



# 6. Slavery in the United States

OLE3245 - Belfast and Slavery, 1613-1866

Dr Tom Thorpe

# Contents

- Slavery in America up until 1776
- Slavery during the American War of Independence
- Slavery and the expansion of the USA, 1783-1866
- The role and activity of the abolition movement



# Why address slavery in the southern USA?



UNITED STATES SLAVE TRADE.



# Importance of context

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- Give context to the anti-slavery activity of Belfast activists from 1833-1866.
- Investigate the economic factors sustaining Southern slavery, including the influence of plantation agriculture, the cotton gin, and the expansion of slave labour, to understand the institution's financial roots.
- Assess the profound social and cultural consequences of slavery on both enslaved individuals and Southern society.
- Examine the role of slavery in shaping political dynamics at state and federal levels, analyzing key legislative compromises and conflicts that contributed to sectional tensions and the outbreak of the Civil War.





Slavery up  
until the War  
of  
Independence

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# British introduced slavery

Slavery prevalent throughout British colonial period.

Varied roles of enslaved people in the North: house servants, artisans, laborers.

Concentration in cities, particularly in New York City (NYC).

1703: 42% of NYC households held enslaved individuals.

Second-highest proportion in colonies after Charleston, South Carolina.

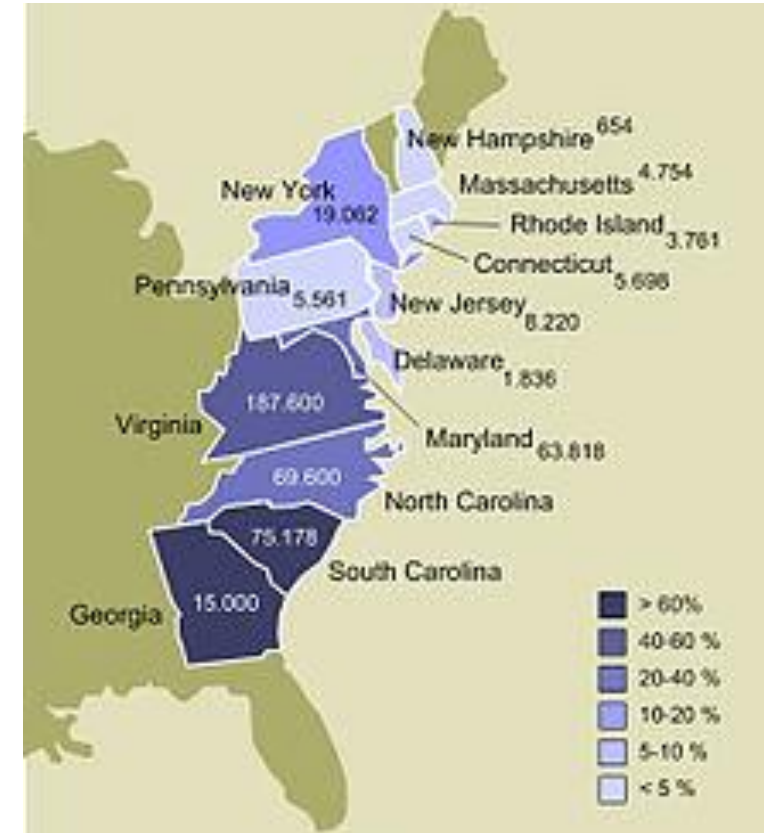
Enslaved workers in farm communities, especially in the South.





# Slavery varied throughout the 13 colonies

- 1770: 397,924 blacks out of 2.17 million population in future U.S.
- Uneven distribution: 3% in New England, 6% in mid-Atlantic, 31% in Southern Colonies.
- Early focus on indigo, rice, and tobacco; cotton became major crop later.
- 1720: 65% of South Carolina's population enslaved.



Enslavement in the 13 colonies, 1770. Numbers show actual and estimated slave population by colony. Boundaries shown are based on 1860 state boundaries, not those of 1770 colonies.



# Growing anti slavery movement in North

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- Emerging debate in the second half of the 18th century.
- Opposition to further importation due to fears of destabilization and rebellions.
- 1772: Virginians petitioned Crown to abolish slave trade, rejected.
- Rhode Island forbade slave importation in 1774.
- Fairfax Resolves called for an end to "wicked, cruel and unnatural" Atlantic slave trade.

THE  
Sumner Union League Club,  
OF HARTFORD, CONN.,  
Having secured the services of  
**HON. FREDERIC DOUGLASS,**  
Of Washington, D. C.,  
FOR A  
**LECTURE**  
IN ALLYN HALL,  
Wednesday Evening, January 10th, 1883,



# Slavery during the Revolutionary War, 1776-1783



# Slavery at the 1787 Constitutional Convention

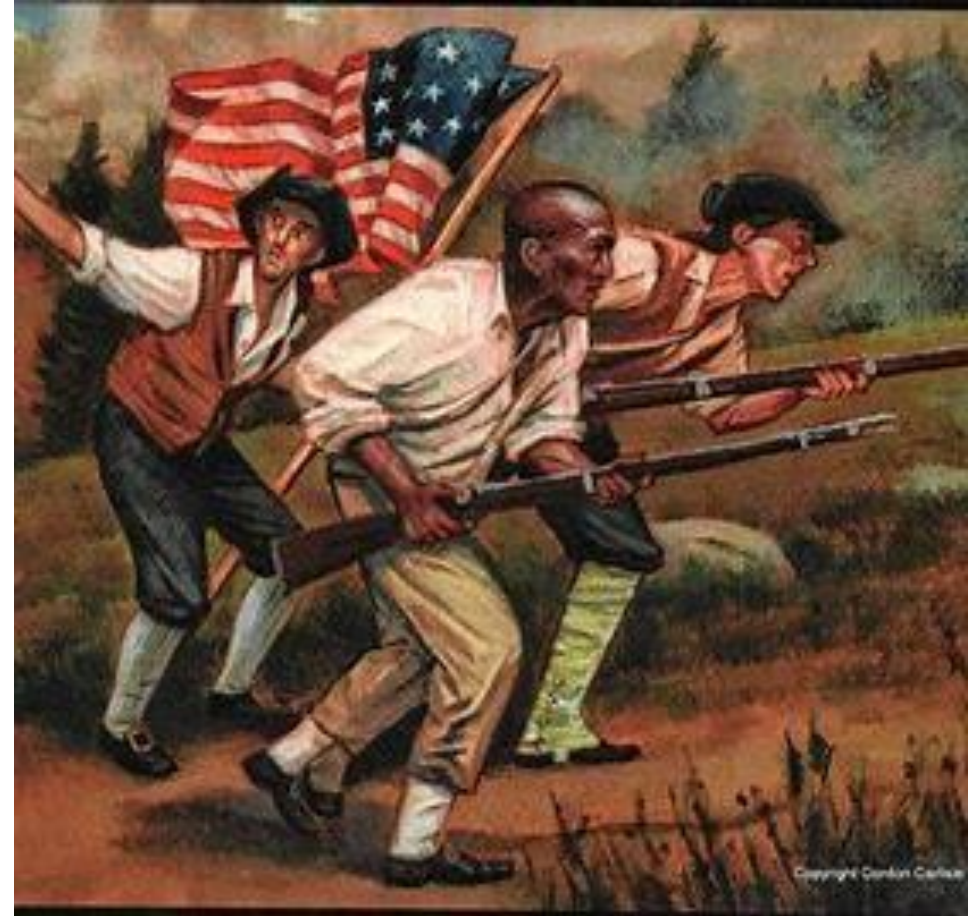
- Founding Fathers, many being plantation owners, addressed slavery at the Constitutional Convention
- Original Constitution preserved slave ownership rights, granting political advantages
- Enslaved considered sentient property, denied voting rights, yet counted as three-fifths of a person for representation
- Founding fathers with enslaved laborers gained political advantage





# Black Patriots in the American Revolution

- Washington authorizes freedom for slaves fighting with the Continental Army of the USA.
- Rhode Island enlists slaves in 1778, offering compensation for owners
- About one-fifth of the Northern army (stationed in the north) and one-quarter of the American revolutionary land forces in 1781 were black



# Black Loyalists and British Proclamations

- British commanders issue proclamations offering freedom to Patriot-owned slaves
- Up to 100,000 American slaves flee to British lines
- Black loyalists were black soldiers 'loyal' to the Crown
- Former slaves organized into military units, some evacuated to Britain, others re-enslaved or fled into the countryside



# Dunmore's Proclamation and Slave Defections

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- Lord Dunmore, British colonial governor, issues proclamation offering freedom to slaves of American patriots in 1775.
- Slaves flee to British lines; some join military, others work as laborers and servants.
- Disruption of war leads to widespread slave escapes, especially in the South.
- Washington hired a slave catcher during the war, and at its end he pressed the British to return the slaves to their masters.







# End of the conflict: Black Loyalists' Exodus

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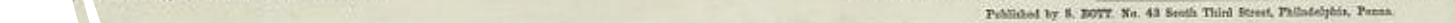
- Around 15,000 Black Loyalists departed with the British, seeking freedom
- Most settled as free individuals in England or its colonies
- Armed with British certificates of freedom, they sailed from New York harbor
- Washington's slave Harry among the Black Loyalists
- Over 3,000 resettled in Nova Scotia, receiving land grants
- Formation of the vibrant community of Black Nova Scotians

# Slavery and the expansion of the USA



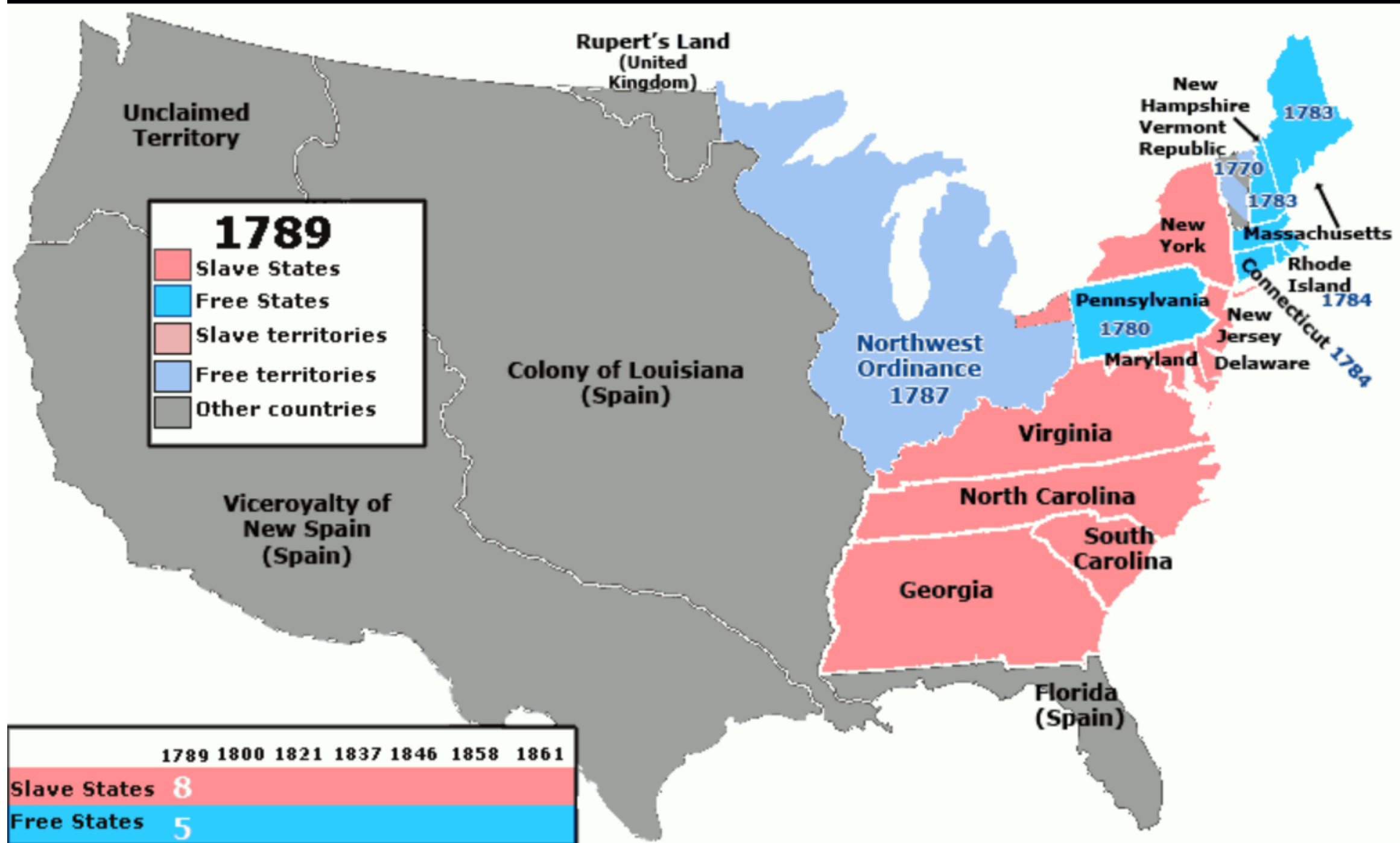


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Revised according to Act of Congress, in the year 1862, by J. W. THURGOOD, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Eastern District of New York.







# Key

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- Slave states – slavery institutionalised, recognised by law
- Free States – slavery outlawed but Federal fugitive slave laws apply
- Slave territories – slavery permitted up to the end of the Civil War

# Northern States' Abolition Efforts

Northern states took progressive steps towards abolition

New constitutions in the North contained language about equal rights or explicitly abolished slavery

By 1804, all Northern states had passed laws outlawing slavery, either immediately or gradually over time

Notable milestone: In 1827, New York celebrated the emancipation of its last slaves with a significant July 4 parade

## Anti-Slavery MEETING.

The Connecticut Baptist Anti-Slavery Convention will be in session, *This evening*, at **Gilman's Hall**.

**IT is expected that Addresses** will be given by Rev. C. W. DENISON, Rev. J. W. BREWER, late Missionary to Palestine, Messrs. C. VAN LOON, FRANCIS HAWLEY, S. W. PALMER, and others.

