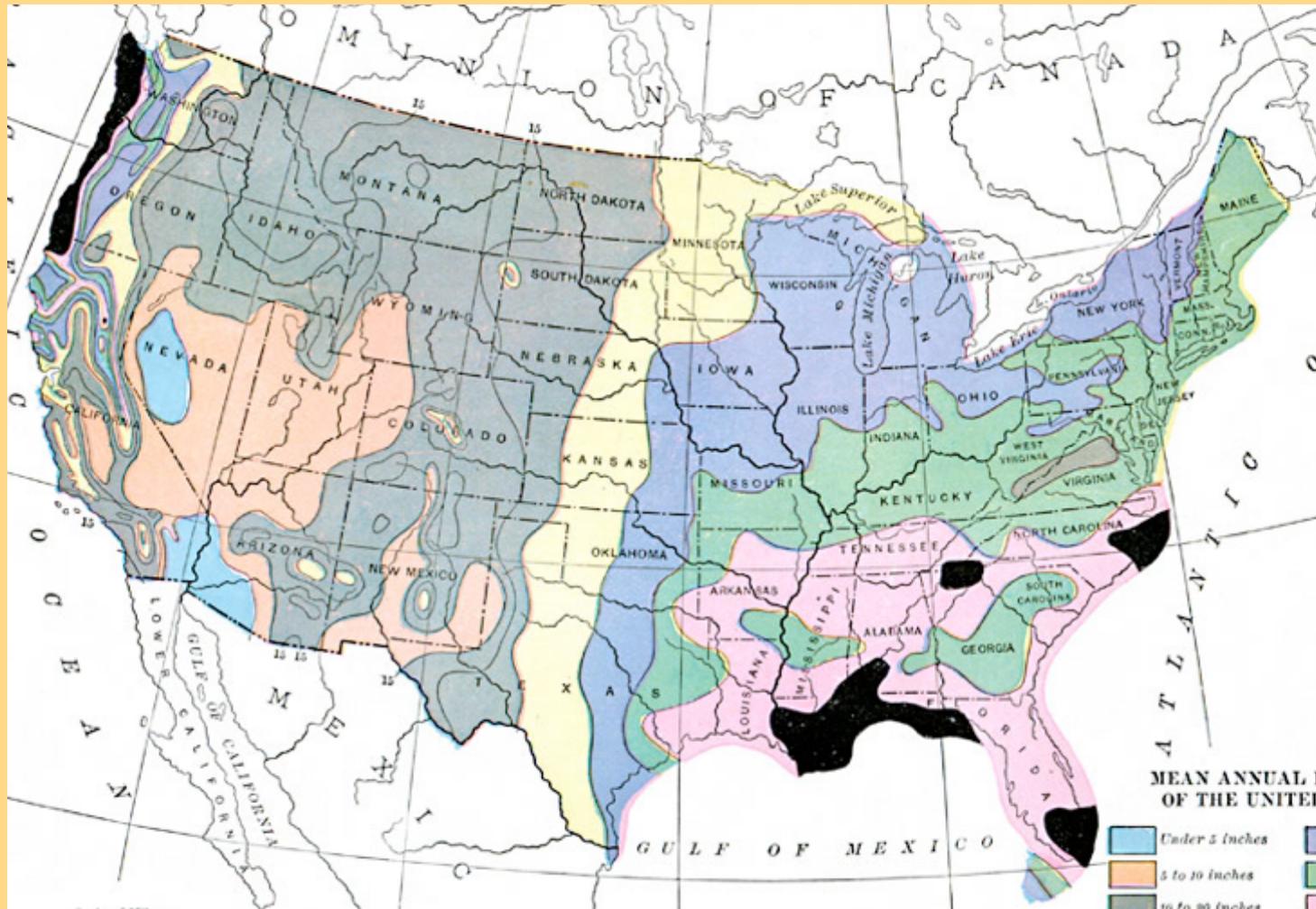


**Southern Intellectuals wrote uniformity in the defense of slavery.**

**Southern mind was the result of the 'Savage Ideal.' JW Cash  
J.C. Calhoun, George Fitzhugh, James Hammond, Edmund  
Ruffin, William Simms**

## B. By mid 1850s where does American stand on slavery?

1. Was Wilmot the same as abolition? Keep West open for free white men
2. If Ramsdell was right, should the South have worried about Wilmot?
3. If Jaffa was right . . . ?



