

Section 1: Growing Tensions Over Slavery
The Nation Divided

Primary Source

Speech to the Senate

The debate over the Compromise of 1850 involved three giants who had dominated the U.S. Senate and American politics for three decades: John C. Calhoun from South Carolina, Daniel Webster from Massachusetts, and Henry Clay from Kentucky. On March 7, 1850, Webster gave a speech in the Senate to reply to Calhoun's attack on Clay's proposal for the Compromise of 1850. The North and the South were bitterly divided. What follows is the beginning of Webster's historic speech.

Directions: Read the speech and then answer the questions.

Mr. President, I wish to speak to-day, not as a Massachusetts man, nor as a Northern man, but as an American, and a member of the Senate of the United States. It is fortunate that there is a Senate of the United States; a body not yet moved from its propriety [sense of acceptable behavior], not lost to a just sense of its own dignity and its own high responsibilities, and a body to which the country looks, with confidence, for wise, moderate, patriotic, and healing counsels [advice]. It is not to be denied that we live in the midst of strong agitations [troubles], and are surrounded by very considerable dangers to our institutions and our government I speak to-day for the preservation of the Union. "Hear me for my cause." I speak to-day, out of a solicitous [caring] and anxious heart for the restoration to the country of that quiet and harmonious harmony which make the blessings of this Union so rich, and so dear to us all.

—Daniel Webster, 1850

1. What is Webster's goal in making this speech in favor of the compromise Clay proposed?

2. Why do you think Webster began his speech by saying that he was an American and a senator rather than a man from Massachusetts or the North?

3. **Evaluate Information** Do you find Webster persuasive? Why or why not?

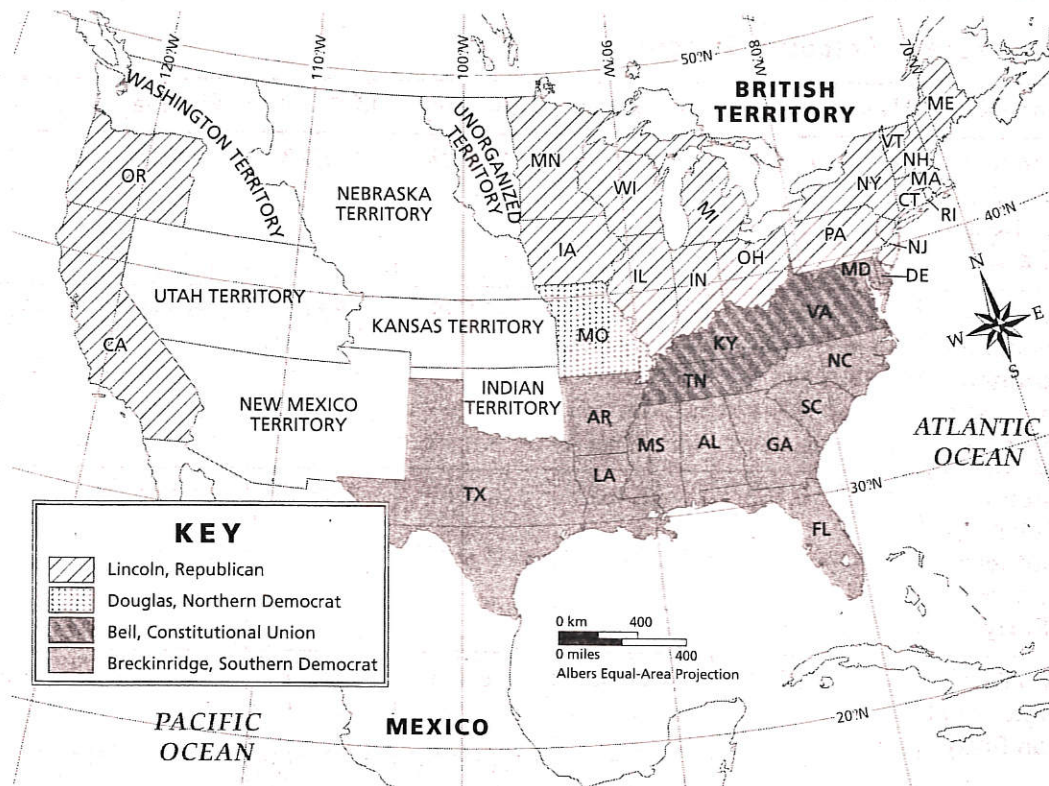
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Map

1860 Electoral Votes

This map shows the results of the election of 1860 between Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, John Bell, and John Breckinridge.

Directions: Use the map to answer the questions below.



- Who won the election?

- Which candidates did NOT win in any southern states?

- Which states did Bell win? Where are these states?

- Draw Conclusions** From what you have read in this chapter and from the results of this election, what conclusion can you draw about voters' positions on slavery and secession in different parts of the South?

Section 4: The Coming of the Civil War
The Nation Divided**Reading a Chart****The Election of 1860**

This chart shows the results of the election of 1860 in Massachusetts, Maryland, California, Missouri, Virginia, and Illinois.

Directions: Use the chart to answer the questions below.

Election of 1860**Popular Vote in Selected States**

Candidate	Massachusetts	Maryland	California	Missouri	Virginia	Illinois
Abraham Lincoln/ Republican Party	106,684	2,294	38,733	17,028	1,887	172,171
Stephen Douglas/ Northern Democratic Party	34,370	5,966	37,999	58,801	16,198	160,215
John Breckinridge/ Southern Democratic Party	6,163	42,482	33,969	31,362	74,325	2,331
John Bell/ Constitutional Union Party	22,331	41,760	9,111	58,372	74,481	4,914

1. Who was the candidate of the Constitutional Union Party?

2. Which state did Breckinridge win?

3. Both Lincoln and Douglas came from Illinois. Which one received the most votes there?

4. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think Breckinridge and Bell received so many more votes than Lincoln and Douglas did in Virginia?