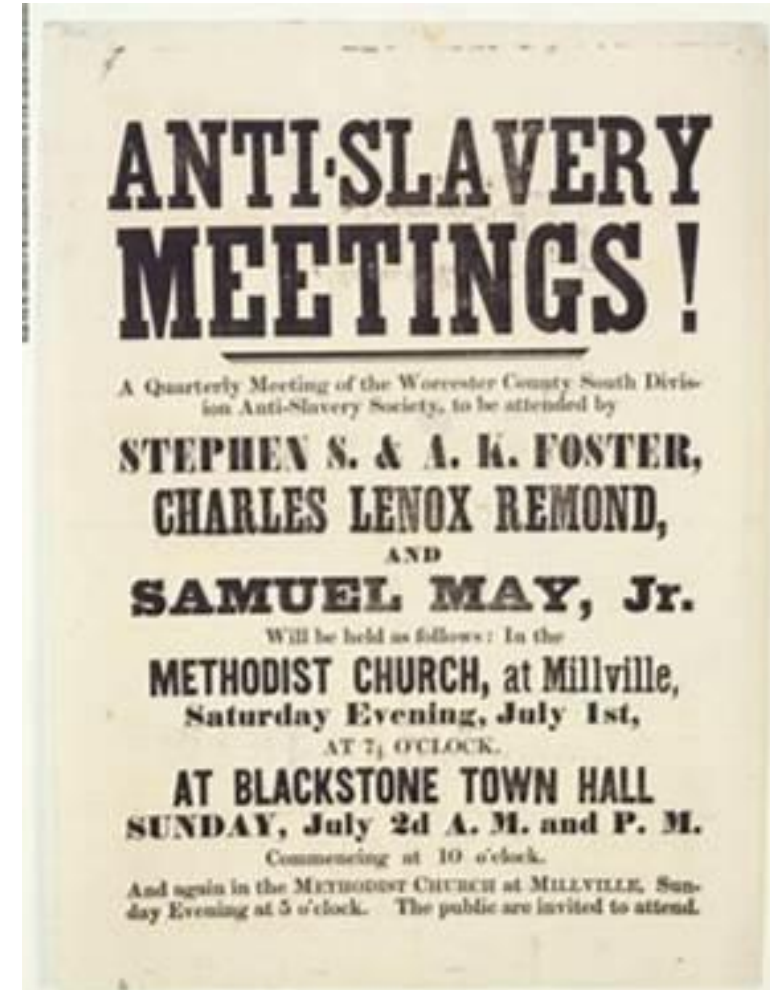
The **PUBLIC** are invited to attend. The Convention will also probably be in session **TO-MORROW**. All its sessions are public.

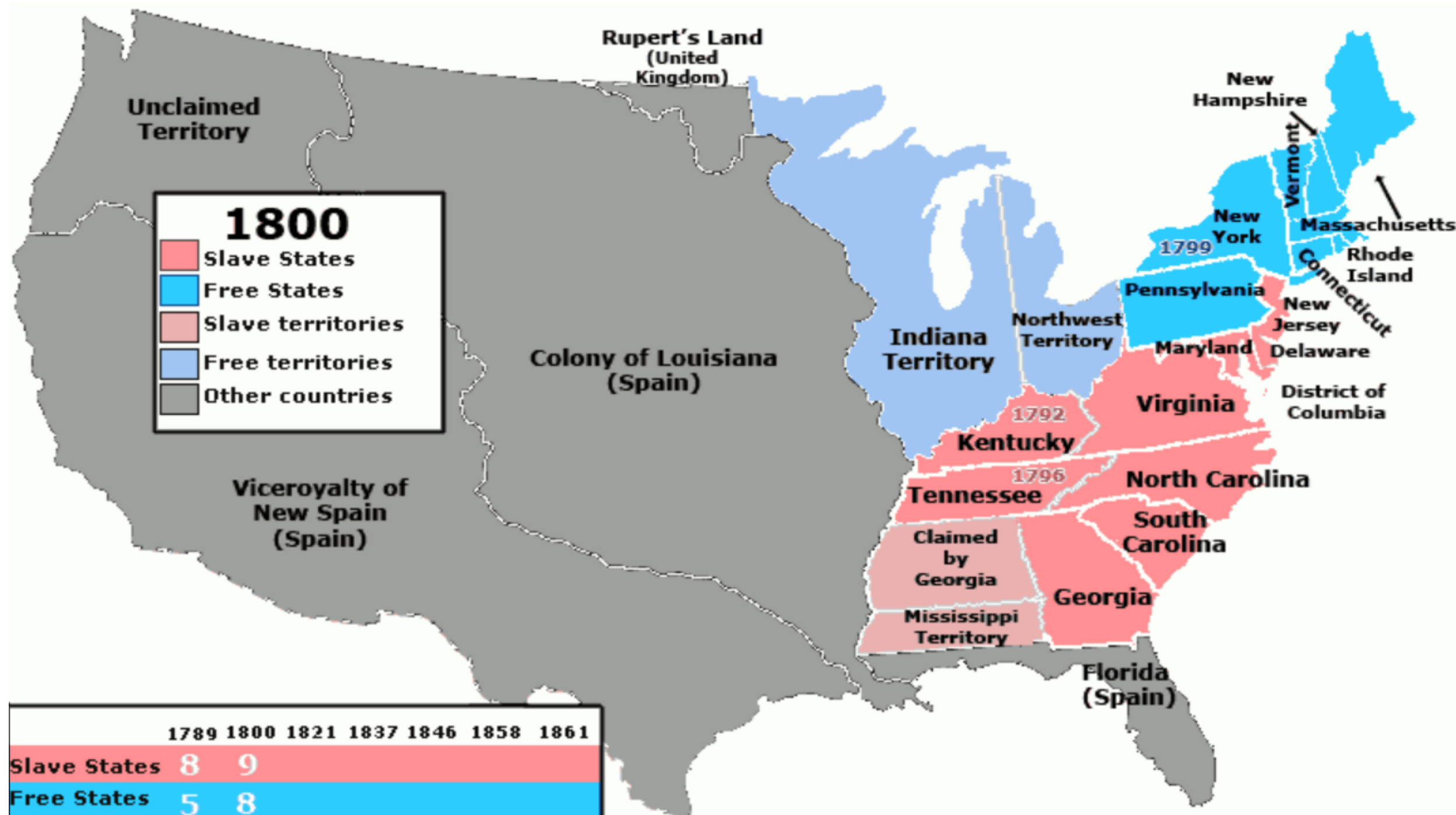
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 10.



# Indentured Servitude and Abolition

- Indentured servitude, widespread in the colonies, saw a dramatic decline and disappeared by 1800
- Despite this, forcibly indentured servants persisted in New Jersey until 1860

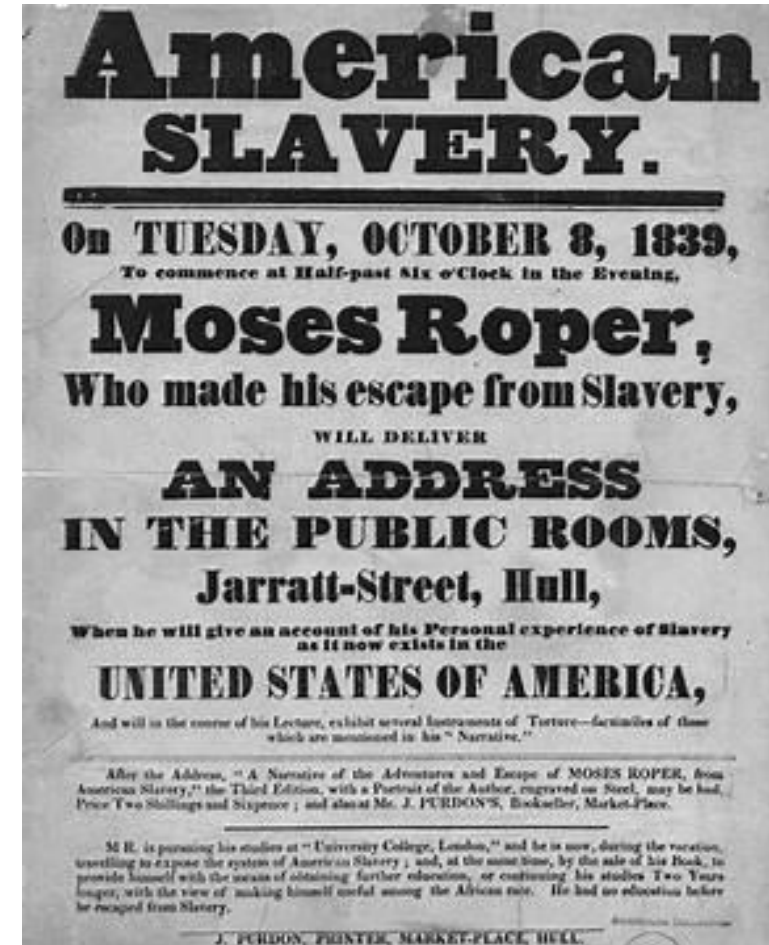




	1789	1800	1821	1837	1846	1858	1861
Slave States	8	9					
Free States	5	8					

# Southern States and Individual Actions

- No Southern state formally abolished slavery
- Some individual owners, however, freed slaves by personal decision
- Manumission practices varied, with documents citing revolutionary ideals or promises of freedom for service





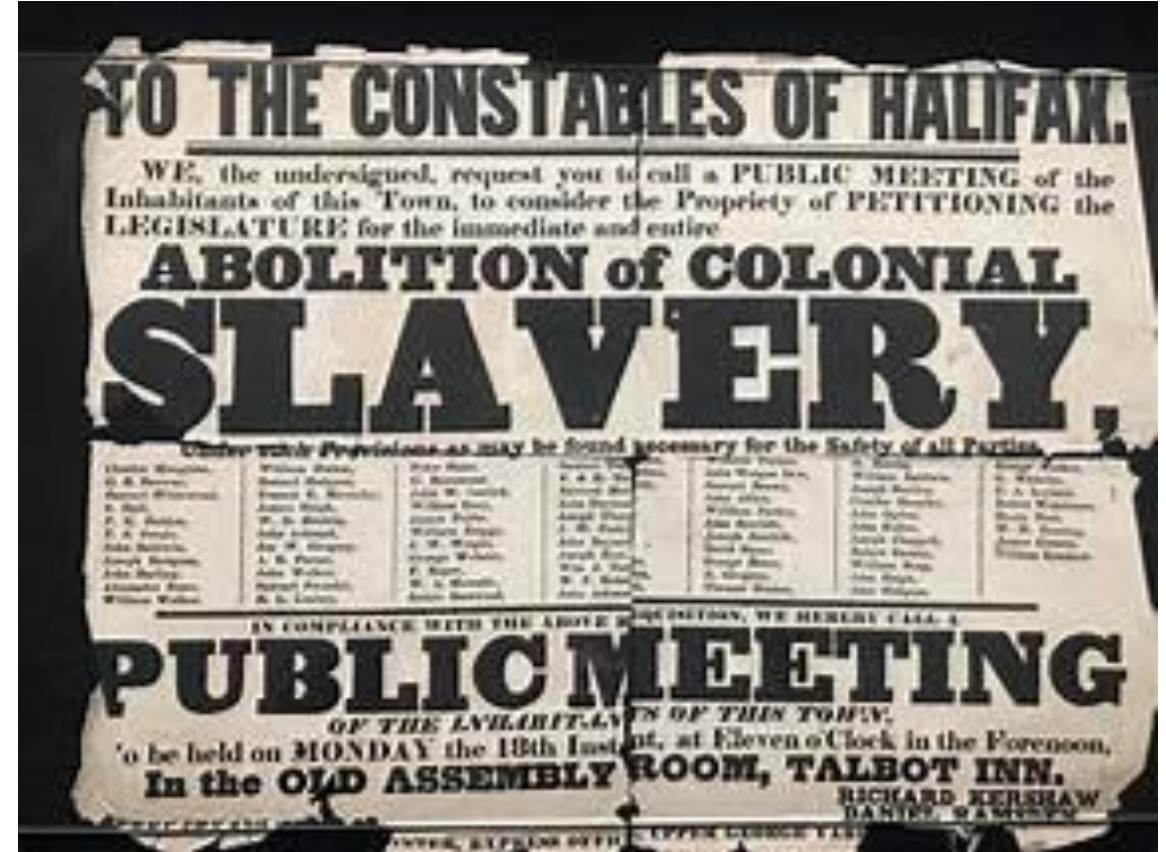
# Increasing Freedom for Blacks

- From 1790 to 1810, the proportion of free Blacks in the U.S. rose from 8 to 13.5 percent
- In the Upper South, the increase was significant, from less than one to nearly ten percent, due to abolitionist actions.
- The term "Upper South" refers to a geographical and cultural region in the southern part of the United States (Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky).
- The Upper South is a subregion of the larger Southern United States and is often distinguished from the "Deep South."



# Actions to outlaw the slave trade

- Post-Revolutionary legislation targeted the international slave trade
- States outlawed slave importation state by state
- After the war, the international slave trade briefly reopened in some Southern states
- In 1807, following Thomas Jefferson's advice, the U.S. Congress made importing slaves from abroad a federal crime
- Effective January 1, 1808, the prohibition aligned with the U.S. Constitution



# Abolition in the Northern States

- Abolitionist efforts in states north of Maryland gained momentum
- Vermont Republic, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island initiated gradual emancipation.
- The end of slavery did not come in New York until 4 July 1827.
- Influential societies like the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and the New York Manumission Society played key roles.