**HB Stowe-1852—Uncle Tom's Cabin. “Stung Northern consciousness”**



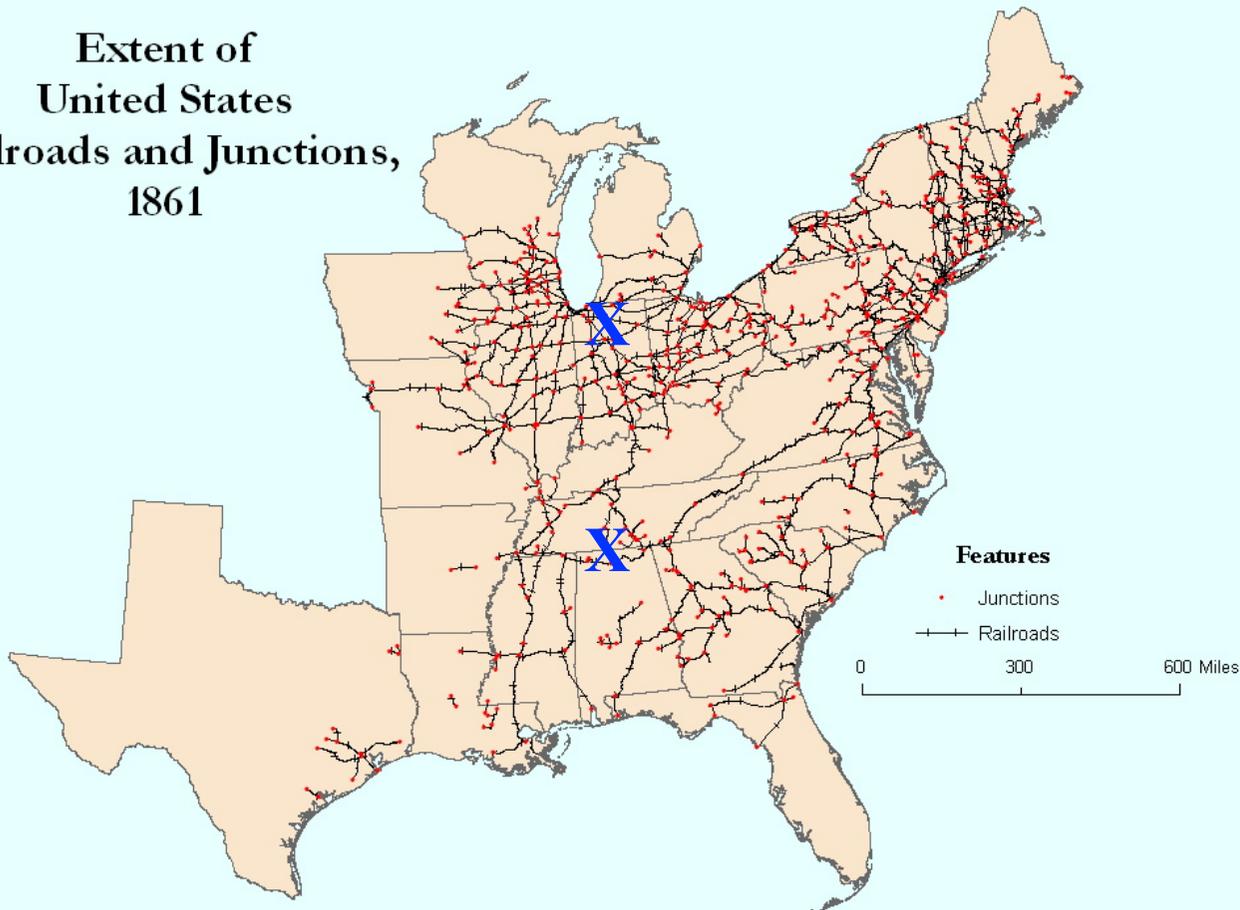
# KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT 1854

**Stephen Austin Douglas-New Democratic Leader**

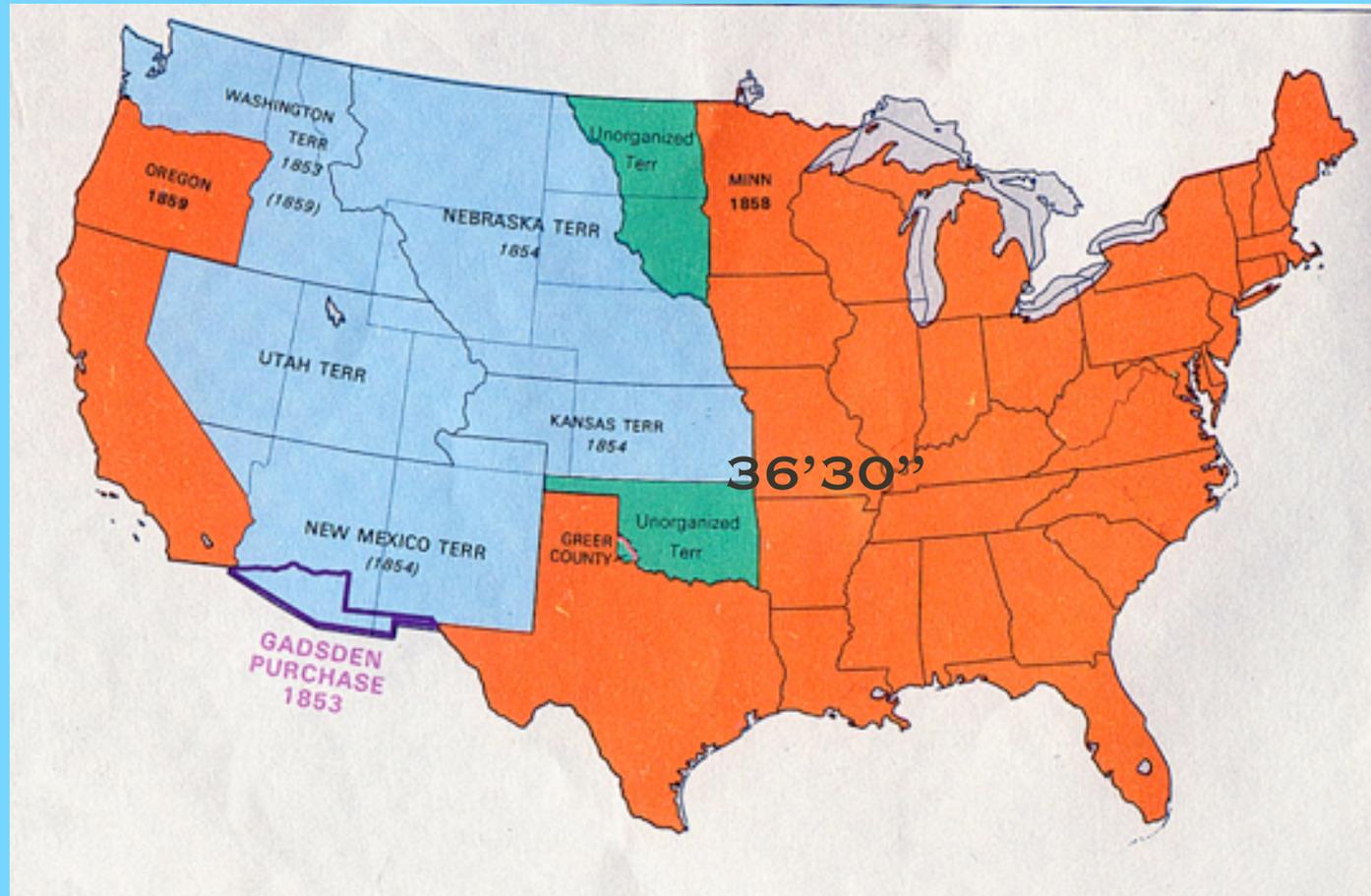
- 1. Use RR to knit nation together (JCC)**
- 2. Chicago vs. St. Louis**
- 3. The goal of making SAD president**



