

Pre 1820

- Eli Whitney invents the Cotton Gin to lower the number of slaves needed in America, the machine is created to be very efficient and relatively cheap to own, it's so effective that it has the reverse effect on slavery in the South. Slave masters kept their slaves, but bought more Cotton Gins.
- The 3/5th's Compromise is not enforced and slavery grows, slaves are used extensively across the Southern States and had to do everything their masters told them to do.
- Worldwide demands for cotton and tobacco drive the need for an increased number of slaves. Therefore Southern slave holders begin to invent new ways to grow their slave population without purchasing from Africa.

Missouri Compromise of 1820

- In 1819 the USA had grown to 11 slave and 11 free states (divided by the Mason Dixon Line). As America moves westward, several new territories are close to having a large enough population to become an official United State.
- Missouri wished to join America as a slave holding state even though it was in a region that was thought as if it wasn't going to allow slavery. As before, Congress compromised and allowed Missouri to join as a slave state as long as Maine could join as a free state. This kept the balance in the Senate and the House of Representatives relatively close.
- To prevent further arguments about where slavery could and couldn't exist as future territories became states, a line on a map was agreed upon, it was the southern border of Missouri or 36' 30" degrees latitude.
- <http://www.history.com/topics/missouri-compromise>

Nat Turner's Rebellion of 1831

- In the 1820's, a Virginia slave named Nat Turner kept having religious dreams that told him the day was coming where he would be free but also have to fight and possibly kill to gain that freedom. He also had a talent for predicting future events for other slaves and his masters. To the slaves on his farm, he was considered a prophet with the gift of prophecy.
- In the 1830's, Nat and his friends noticed strange atmospheric conditions and believed this was a sign to start a rebellion against Virginia slave masters. After organizing, Nat's group has killed over 50 white farmers and their families near the North Carolina border with Virginia.
- After Nat's group is caught and executed, fear begins to grow in southern Virginia and it leads to over 200 black slaves being executed for no reason.
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part3/3p1518.html>

Compromise of 1850

- In 1849, America had grown to 15 slave states and 15 free states. The balance in Congress had been kept using the Missouri Compromise since 1820.
- California is now asking to join America but as a free state, the problem is that some of California is below the Missouri Compromise line (36'30" latitude) and the southern states argue it must be entered to America as a slave state. Northern states argue that because most of the state is above the Missouri Line it must be a free state.
- Fighting in Congress erupts and to avoid the 15 southern states from leaving America and forming their own nation, the North will get California as a free state, the largest slave market in America (ironically it's in Washington DC) must close forever, and Texas must give up all rights to land to it's west called "the New Mexico Territory". The South will get all of their runaway slaves living in a Northern state or Western territory returned to their plantations in the South, Washington DC is officially allowed to keep and use slaves (even though it can't sell any slaves), the new territories called "Utah" and "New Mexico" do not have to abide by the Missouri Compromise so they can vote for themselves whether they want slaves or not, and Texas will get \$10,000,000 in exchange for New Mexico's rights.
- <http://www.ushistory.org/us/30d.asp>

Uncle Tom's Cabin 1852

- Written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, this book was the first time many northerners read about the horrors of slavery in the South.
- The book reached as far as Europe and brought many nations (including England) to express their views for the abolitionist movement. Stowe was happy that her book was raising awareness about the horrors of slavery, but also saddened that many nations vocally argued that slavery was wrong and should be abolished yet continue to buy American tobacco and cotton products which really financially supported the South's economy.
- <https://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/utc/impact.shtml>

Kansas Nebraska Act 1854

-In 1854, Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which organized the remaining territory acquired in the Louisiana Purchase so that such territories could be admitted to the Union as states. Probably the most important result of the Kansas-Nebraska Act was its language concerning the contentious issue of slavery.

Bleeding Kansas 1856

-After Kansas and Nebraska are allowed to vote for their own slave holding status, it's discovered that the elections are rigged and ruffians from Missouri were voting illegally in Kansas' election. The two states eventually go to war with each other.

- After years of fighting and very limited interjection from the federal government, Northern Abolitionist John Brown raises a private army and helps Kansas defeat troops from Missouri. Brown is violent, vicious and brutal to all in his way but because he fought to end slavery many of his war crimes were overlooked.

-Now a national celebrity, Brown begins to think of other ways to use war (like bleeding Kansas) to end slavery in the South.

The Dred Scott Decision of 1857

-Dred Scott is a slave that was given as a gift to a soldier who lived in Illinois. Scott received his freedom verbally but never got a written note called "emancipation papers" to prove his freedom. After the soldier dies, his sons and wife sue to regain possession of Dred claiming that he was property of their father and therefore passed on in their inheritance.

- Dred's lawyers argue that because he was freed on Northern Soil he is now a free citizen and protected by the Constitution. The Supreme Court rules that because Dred was a former slave, he is not considered a citizen and therefore not protected by the Constitution and has to be returned to a state of slavery.

- This court case was the final straw for many Northern Abolitionists. Knowing that they can no longer trust even the Supreme Court to end slavery, the movement starts to call for more physical approaches to ending slavery in the South.

The Lincoln Douglas Debates of 1858

-Abraham Lincoln and the incumbent, Stephen A. Douglas, ran against each other for an Illinois Senate seat in 1858.

-The hot topics in the seven debates were slavery and popular sovereignty. In accepting his party's nomination for the seat, Lincoln gave his famous "House Divided" speech.

- Douglas won the Senate seat, but Lincoln gained nationwide recognition for his thoughtful, impassioned arguments.

John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry 1859

-Abolitionist John Brown is still attempting to end slavery in the South by violent means. Since the time of Bleeding Kansas his army has scattered as the US Army is now looking for him as a war criminal.

- Brown and his sons attempt to attack the US Army weapons depot at Harper's Ferry WV. When they capture the guns, they will give them to slaves with the understanding that the slaves go back into the south and begin to kill all masters. Each new slave that is freed is given the chance to join his army or be killed themselves.

- Brown is unsuccessful and a Virginia Colonel name Robert E. Lee captures and executes Brown as a warning to all other abolitionists that intend to harm a US Army base.

The Election of 1860

-As tensions rise in America, senators and representatives from the southern slave holding states inform Congress and the citizens that if Abraham Lincoln is elected, they will leave the Union and form a new nation. The Congressmen in question argue that Lincoln will not honor the principal of state's rights and therefore in violation of the Constitution.

- These same states argue that the nation was founded under the Articles of Confederation which allowed each state to remain independent of each other or confederated, therefore if they leave the Union they will take the name The Confederate States of America

- True to their word, when Lincoln is elected, 11 southern states leave the United States of America to form their own nation

The Attack on Fort Sumter 1861

- After the southern states leave the Union and form the CSA (Confederate States of America), many northerners do not believe they are really gone. The average sentiment is that the CSA is acting like a spoiled child and will return to the Union as soon as they realize how hard it is to survive on their own.
- The CSA continues to inform the USA that it is now a foreign nation and is not ever returning to the USA, to show how serious they are, they raise an army and attack the USA Military Base in Charleston Harbor (called Fort Sumter) and actually win.
- This shows the USA that the CSA is not only serious about forming their own nation but how strong their military has grown in such a short while.