# Evolution of Slavery in Northern States (1830-1850)

## 1830 Census:

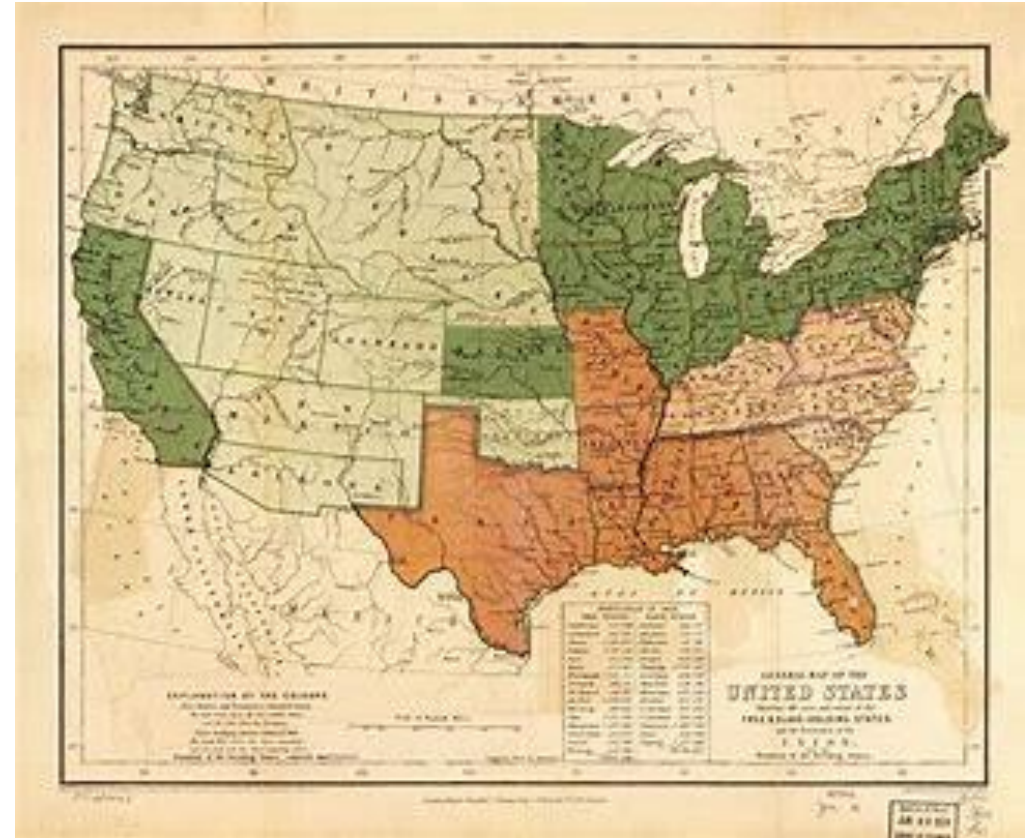
- Vermont was the only state in the 1830 census with no recorded slaves.
- Illustrates an early trend of abolition or low slave ownership in Northern states.

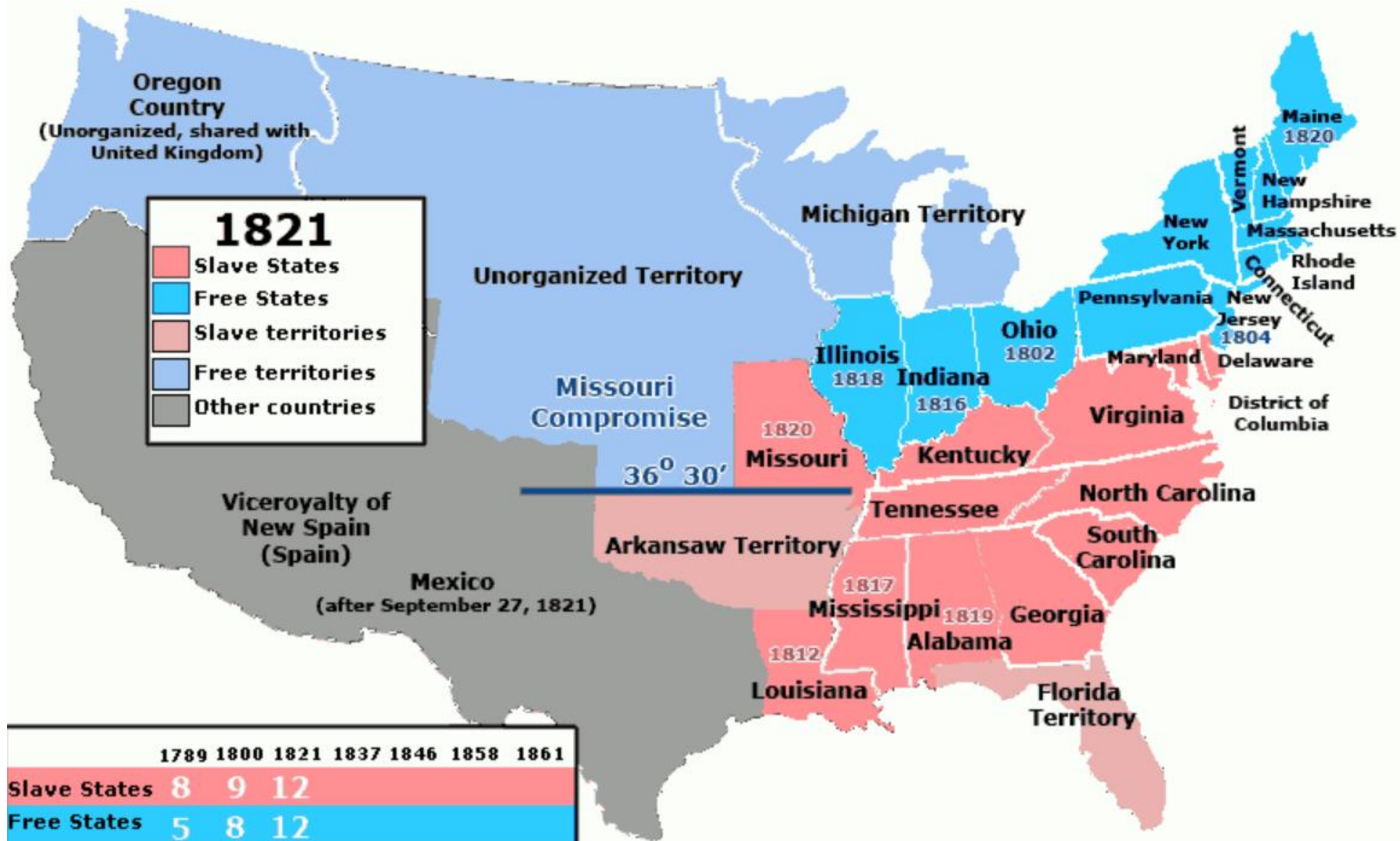
## 1840 Census:

- Several Northern states still reported slave ownership in the 1840 census.
- New Hampshire (1), Rhode Island (5), Connecticut (17), New York (4), Pennsylvania (64), Ohio (3), Indiana (3), Illinois (331), Iowa (16), and Wisconsin (11).
- Indicates a gradual decline in slave ownership but presence still notable.

## 1850 Census:

- Remarkably, the 1850 census showed no slaves in the aforementioned Northern states.
- Reflects a significant shift towards abolition and the eventual eradication of slavery in the Northern region.







# Expansion of the USA westward

- In the early 19th century, the United States was expanding westward, and the question of whether new states admitted to the Union would allow slavery became a contentious issue.
- The balance of power between free and slave states was delicate, and maintaining this balance was crucial to prevent disputes in Congress.





# Missouri Compromise (1820)

## 1. Admission of Missouri and Maine:

1. Missouri sought admission to the Union as a slave state.
2. To maintain the balance, Maine, previously part of Massachusetts, was admitted as a free state.
3. This kept the number of slave and free states equal at 12 each.

## 2. Prohibition Line (36°30' Parallel):

1. A line was drawn along the southern border of Missouri at latitude 36°30'.
2. Slavery would be prohibited in any new territories or states created north of this line (except for Missouri).



# Impact

## 1. Temporary Resolution:

- The Missouri Compromise was a temporary solution that maintained the balance between slave and free states.
- It allowed for a brief period of relative peace on the issue of slavery in Congress.

## 2. Sectional Tensions:

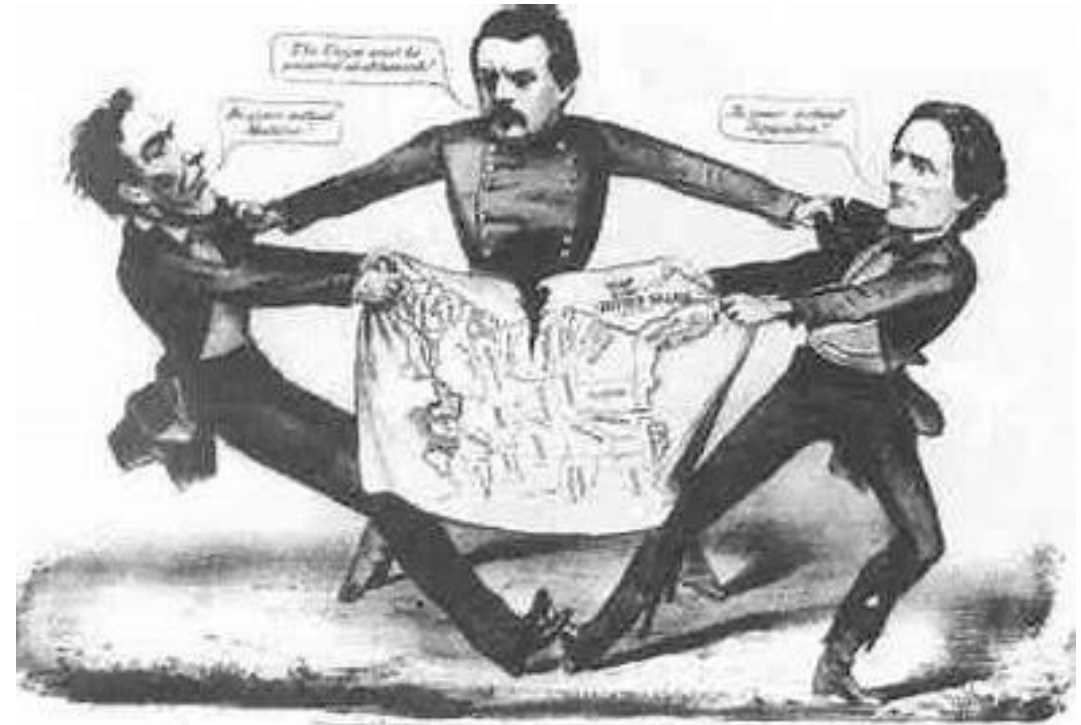
- While it addressed immediate concerns, the Missouri Compromise highlighted the deep sectional tensions over slavery that would persist in the following decades.

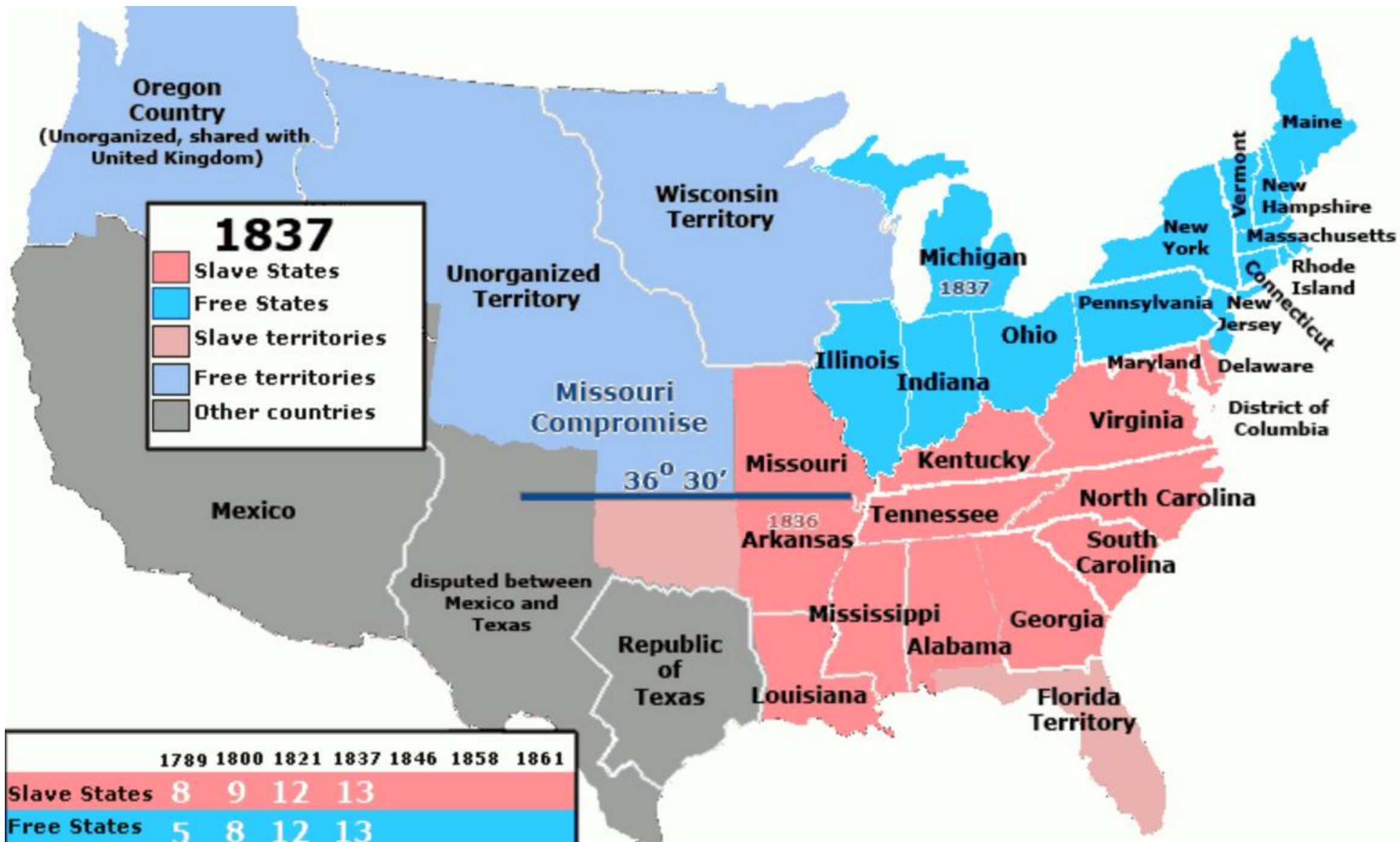
## 3. Repeal and Compromise of 1850:

- Over time, as the U.S. acquired more territory from the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), new conflicts arose.
- The Missouri Compromise was effectively repealed by the Compromise of 1850, which included provisions such as the Fugitive Slave Act and the admission of California as a free state.

## 4. Contributing Factor to the Civil War:

- The sectional disputes over the expansion of slavery, despite these compromises, ultimately contributed to the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861.