**Extent of  
United States  
Railroads and Junctions,  
1861**

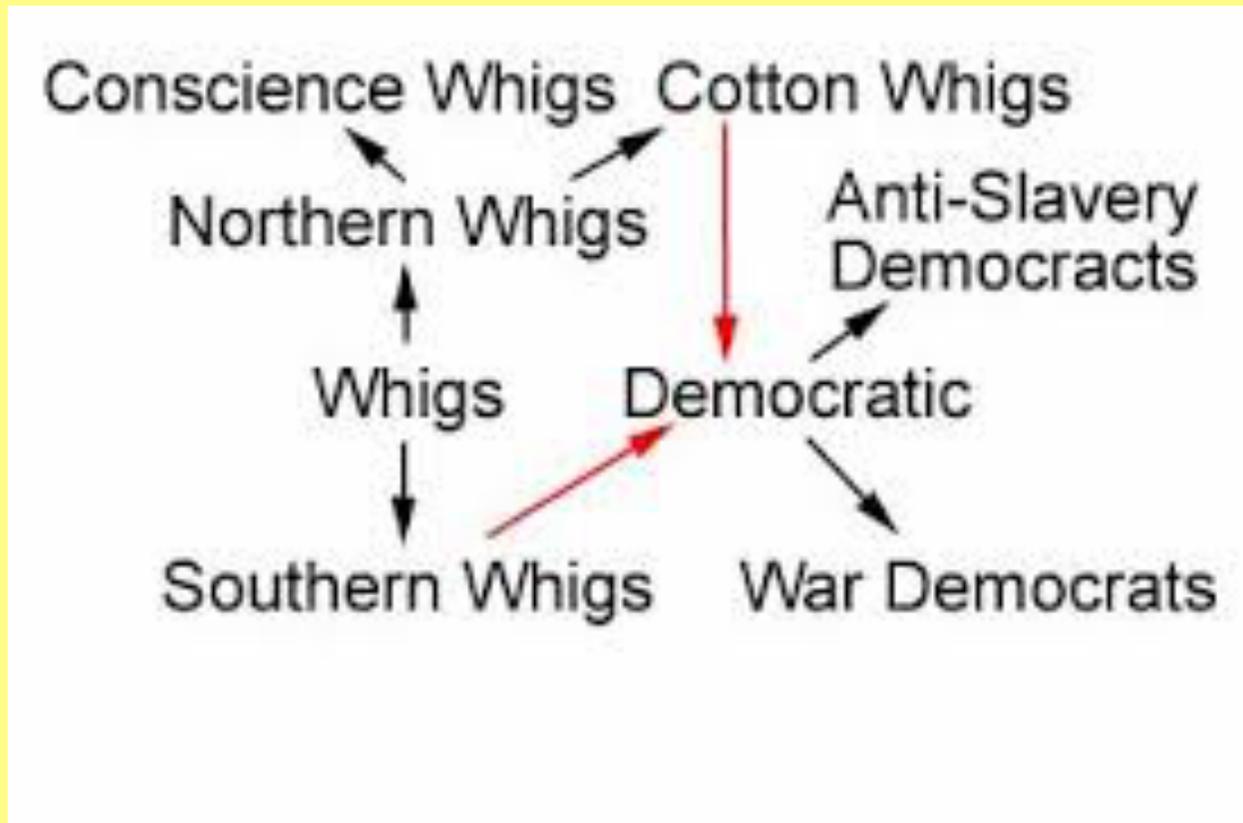


- a. Southern Senators adamant-no new free states.
- b. To stop Southern opposition, Repeal Mo. Comp 1820
  - 1. Popular Sovereignty to decide
  - 2. SAD: Expansion will unite Dem party (split after 5440)