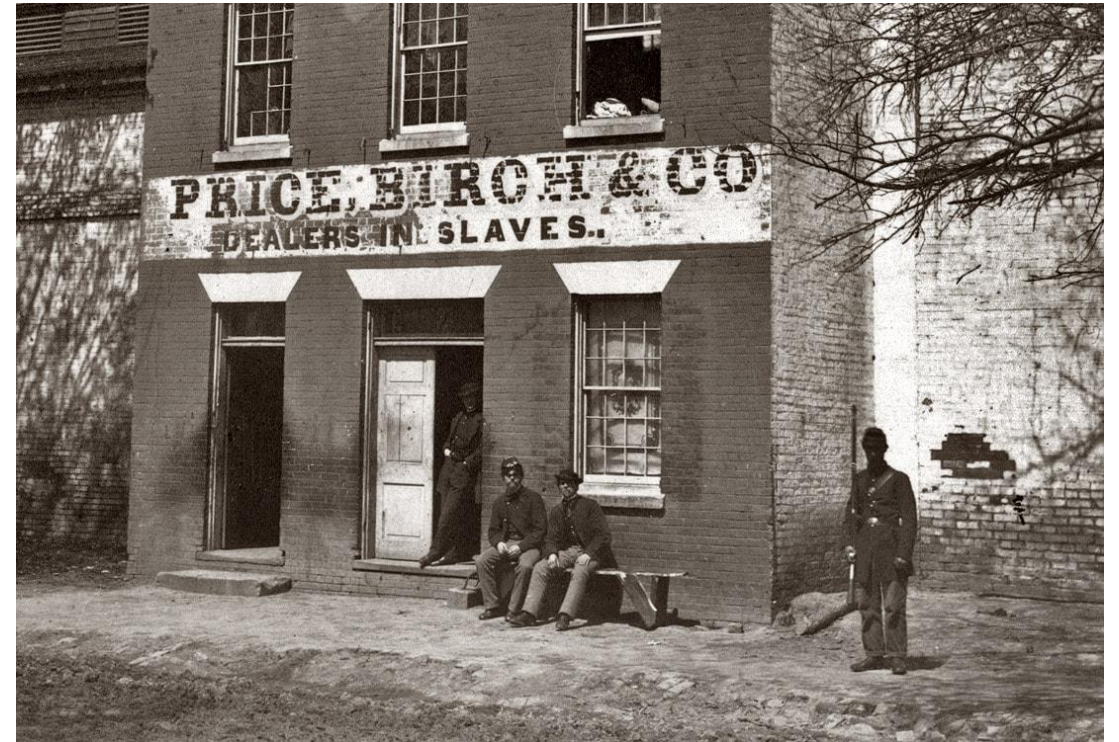




# Why was slavery more common in south than north of the USA?

## Economic factors

- Southern economy reliant on large-scale, labor-intensive plantations.
- North had larger urban centres and urbanised and industrialised quicker.
- Demand for cheap labour driven by labour-intensive crops like cotton.



# Geographic, Climatic and Cultural Influences

- Cotton gin invention increased profitability of cotton in the South.
- Fertile soils and warm climate of the South suited for large-scale cotton cultivation.
- Southern society structured hierarchically, with a small elite owning plantations.
- Cultural and racial attitudes entrenched slavery in the South.
- Long established non conformist protestant communities in the North – Quakers, Presbyterians, Baptists – long opposed slavery



# How common was slave owning in the south?

## 1. Percentage of Slaveholding Population:

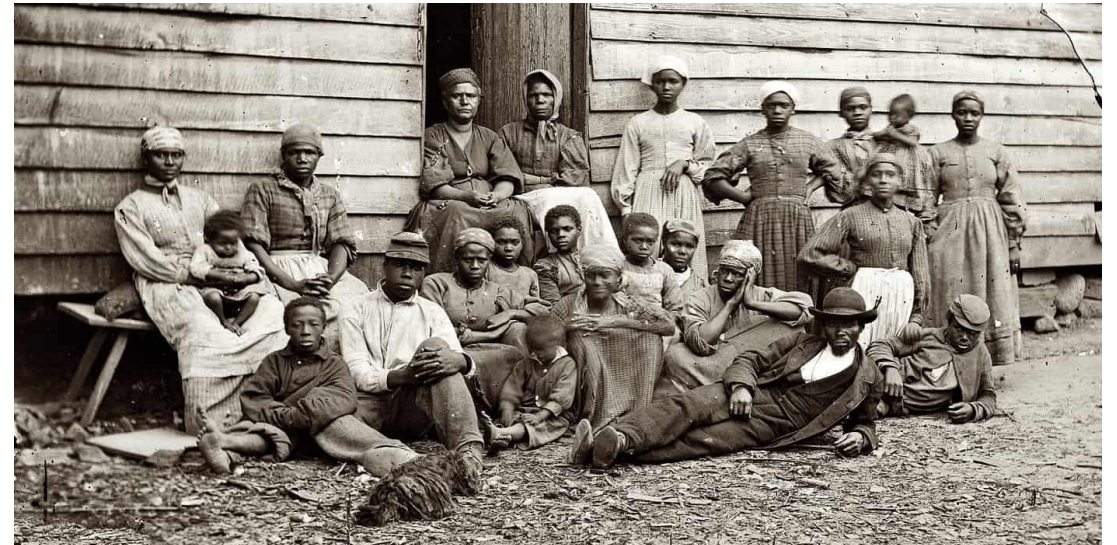
- According to the 1860 United States Census, approximately 32% of white Southern families owned slaves.
- However, it's essential to note that this percentage varied widely across states and regions within the South. In some areas, a majority of white families owned slaves, while in others, slave ownership was less common.

## 2. Non-Slaveholding Whites:

- It's crucial to recognize that not all white Southerners were slaveholders. Many poor whites did not own slaves and might have had economic and social tensions with the slave-owning class.

## 3. Economic and Social Stratification:

- Slave ownership was a significant marker of economic and social status in the South. The planter class, comprising large slaveholders, held substantial influence in Southern society.





# Ownership determined by geography, wealth and history

## 1. Concentration of Slaves:

- The concentration of slaves was higher in certain regions, particularly in the Deep South, where large cotton plantations were prevalent. States like Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and South Carolina had higher percentages of slaveholding families.

## 2. Large Plantations vs. Small Farms:

- While large plantations with hundreds of slaves were present and symbolized the Southern economy, a significant number of slaveholders owned fewer slaves. Many had just a few individuals working on small farms.

## 3. Urban vs. Rural Areas:

- Slave ownership was not confined to rural areas and plantations. Even in urban centers, there were slaveholders, often with smaller numbers of slaves employed in various capacities, such as domestic work or skilled labour.



# Justifications for slavery

- South politicians, scientists and leaders made a vigorous case for slavery.
- Some leaders argued that slavery was a 'positive good.'
- Proponents defended slavery as a 'necessary evil.'



# Slavery as a "Necessary Evil"

- In the 19th century, slavery was defended as a "necessary evil."
- Emancipation was feared to have more harmful consequences than the continuation of slavery.
- Thomas Jefferson, in 1820, expressed the dilemma of holding onto slavery for self-preservation while acknowledging its moral injustice.

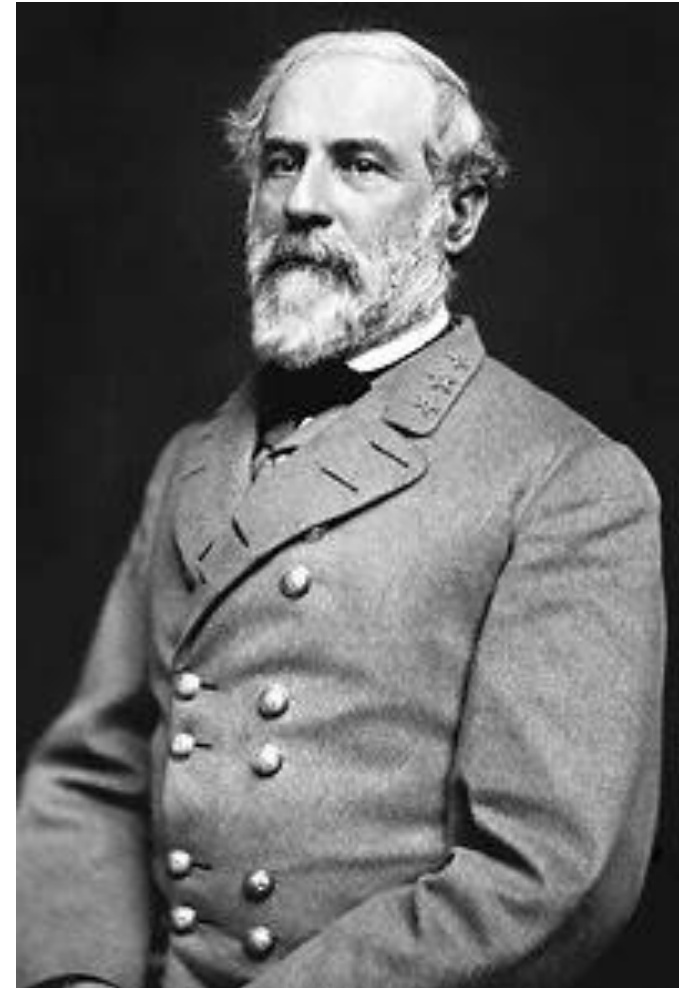


Watercolor cartoon depicting a U.S. slave market by British naval officer Henry Byam Martin with handwritten caption in ink: "Charleston S.C. 4th March 1833 The land of the free & home of the brave"



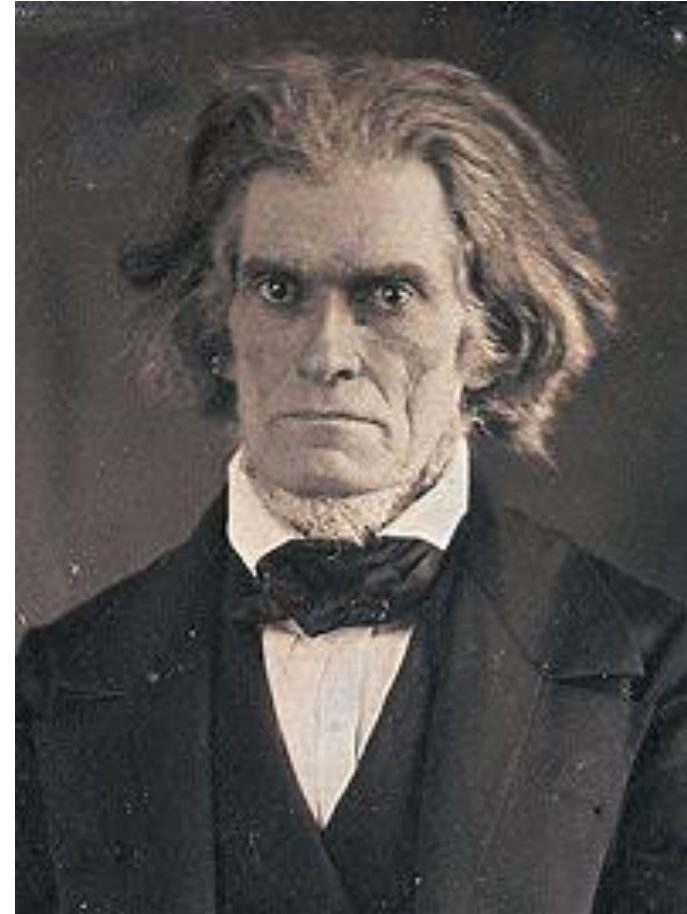
# Robert E. Lee's Perspective

- In 1856, Robert E. Lee acknowledged slavery as a moral and political evil.
- Lee expressed the belief that slavery was a greater evil for the white race.
- He considered the painful discipline of slaves as necessary for their moral and social improvement.



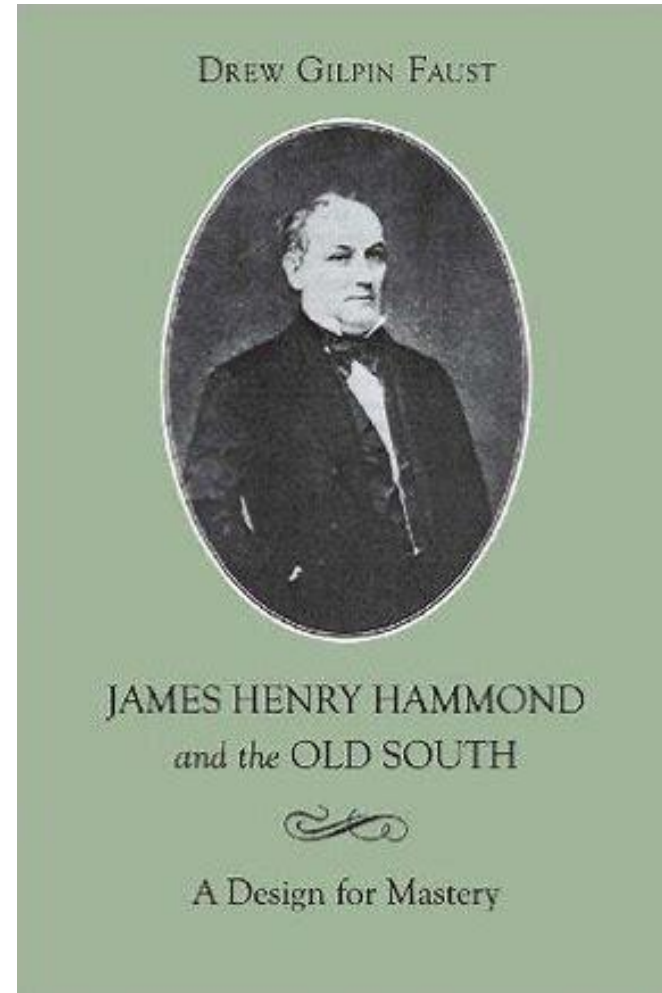
# Slavery as a "Positive Good"

- As abolitionist agitation increased, Southern leaders portrayed slavery as a beneficial labor management scheme.
- John C. Calhoun declared slavery a "positive good" in 1837, justifying it as essential for societal progress.
- James Gadsden called slavery a "social blessing" and abolitionists the "greatest curse of the nation."



# Mudsill Theory and Southern Writers

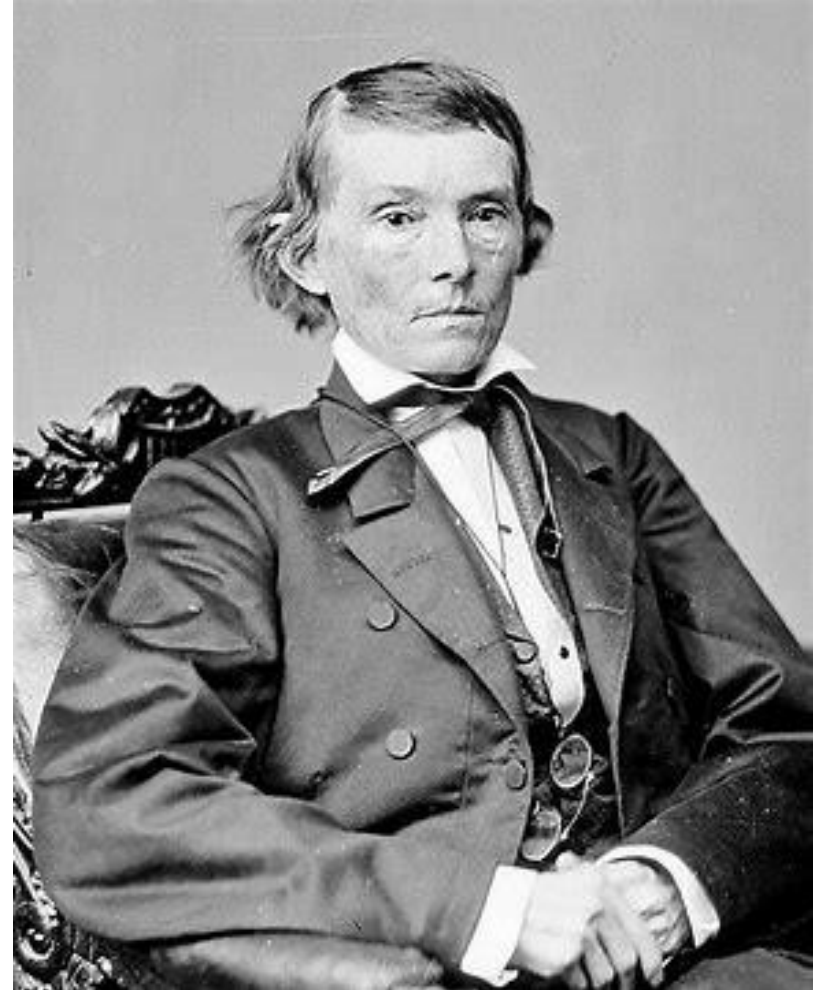
- James Henry Hammond and George Fitzhugh portrayed slavery as essential for building society.
- Hammond's "Mudsill Theory" defended slavery, emphasizing the need for a labour class.
- Fitzhugh used assumptions about white superiority to justify slavery, stating that slaves were happiest under it.





# Alexander Stephens' Cornerstone Speech

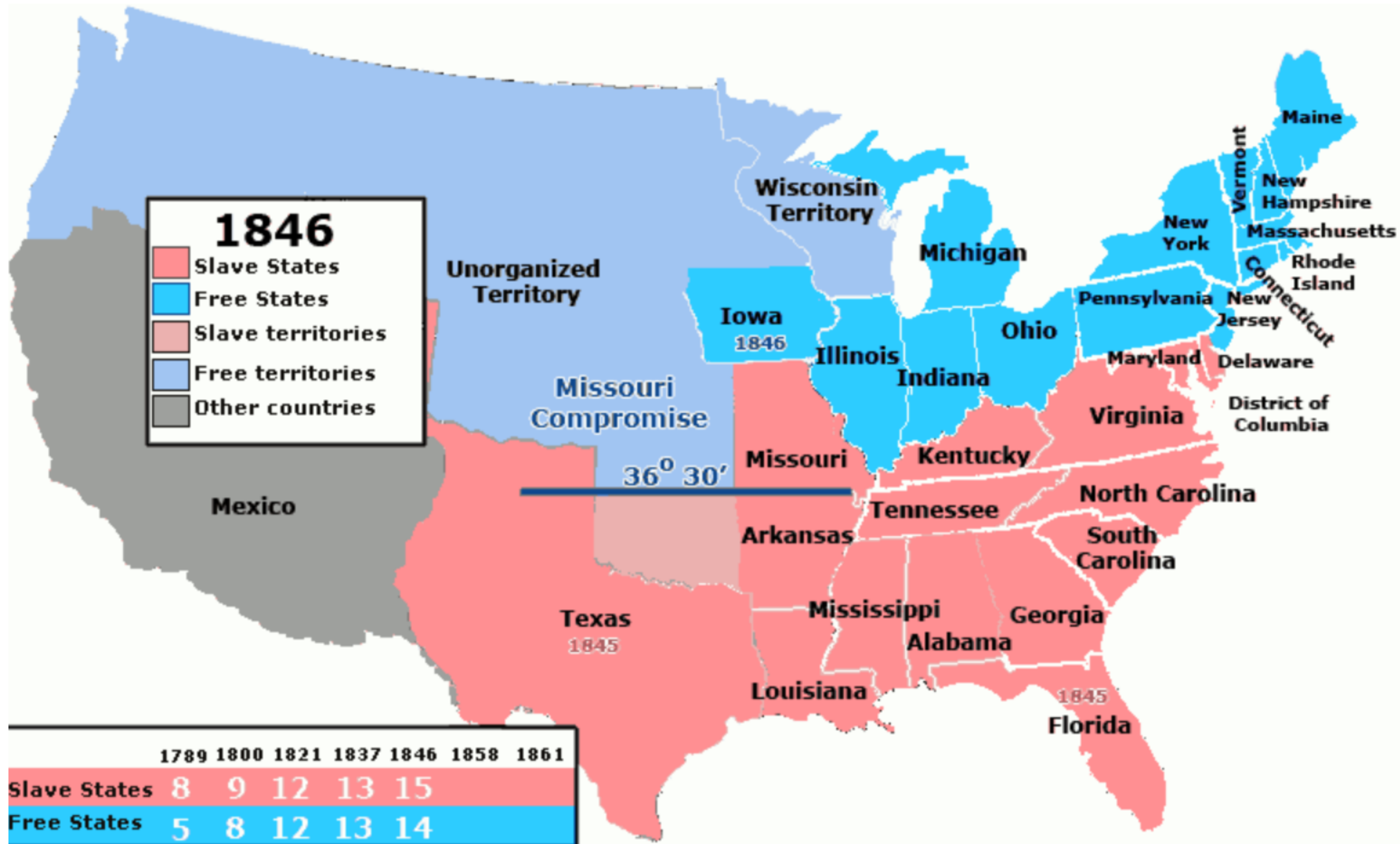
- In 1861, Alexander Stephens, Vice President of the Confederacy, delivered the Cornerstone Speech.
- Stephens explained the Confederate Constitution's foundation on the belief in the inequality of races.
- He defended slavery as the natural and moral condition, contrasting it with the assumptions of the old Union.



# Pseudoscience and Racial Views

- Pseudoscience backed racial views, with Dr. Samuel A. Cartwright supporting pro-slavery sentiments.
- Cartwright invented mental illnesses like drapetomania and dysaesthesia aethiopica to justify slavery.
- The prevailing pseudoscientific ideas reinforced pro-slavery arguments in the South.







# Compromise of 1850

- The Compromise of 1850, enacted in September 1850, was a legislative package comprising five bills designed to ease tensions between slave and free states.
- Crafted by Whig senator Henry Clay and Democratic senator Stephen A. Douglas, with support from President Millard Fillmore, the compromise addressed issues arising from the newly acquired territories after the Mexican–American War.

**\$200 Reward.**

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of Thursday, the 30th of September,

**FIVE NEGRO SLAVES,**

To-wit : one Negro man, his wife, and three children.

The man is a black negro, full height, very erect, his face a little thin. He is about forty years of age, and calls himself *Washington Reed*, and is known by the name of Washington. He is probably well dressed, possibly takes with him an ivory headed cane, and is of good address. Several of his teeth are gone.

*Mary*, his wife, is about thirty years of age, a bright mulatto woman, and quite stout and strong.

The oldest of the children is a boy, of the name of FIELDING, twelve years of age, a dark mulatto, with heavy eyelids. He probably wore a new cloth cap.

MATILDA, the second child, is a girl, six years of age, rather a dark mulatto, but a bright and smart looking child.

MALCOLM, the youngest, is a boy, four years old, a lighter mulatto than the last, and about equally as bright. He probably also wore a cloth cap. If examined, he will be found to have a swelling at the navel.

Washington and Mary have lived at or near St. Louis, with the subscriber, for about 15 years.

It is supposed that they are making their way to Chicago, and that a white man accompanies them, that they will travel chiefly at night, and most probably in a covered wagon.

A reward of \$150 will be paid for their apprehension, so that I can get them, if taken within one hundred miles of St. Louis, and \$200 if taken beyond that, and secured so that I can get them, and other reasonable additional charges, if delivered to the subscriber, or to THOMAS ALLEN, Esq., at St. Louis, Mo. The above negroes, for the last few years, have been in possession of Thomas Allen, Esq., of St. Louis.

**WM. RUSSELL.**

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 1, 1847.

# Key elements

1. Approval of California's entry into the Union as a free state.
2. Strengthening of fugitive slave laws through the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.
3. Prohibition of the slave trade in Washington, D.C., while allowing slavery itself to persist.
4. Definition of northern and western borders for Texas and the establishment of a territorial government for the Territory of New Mexico.
5. Establishment of a territorial government for the Territory of Utah, with no restrictions on whether any future state from this territory would be free or slave.

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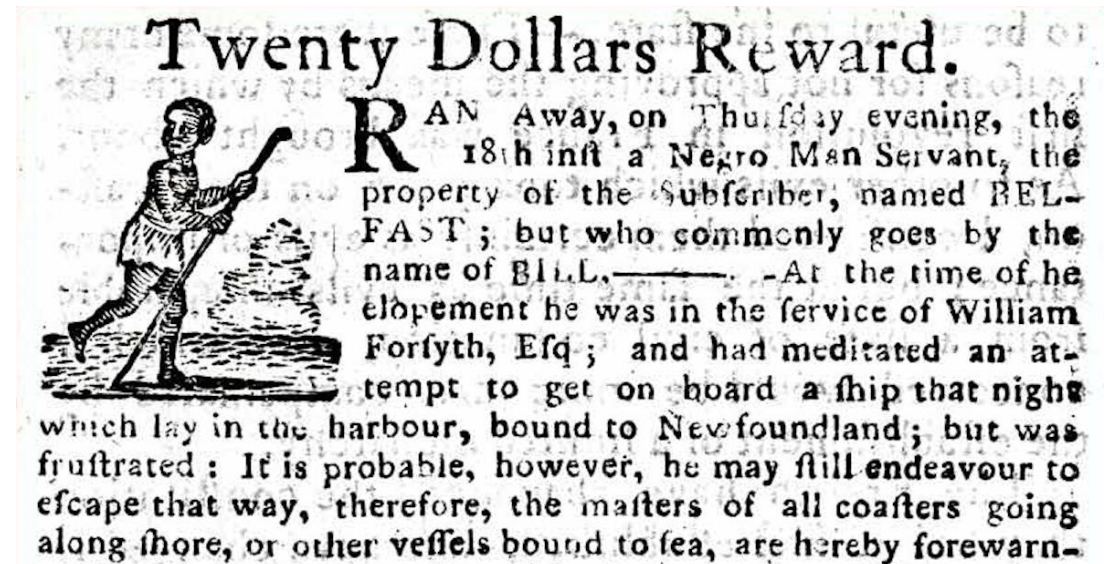
**R**UN away from the subscriber, living in *Northampton county, North Carolina*, on the 10th of *April* 1769, a mulatto woman slave named ANNIS, about 21 years of age, near 5 feet high, thick and well set, straight hair, scarred on the back part of her neck by cupping, has a scar on the elbow joint of her right arm, branded on the right cheek E, and on the left R, is very cunning, and will endeavour to make her escape. Whoever apprehends the said slave, and secures her so that I get her again, if taken in this province shall have 5 l. reward, if out thereof 7 l. 10 s.

I  
**EDWARD RUTLAND.**

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# Background and Impact

- The compromise emerged amid debates over slavery in the territories, fueled by the Mexican–American War. Southerners sought to expand slavery into acquired lands, while Northerners opposed such expansion.
- Proposed by Henry Clay, the initial package faced opposition, but after President Zachary Taylor's death, President Fillmore and Stephen A. Douglas successfully guided the bills through Congress.
- The Compromise of 1850 postponed the Civil War by settling immediate issues, including the admission of California and the organization of territories with decisions on slavery left to popular sovereignty. The compromise, however, did not eliminate the deep-rooted tensions between the North and the South over the issue of slavery.





# Bleeding Kansas period

- Bleeding Kansas, also known as Bloody Kansas or the Border War, was a series of violent civil confrontations in Kansas Territory and western Missouri between 1854 and 1859.
- The conflict arose from a political and ideological debate over the legality of slavery in the proposed state of Kansas, serving as a tragic prelude to the American Civil War.



# Causes and Characteristics

- Characterized by years of electoral fraud, raids, assaults, and political killings, with 56 documented killings and a potential total of 200.
- Proslavery "border ruffians" from Missouri clashed with antislavery "free-staters" in a conflict marked by brutal gang violence and paramilitary guerrilla warfare.



# Significance and Resolution

- The conflict centered on the pivotal question of whether Kansas would enter the Union as a slave state or a free state, influencing the balance of power in the U.S. Senate.
- Resolved with the admission of Kansas to the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861, during the secession crisis that preceded the Civil War.
- Bleeding Kansas demonstrated the inevitability of armed conflict over slavery, capturing national attention and serving as a preface to the larger sectional disputes of the American Civil War.





# Slave rebellions in America

- There is documentary evidence of more than 250 uprisings or attempted uprisings involving ten or more slaves.
- Three of the best known in the United States during the 19th century are the revolts by:
  - Gabriel Prosser in Virginia in 1800
  - Denmark Vesey in Charleston, South Carolina in 1822
  - Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1831.



Discovery of Nat Turner.

# 1811 German Coast Uprising

- Part of the Slave Revolts in North America.
- Largest slave uprising in U.S. history.
- Occurred in St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, and Jefferson Parishes, Louisiana.
- Confrontations with militia resulted in the deaths of 95 slaves.