## Now Whigs also split

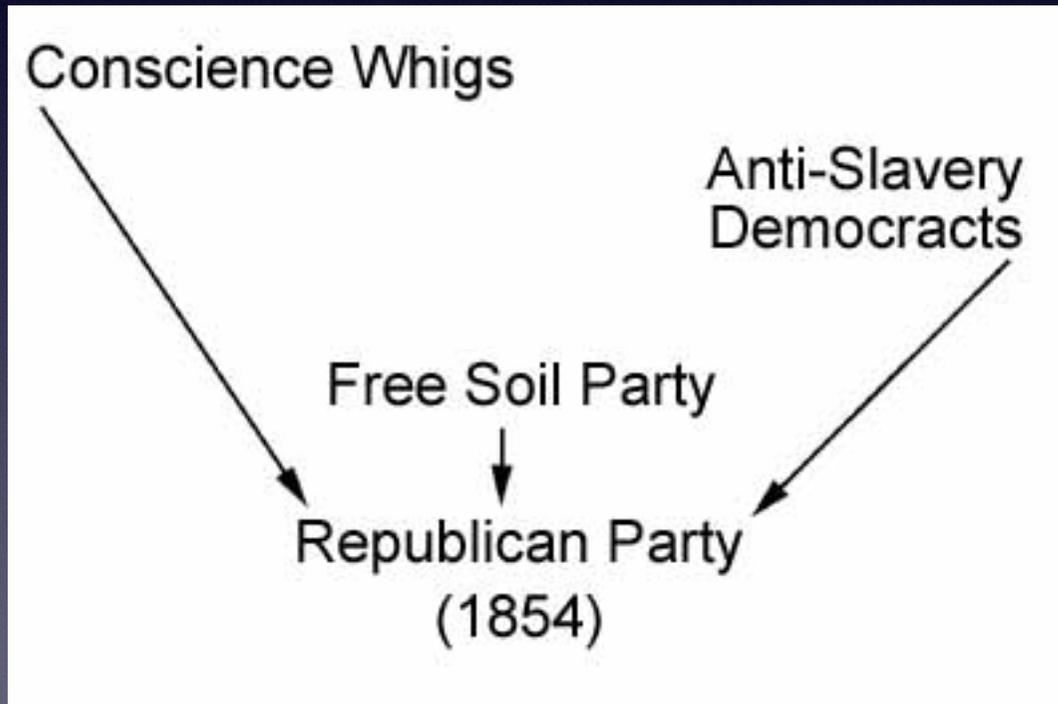
- a. Southern “cotton” Whigs join S. Democrats
- b. Northern “conscience” Whigs looked for a party



1854 political chaos

Rise of two new parties

a. Republican - Wilmot Dems + Conscience Whigs

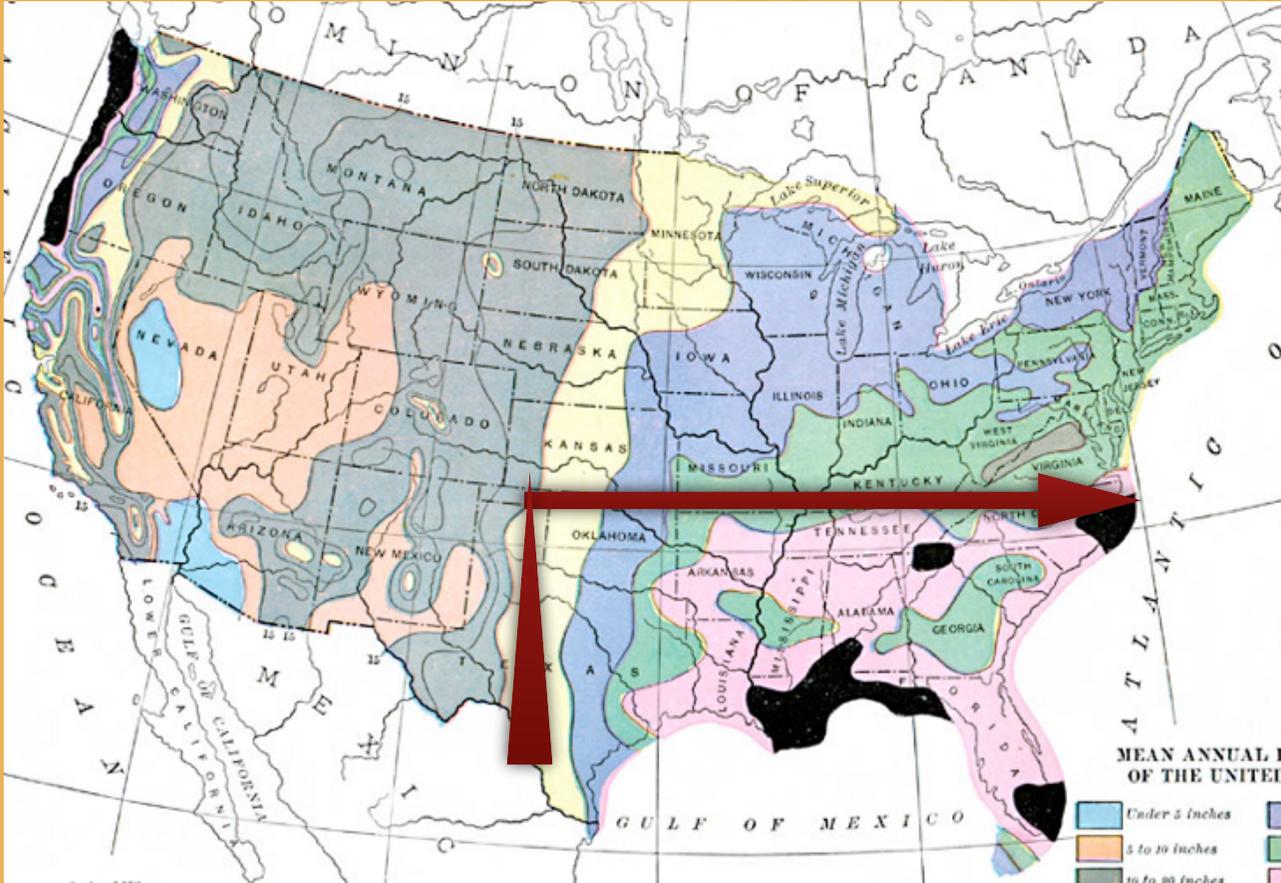


**b. American Party- Know Nothings--Cotton Whigs  
Anti Immigrant**



# Douglas as cause of the Civil War

- 1. Critics: "He blew up comp of 1820 & 1850 for personal gain."
- 2. Defense: He was merely Clay and Ramsdell