# Uprising

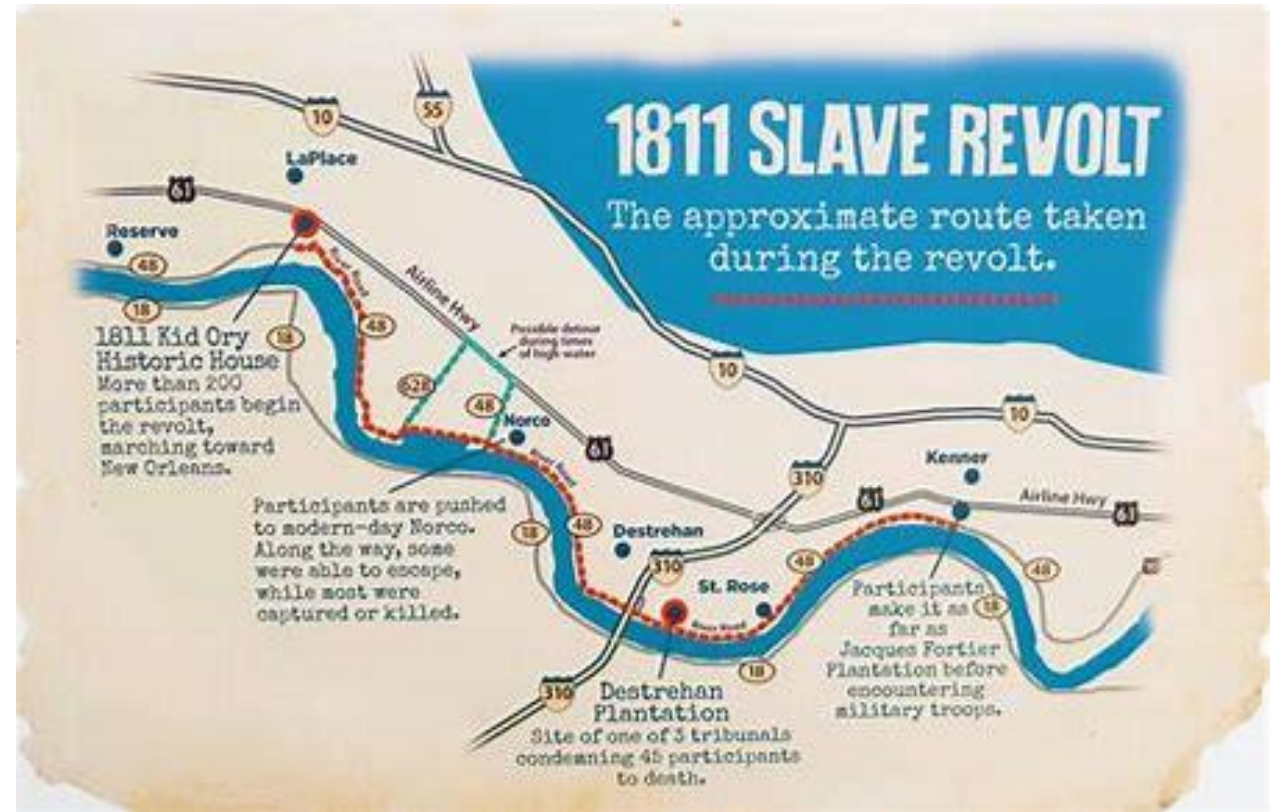
- 64 to 125 enslaved men marched from sugarcane plantations near LaPlace.
- Possibly 200 to 500 enslaved persons participated.
- Two-day, twenty-mile march towards New Orleans.
- Burning of plantation houses, sugarhouses, and crops with hand tools.





# Suppression

- Militia companies formed, engaging in a battle on January 10.
- 40 to 45 escaping slaves killed, no fatalities on the militia side.
- Subsequent interrogation, trial, execution, and decapitation of 44 captured slaves.
- Display of heads on pikes as a form of intimidation.



# Nat Turner's Rebellion (1831)

- Historically known as the Southampton Insurrection.
- Took place in Southampton County, Virginia, in August 1831.
- Led by Nat Turner.
- Deadliest slave revolt in U.S. history.
- Rebels killed between 55 and 65 White people.
- Rebellion effectively suppressed within a few days at Belmont Plantation on August 23, 1831.

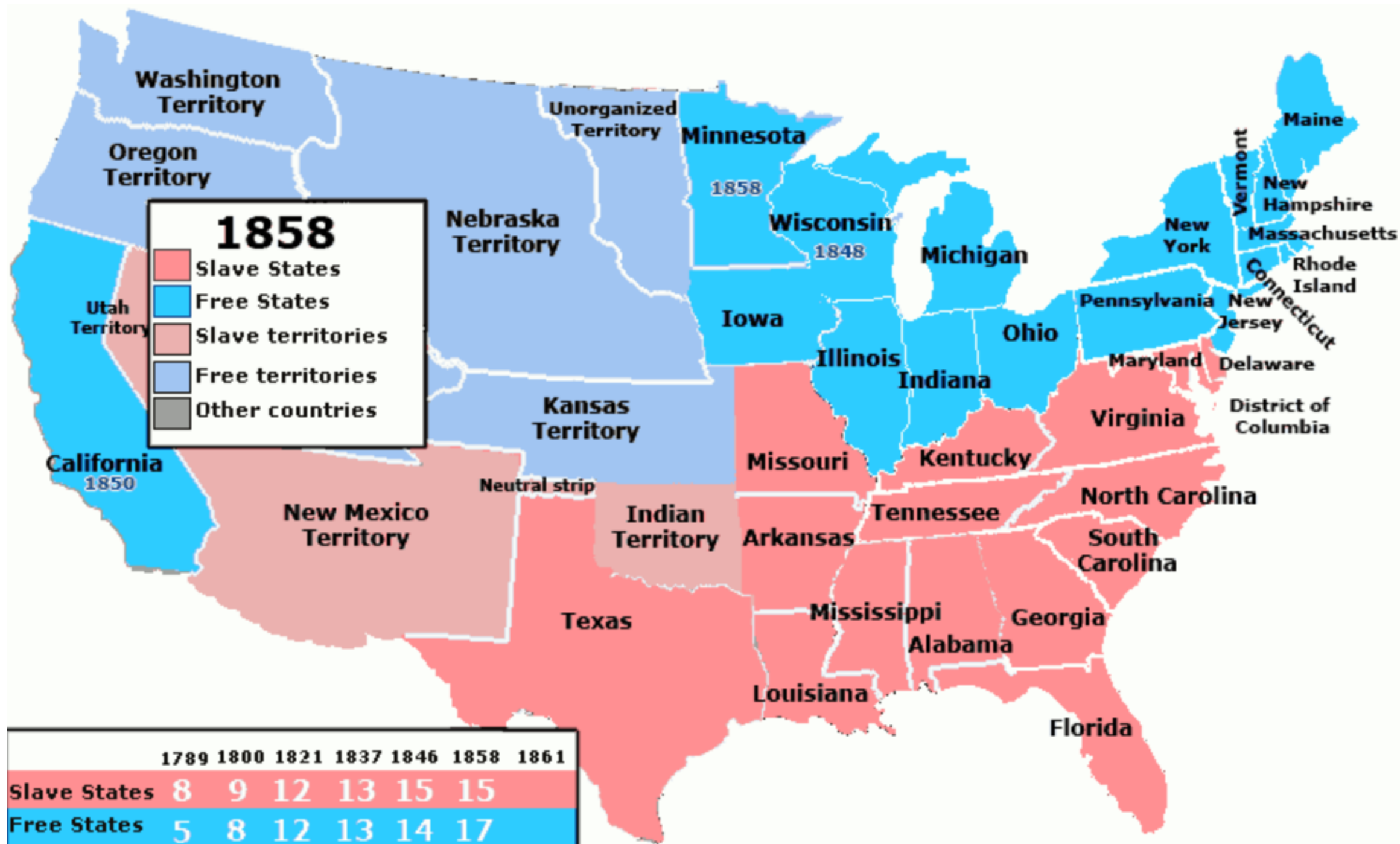


# Suppression and consequences

- Widespread fear among the White population.
- Militia and mobs retaliated, killing as many as 120 enslaved people and free African Americans.
- Commonwealth of Virginia executed 56 enslaved people accused of participating, including Nat Turner.
- Southern state legislatures enacted new laws:
  - Prohibiting education for enslaved and free Black people.
  - Restricting civil liberties for free Black people.
  - Requiring White ministers at all worship services.

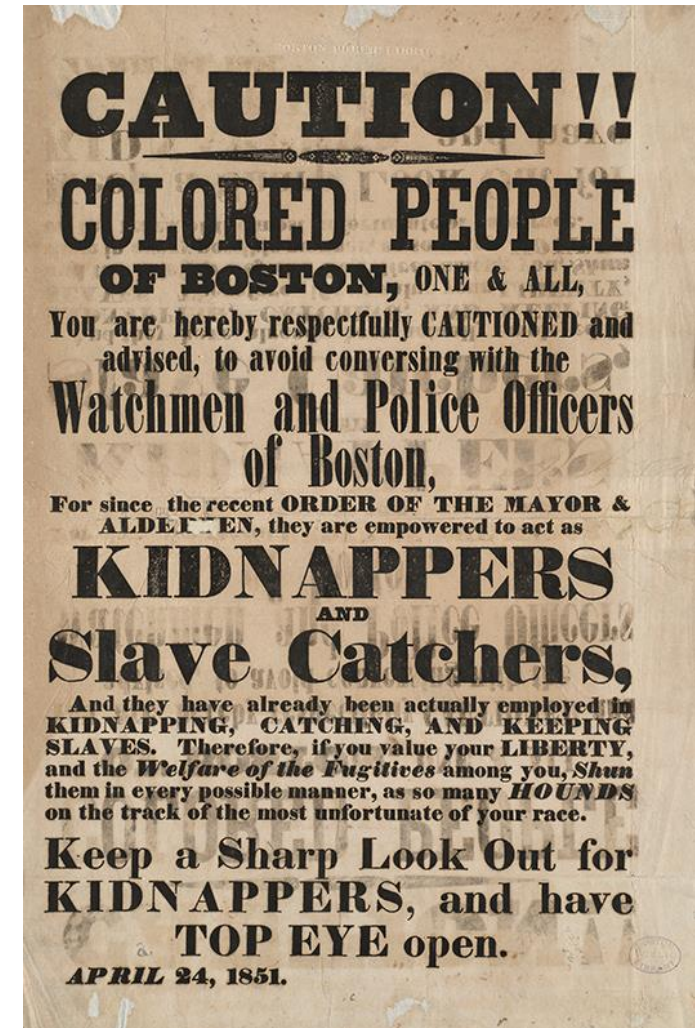






# Fugitive Slave Laws in the United States

- Derived from the Fugitive Slave Clause (Article IV, Section 2, Paragraph 3) of the U.S. Constitution.
- Aimed at returning escaped slaves to their enslavers across state lines.



# Fugitive Slave Act of 1793

- Responded to slave owners' property rights, as outlined in Article IV of the Constitution.
- Authorized federal pursuit of runaway slaves in any state or territory.
- High demand for slaves in the Deep South led to kidnapping free blacks, putting them at risk.

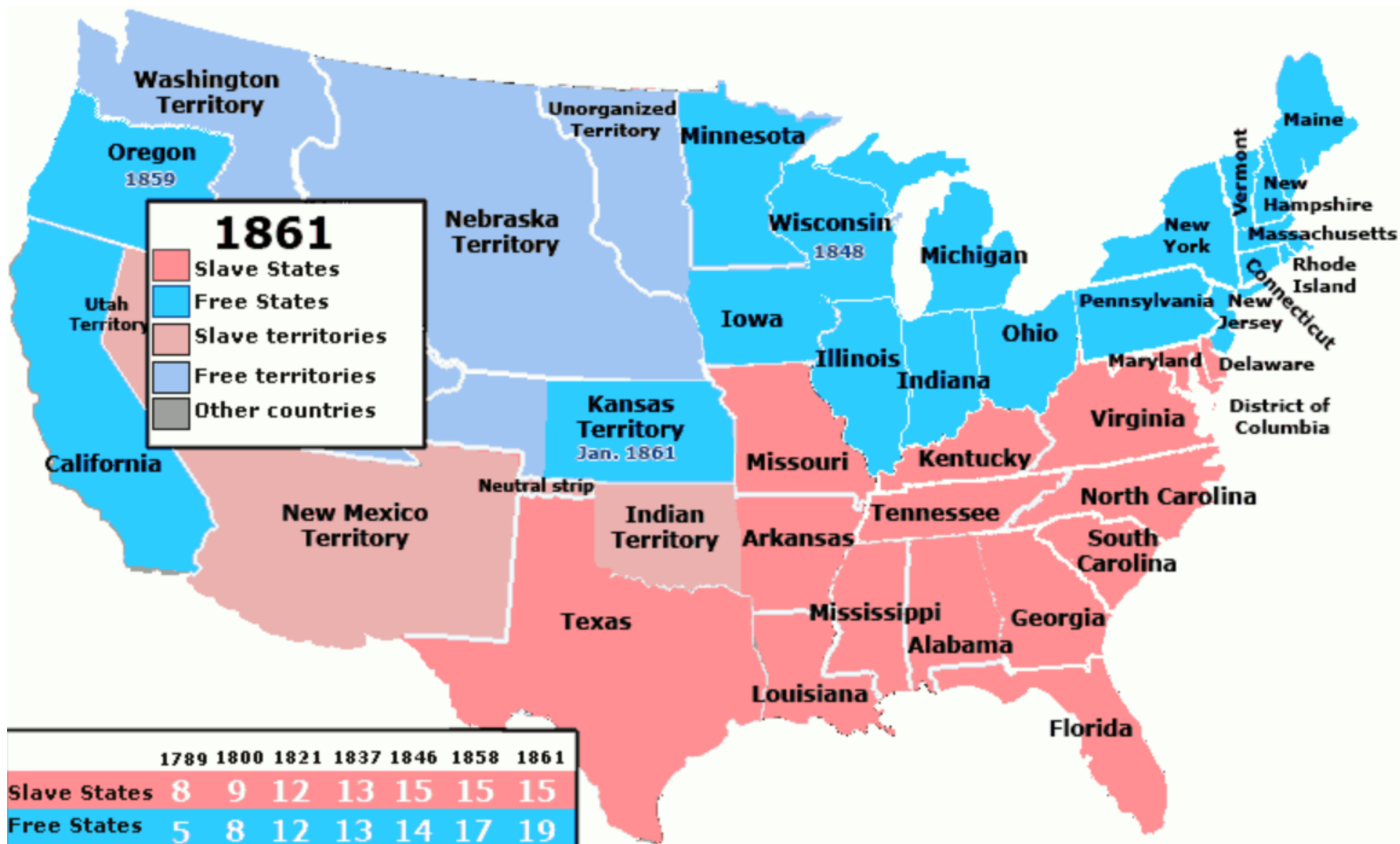




# Compromise of 1850

- Enacted as part of the Compromise of 1850, a series of laws addressing slavery in new territories.
- Forced officials in free states to provide a hearing to slave-owners without a jury.
- Set out harsh penalties for officials and individuals aiding fugitive slaves.