# Kansas exploded

## a. N. E. Immigrant Aid Soc. vs Boarder Ruffians



## b. Lecompton v. Topeka

- 1. Elections
- 2. Two capitals



## c. John Brown Kansas raids



**John Steuart Curry**





**Then John Brown Raid at Harper's Ferry.—1859**

**Was the peaceful abolition of slavery possible in 1850?**

**If not, is this an anti slavery Army needed to end slavery.**



**“Brown was like others who brood over the oppression of a people till he fancies himself commissioned by Heaven to liberate them. He ventures out and ends in little else than his own execution.”**



# Abolitionist Historiography

**JAMES N. GILBERT**

**“A BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS OF JOHN BROWN:  
MARTYR OR TERRORIST”**



**Terrorism has become more important in modern America after 2001.**

**A. Always associated with foreign ideas not as American.**

**B. Thesis: Brown's actions made him comparable to modern terrorists**

- C. Definition: “Unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property and intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.”**
- 1. Psychologists believe terrorist have a psychopathic personality.**
  - 2. Classic traits of psychopath—impulsiveness, lack of guilt, inability to experience emotion.**

## **II. How did Brown fit this definition?**

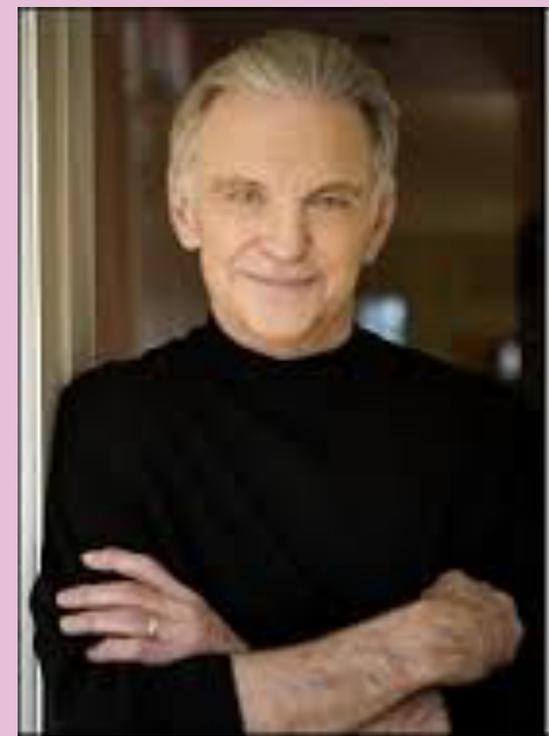
**A. He was clearly a criminal.**

- 1. He embezzled, assaulted with a deadly weapon**
- 2. Murdered five Kansas men.**

**B. He was delusional. He said:**

- 1. Society is sick and cannot be cured by half measures of reform.**
- 2. No legal remedy is possible**
- 3. Violence is justified to ensure a "higher" morality.**
- 4. "Purge is land with blood."**





**MARTIN DUBERMAN,  
"THE NORTHERN RESPONSE TO SLAVERY"**

- I. Abolitionists were most “moral” people in America**
  - A. Denouncing them as fanatics in an evil world tells more about historians than it does about abolitionists**
    - 1. Abolitionists were small group in 1830 and 1860. 1% or 100K**
    - 2. Many N. were anti-slavery, but became anti-extensionists because abolitionism too radical**
      - a. Americans never believe in radicalism.**
      - b. It suggested a problem with America-go gradually be pragmatic**
      - c. But gradualism--only an evasion of the problem**

- 3. N. said: Slavery will infect free North if it continues to spread.**
  - a. This meant--not abolishing slavery but curtailing it.**
  - b. So Northerners chose non-extension**
- 4. But would the South end slavery even if contained**
  - a. Ramsdell: Yes, but need race control.**
  - b. Jaffa: NO—Money and race would prevent it.**

**So why didn't Northerners take stronger actions?**

- a. Abolitionist had unsavory reputations**
- b. Moreover, they feared the doctrine of "IMMEDIATISM"**
  - 1. Northerners also feared for the Union**
  - 2. If Slavery were harmed, the South would leave.**
  - 3. That would destroy the union**

**Also Northerners attitude toward race made them willing to compromise on slavery**

## **However, ABOLITIONISTS WERE DIFFERENT**

- a. Not believe in the myth of containment —gradualism is a "cop out".**
- b. Abol not care about public attitude, they were concerned with right.**
  - 1. Abolitionists believed in emancipation immediately.**
  - 2. Some Northerners also opposed to slavery, but said we must go slowly.**
  - 3. Abolitionists said S. never abolish slavery gradually--Do it now!**