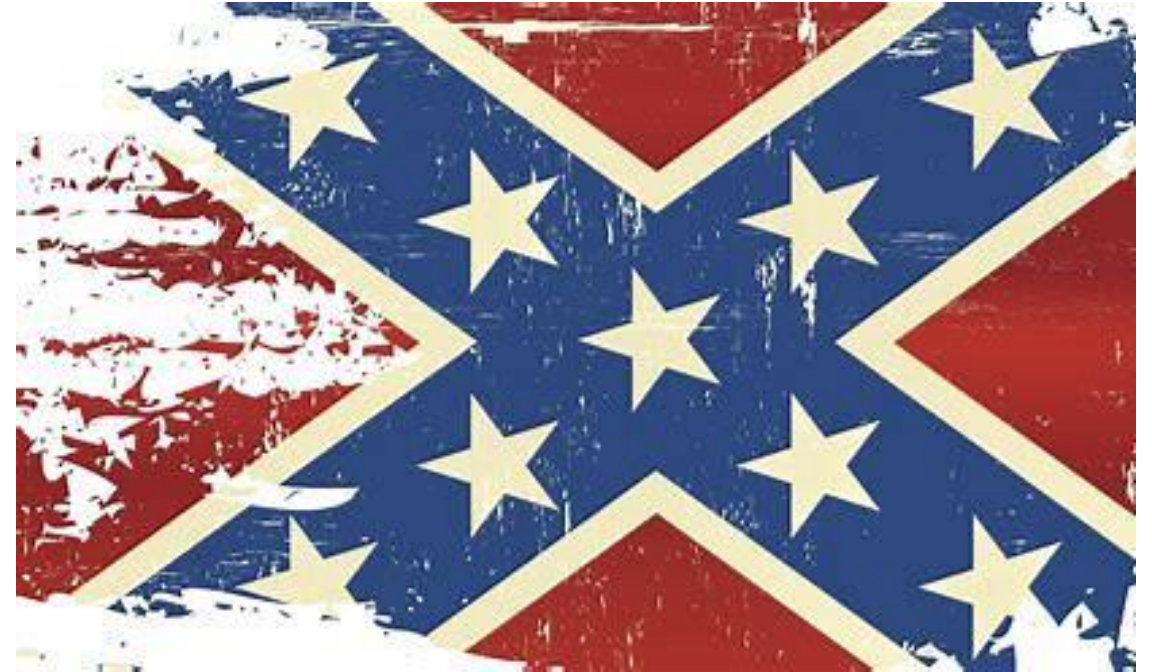




	1789	1800	1821	1837	1846	1858	1861
Slave States	8	9	12	13	15	15	15
Free States	5	8	12	13	14	17	19

# Secession Crisis in 1861

- The election of Lincoln prompted South Carolina to convene a state convention on secession.
- South Carolina, a pioneer in advocating state rights, unanimously voted to secede on December 20, 1860.
- The secession declaration cited states' rights for slave owners, including opposition to the Fugitive Slave Act in the North.
- Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas followed suit, seceding in January and February 1861.
- Ordinances of secession from states like Texas, Alabama, and Virginia highlighted concerns about the "slaveholding states" mistreated by Northern abolitionists.





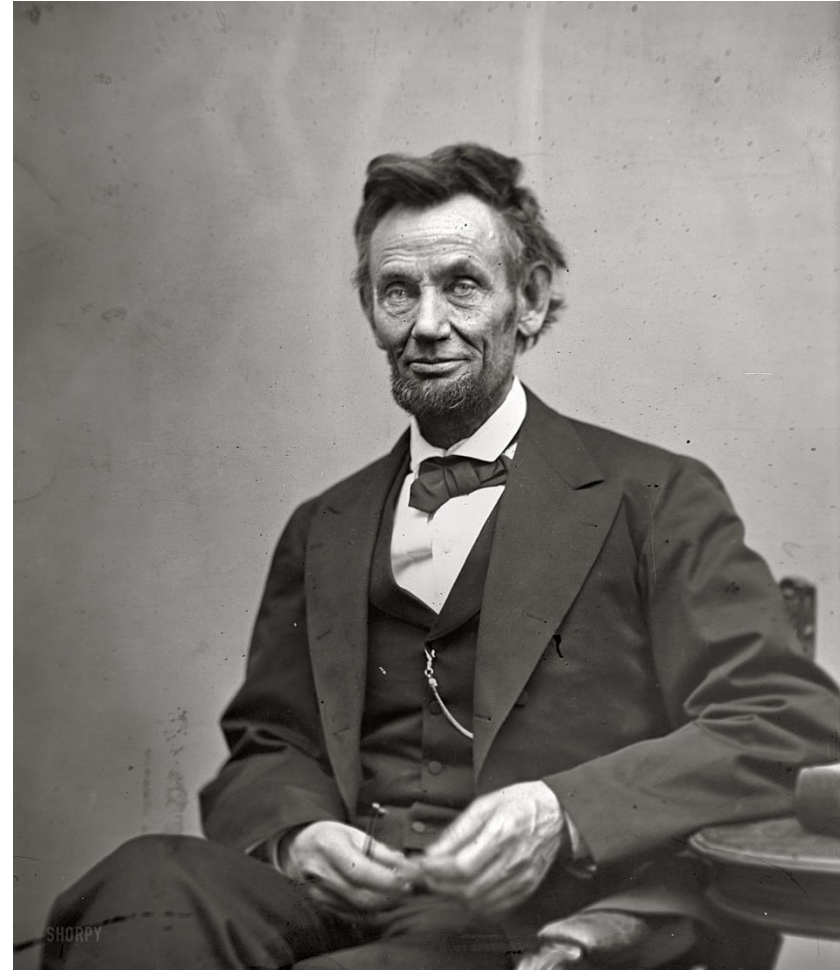
# Formation of the Confederate States of America

- Southern states believed in the constitutional right to hold slaves under the Fugitive Slave Clause.
- Four states (South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas) provided detailed reasons for secession, blaming the movement to abolish slavery.
- A new federal government, the Confederate States of America, was formed on February 4, 1861.
- Southern states took control of federal properties with little resistance from President Buchanan.
- Southerners resigning from Congress allowed Republicans to pass significant projects, including the Morrill Tariff, the Homestead Act, and the ending of slavery in the District of Columbia.



# Lincoln's Inauguration and Unsuccessful Negotiations

- Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861, asserted the Constitution as a binding contract and deemed secession "legally void."
- Lincoln had no intention to invade the South or end slavery but declared the use of force to maintain federal property.
- Lincoln rejected negotiations with Confederate agents, arguing that the Confederacy was not a legitimate government.
- Secretary of State Seward, Lincoln's former rival, attempted unauthorized negotiations that failed.
- Lincoln was determined to hold Union-occupied forts in the Confederacy, leading to increasing tensions between North and South.



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# War breaks out!

- Tensions escalated as Southern states seceded, leading to control disputes over federal forts.
- Fort Sumter in South Carolina became a focal point of contention.
- Lincoln's inaugural address declared his intent to maintain federal property, including forts in Southern states.
- Attempts to peacefully resolve the Fort Sumter standoff through negotiations failed.
- On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter, marking the start of the Civil War.



The Battle of Fort Sumter, as depicted by Currier and Ives

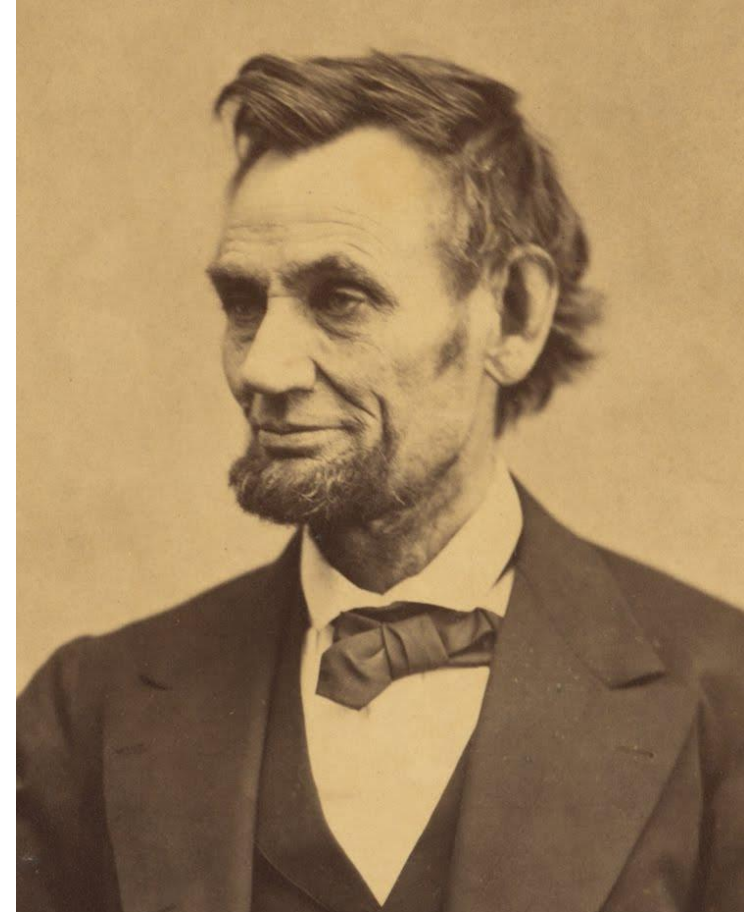
# Slavery and the US Civil War

- Historical controversy surrounds the reasons for Southern states' secession.
- Scholars largely agree on preserving slavery as the central reason.
- Secession documents explicitly state slavery's significance.



# Evolution of Union Goals During the Civil War

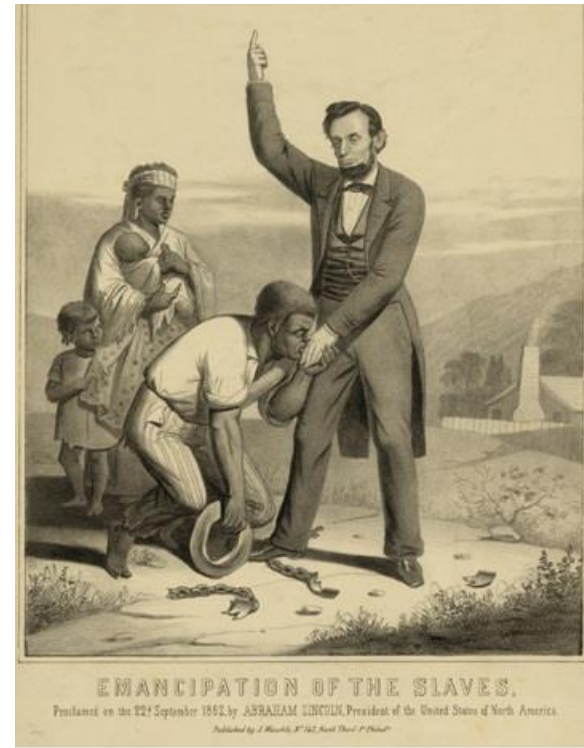
- Abolishing slavery was not a Union war goal initially.
- Lincoln's initial claim focused on preserving the Union as the central goal.
- The South saw itself as fighting to preserve slavery.
- As the war progressed, slavery became central to the conflict.
- Emancipation was deemed a necessary war measure, leading to the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Lincoln's decision to issue the proclamation angered both Peace Democrats and War Democrats.





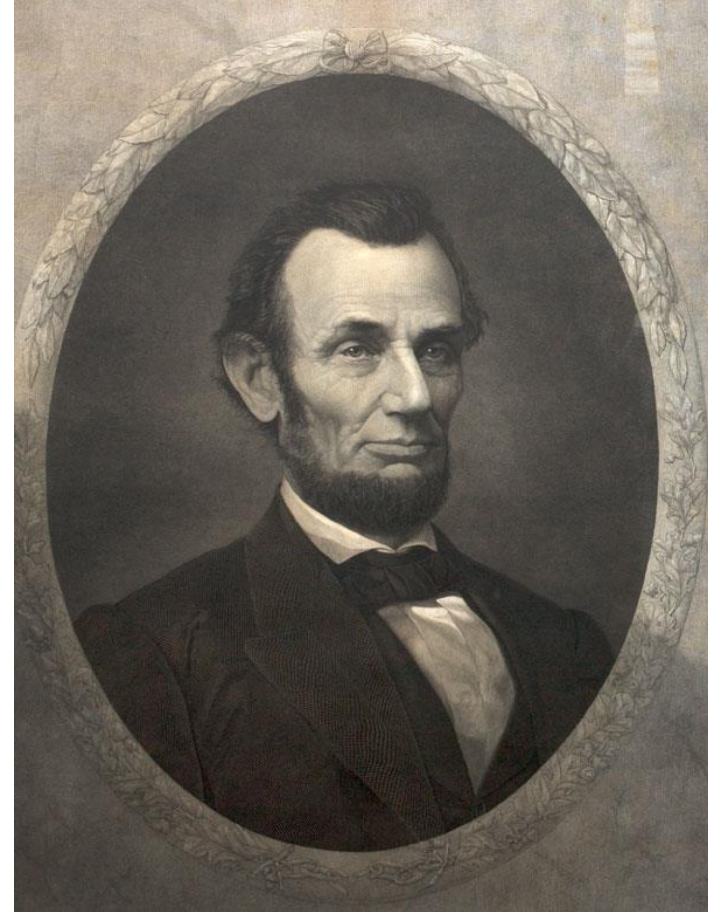
# Emancipation Proclamation and Its Impact

- Slavery effectively ended for the Confederacy's 3.5 million blacks when Union armies arrived.
- The Emancipation Proclamation, issued on January 1, 1863, played a crucial role.
- The last Confederate slaves were freed on June 19, 1865, celebrated as **Juneteenth**.
- Slaves in border states and some former Confederate territory were freed by state action or the Thirteenth Amendment.
- About 190,000 African Americans, both free and escaped slaves, joined the Union Army.
- The Emancipation Proclamation greatly reduced the Confederacy's hope for foreign recognition or aid.



# Lincoln's Approach to Emancipation

- Lincoln's initial concerns about premature emancipation were based on the lack of support in certain regions.
- Lincoln reversed early attempts at emancipation to maintain loyalty in the border states and among War Democrats.
- Lincoln laid the groundwork for public support through letters and meetings with African American representatives.
- The Battle of Antietam provided an opportunity to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation in 1862.
- Lincoln issued the final Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, fulfilling his promise.