**Duberman said: Critics attacked the abolitionists' personalities.**

**a. "Abolitionists are disturbed fanatics"**

**1. This type of criticism begins with:**

**2. BECAUSE THEY PROTEST, THEY ARE DISTURBED**

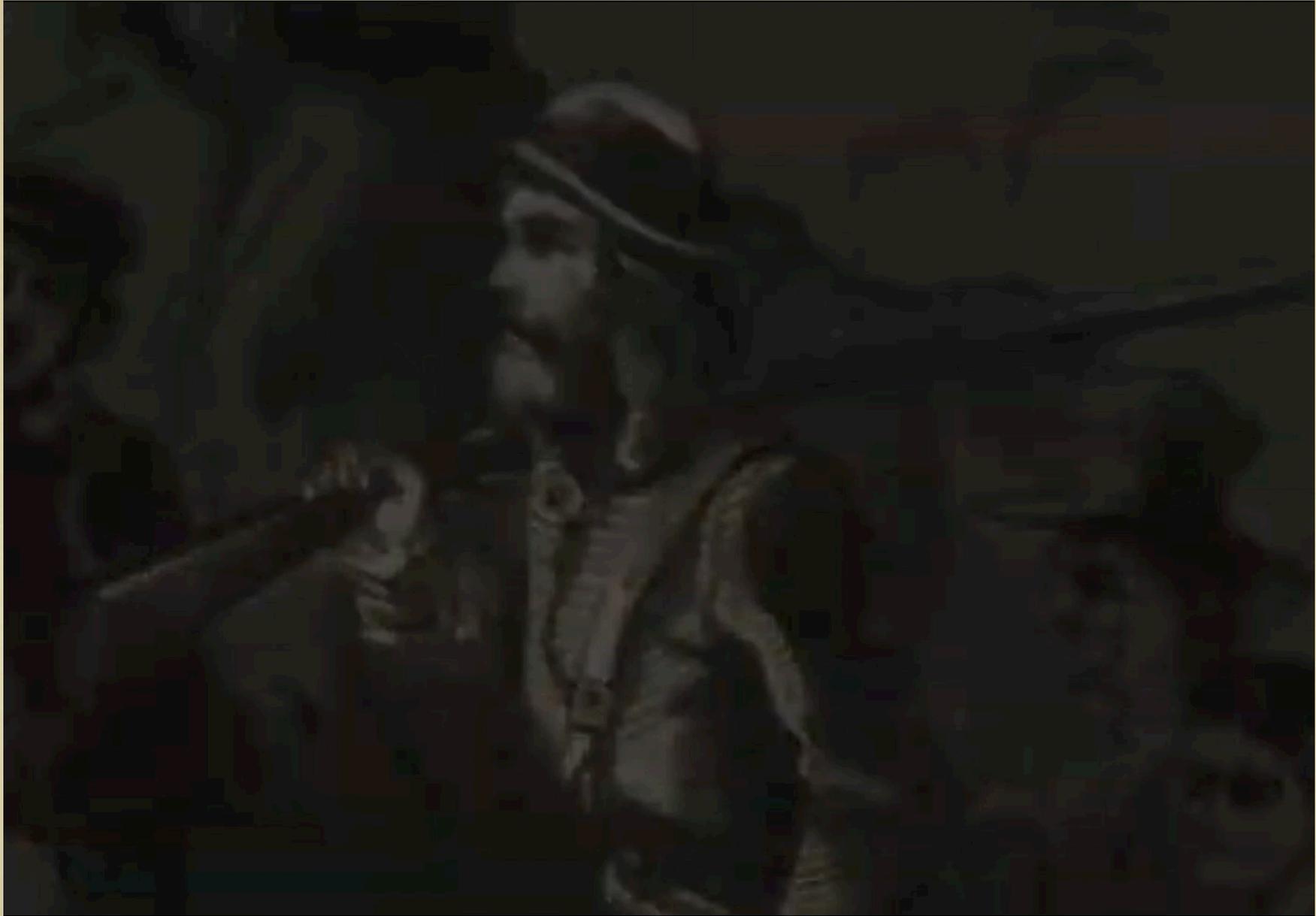
**3. This view says injustice is never enough to justify being radical**

**b. "Some may be neurotic, but actions more important than character**

**1. "Could protesting against slavery be too strong?"**

**2. Saying they were crazy makes it easier to ignore the evil of slavery.**

**3. Should the Abolitionist be called insane, or was it the North?**



**Anthony Kaye— Nat Turner The Black Prophet**

**Turner was dedicated Methodist but not fanatic.  
Joshua at the battle of Jericho.  
Joshua said leave non alive.**

**“Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice.”**

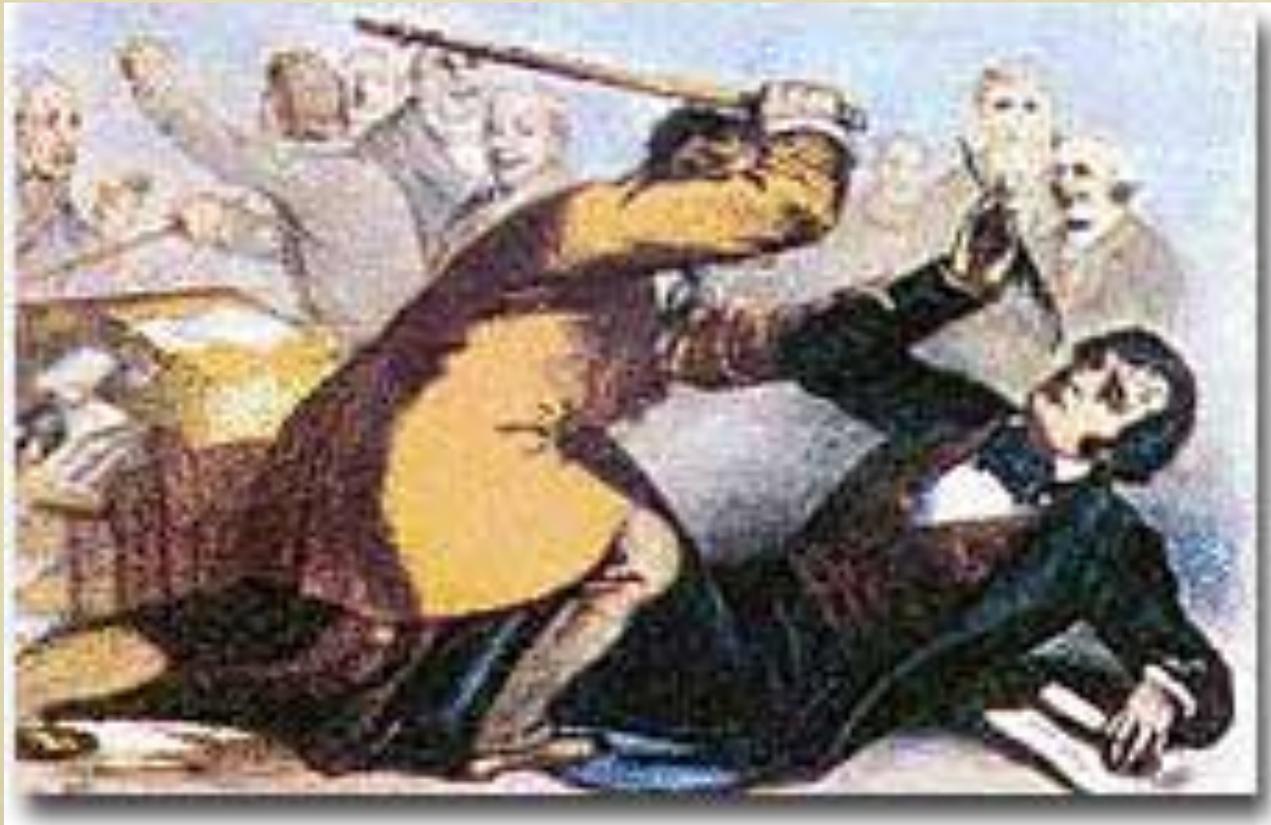




## Review

**Compromise of 1850—CA Free—Fugitive Slave Law (Achilles Heel)**  
**Election of 1852—Uncle Tom's Cabin**  
**Kansas Nebraska—Repeal 36'30" — John Brown and Abolitionists**

**The politics of the 1850s. Increasing rhetoric and political violence.  
Charles Sumner-Preston Brooks. May, 1856**



## **F. Election of 1856**

### **1. Democrats**

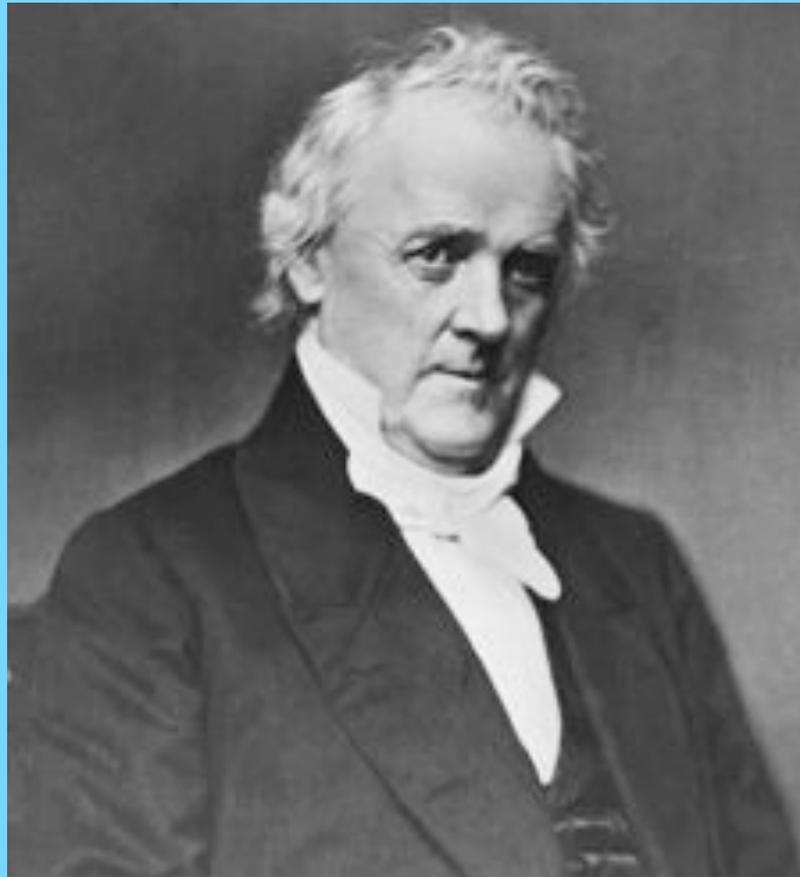
#### **a. Dump Douglas**

**1. Hurt by Attacks in Kansas & Sumner Affairs**

**2. His Kansas Nebraska “compromise” had turned sour**



**b. James Buchanan of PA—Out of country**  
**c. Keep Pop Sovereignty**

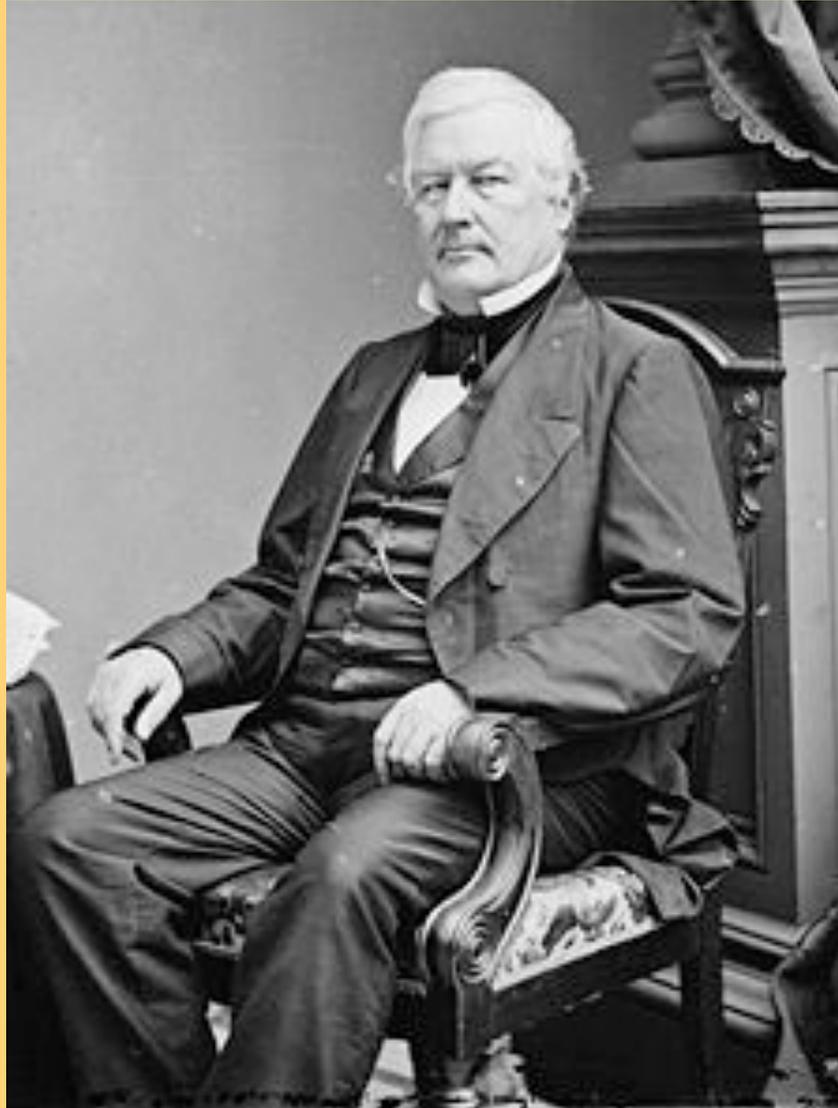


## 2. Whigs gone: Republicans-**John C Fremont**- “Free Soil”



*John Charles Fremont*

### 3. American Party (Know Nothings)- “Anti-immigrant” -Fillmore



**Fillmore**

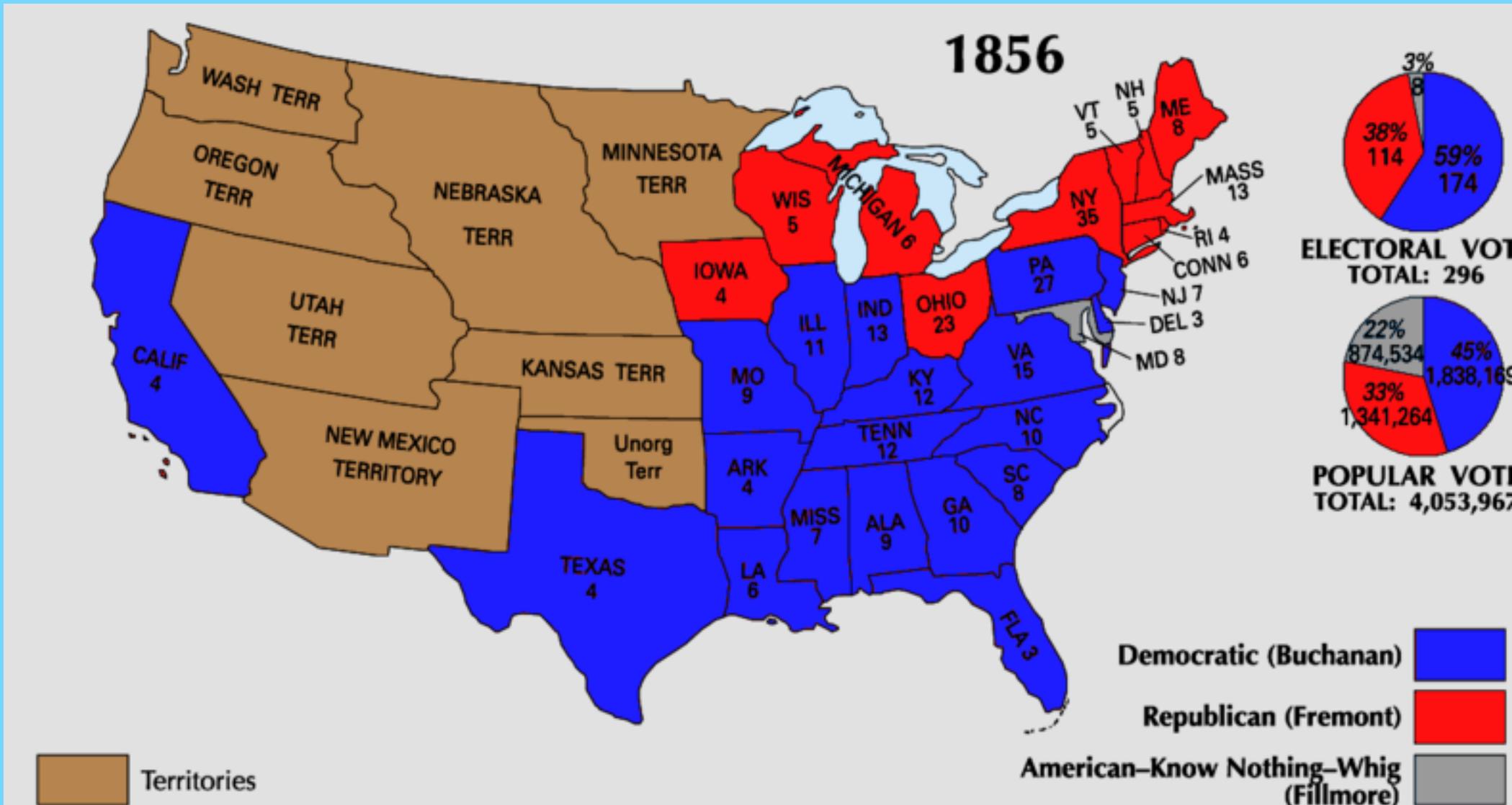
**If Northerners voted for Fremont and South for Buchanan,  
how did Buchanan win?**



## 4. Buchanan wins

a. But Republicans were close in IL, PA, IN, NJ

b. “Find a more conservative Rep”



**At this point in the discussion of the 1850s, was war inevitable?  
And what was the cause of the War?**