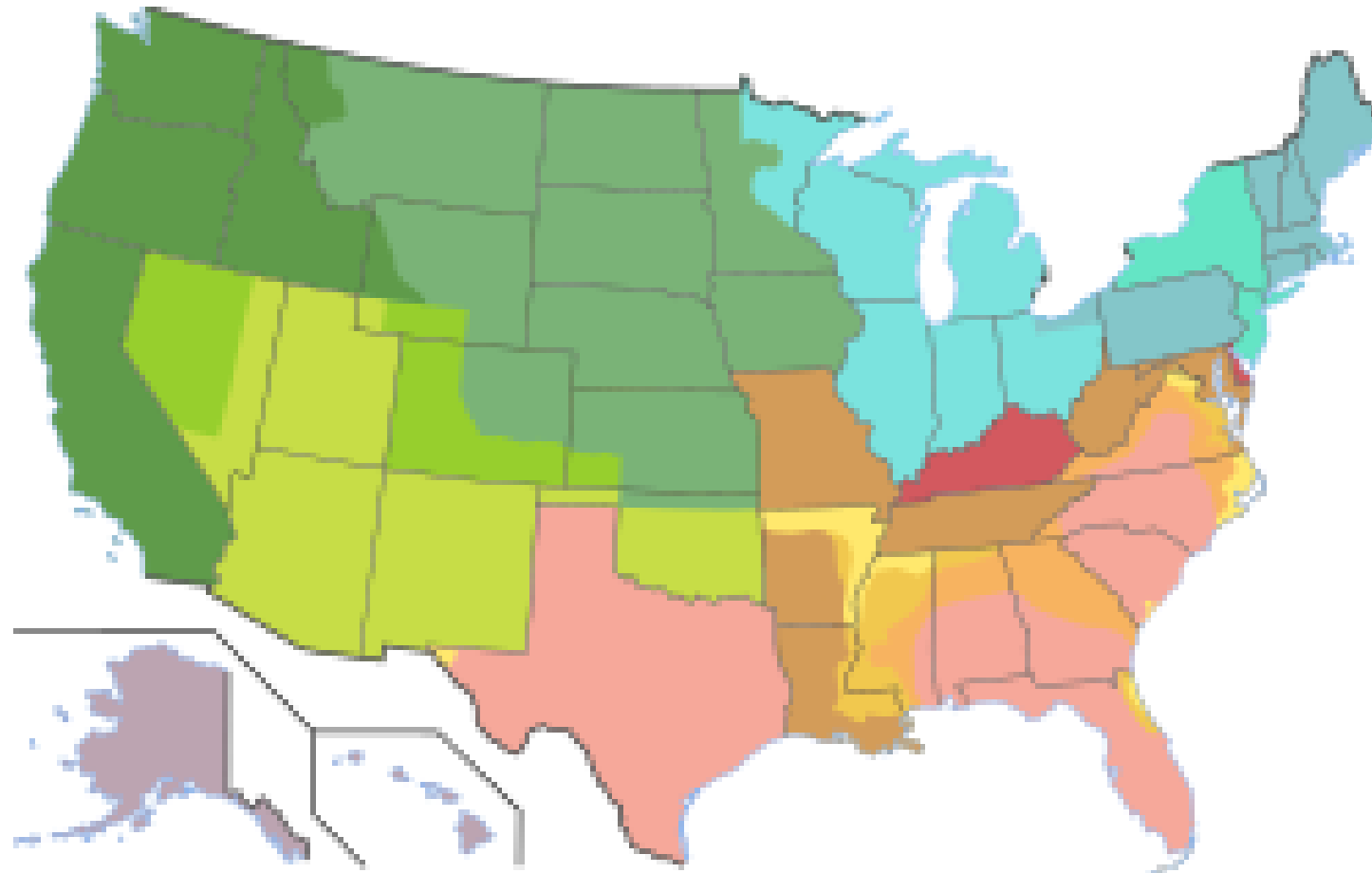
# Impact and Legacy of the Emancipation Proclamation

- The Emancipation Proclamation applied to states in rebellion as of January 1, 1863.
- Lincoln's moderate approach helped keep the border states and War Democrats in support of the Union.
- The proclamation did not cover all regions, and some states abolished slavery on their own.
- It became a symbol of the Union's commitment to emancipation and liberty.
- The Emancipation Proclamation played a role in reducing the Confederacy's chances of foreign support.
- Lincoln's leadership in getting the Thirteenth Amendment passed further solidified the end of chattel slavery.





# Abolition in America



- Abolition of slavery in the various states of the US over time:
- Abolition of slavery during or shortly after the American Revolution
  - The Northwest Ordinance, 1787
  - Gradual emancipation in New York (starting 1799) and New Jersey (starting 1804)
  - The Missouri Compromise, 1821
  - Effective abolition of slavery by Mexican or joint US/British authority
  - Abolition of slavery by Congressional action, 1861
  - Abolition of slavery by Congressional action, 1862ff.
  - Emancipation Proclamation as originally issued, 1 Jan 1863
  - Subsequent operation of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863
  - Abolition of slavery by state action during the Civil War
  - Operation of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1864
  - Operation of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1865
  - Thirteenth Amendment to the US constitution, 18 Dec 1865
  - Territory incorporated into the US after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment



# The abolition movement in the USA, 1783-1866

# Motives of the abolitionists

## **Religious Component:**

- Initiated by Quakers, expanded during the Second Great Awakening.
- any leaders, including ministers, were driven by religious convictions.

## **Moralistic Expression:**

- Abolitionism viewed as an expression of moralism by historians.
- Focused on the sinfulness of slavery, drawing from religious principles.



Wm. Lloyd Garrison (1805–1879), publisher of the abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator* and one of the founders of the American Anti-Slavery Society.



# Biblical Basis and Economic Critique

## Use of the Bible:

- Abolitionist arguments grounded in biblical principles.
- Debates centered around interpreting the Bible's stance on slavery.

## Economic Critique:

- Abolitionists also criticized slavery on economic grounds.
- Noting the economic disparities between the slave-dependent South and the wealthier North.

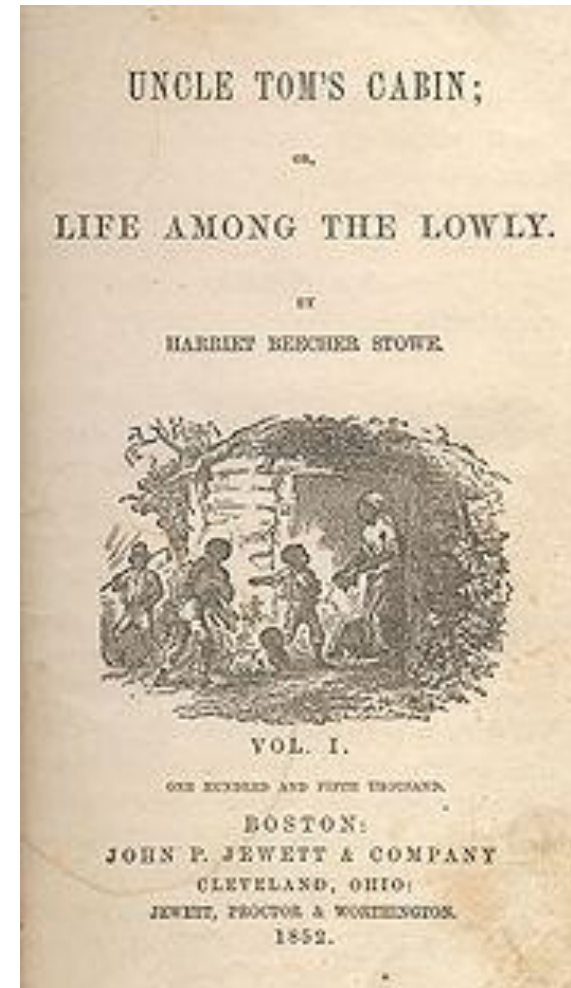


# The role of literature in abolition



# Harriet Beecher Stowe, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (1852)

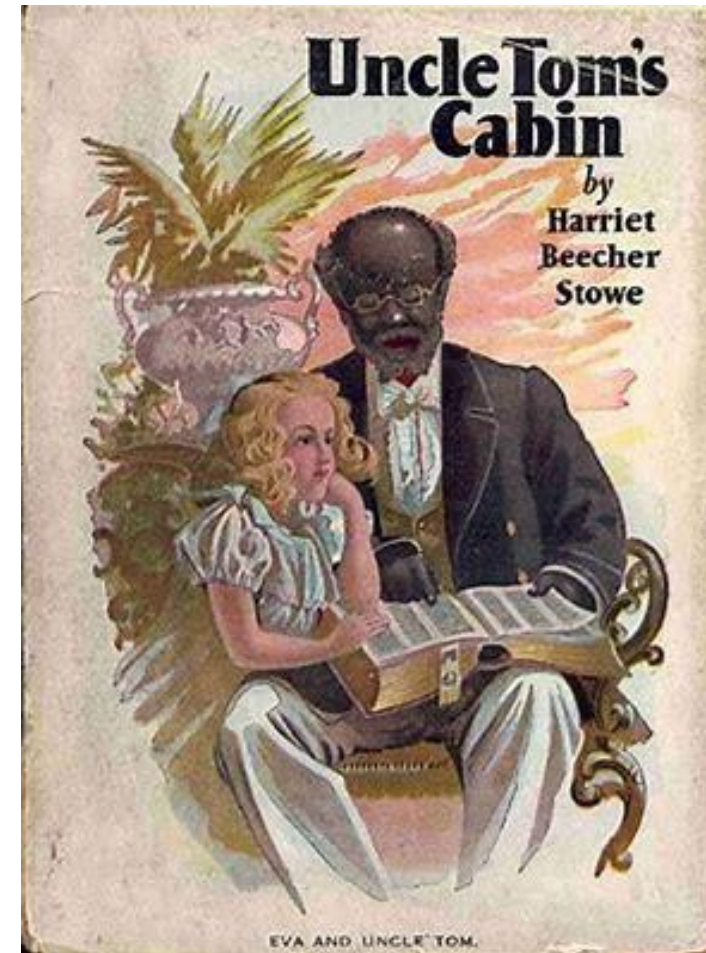
- "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe is a novel that follows the lives of several characters, primarily focusing on Uncle Tom, a black slave in the United States.
- The novel was published in 1852 and played a significant role in shaping public opinion against slavery in the pre-Civil War era.





# Uncle Tom's Cabin - Characters

- **Uncle Tom:** A middle-aged slave known for his deep Christian faith and unwavering morality.
- **Eliza:** A slave who escapes with her son, Harry, after learning they are to be sold.
- **Eva St. Clare:** A young, angelic white girl who befriends Uncle Tom.
- **Simon Legree:** A cruel and ruthless plantation owner.



# Shelby's problems, Eliza's escape

- Arthur Shelby, a Kentucky farmer, faces financial troubles and decides to sell two slaves, Uncle Tom and Eliza's son Harry, to Mr. Haley, a slave trader.
- Eliza overhears the plans to sell her son and decides to escape with him, making a perilous journey across the frozen Ohio River to evade capture.



# Tom is sold

- Uncle Tom is sold to Augustine St. Clare after saving Eva, St. Clare's daughter, from drowning. Tom experiences a more humane treatment in the St. Clare household.
- After St. Clare's death, Uncle Tom is sold to Simon Legree, a brutal and sadistic plantation owner in Louisiana.





# Tom's trials and death

- Legree tries to break Tom's spirit through cruelty, but Tom remains steadfast in his Christian faith and refuses to betray the whereabouts of escaped slaves.
- Tom's resistance leads to his severe beating and death at the hands of Legree. He forgives his tormentors and dies with dignity.



# Eliza's family reunited

- Eliza and her family find freedom with the help of the Quakers and are eventually reunited with George Harris' sister and Madame de Thoux in Canada.
- George Shelby, Arthur's son, returns to Kentucky and frees his slaves, honoring Uncle Tom's sacrifice. The novel ends with a call to end the institution of slavery.
- Themes:
  - The in-morality of slavery
  - The resilience of the human spirit
  - The power of Christian love.



# Backlash: Anti Tom novels

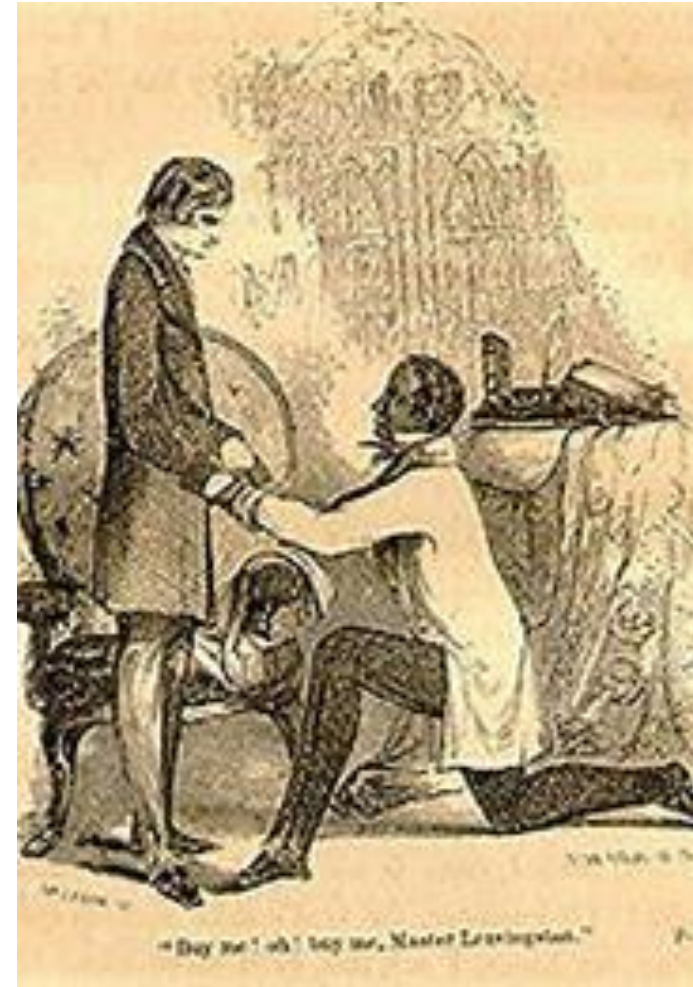
- *Quantity:* In 1852 alone, eight anti-Tom novels were published in the American South.
- *Characteristics:* These novels typically featured benevolent white patriarchs, virtuous wives, and portrayed slaves as childlike figures living in a supposedly benevolent extended-family-style plantation.





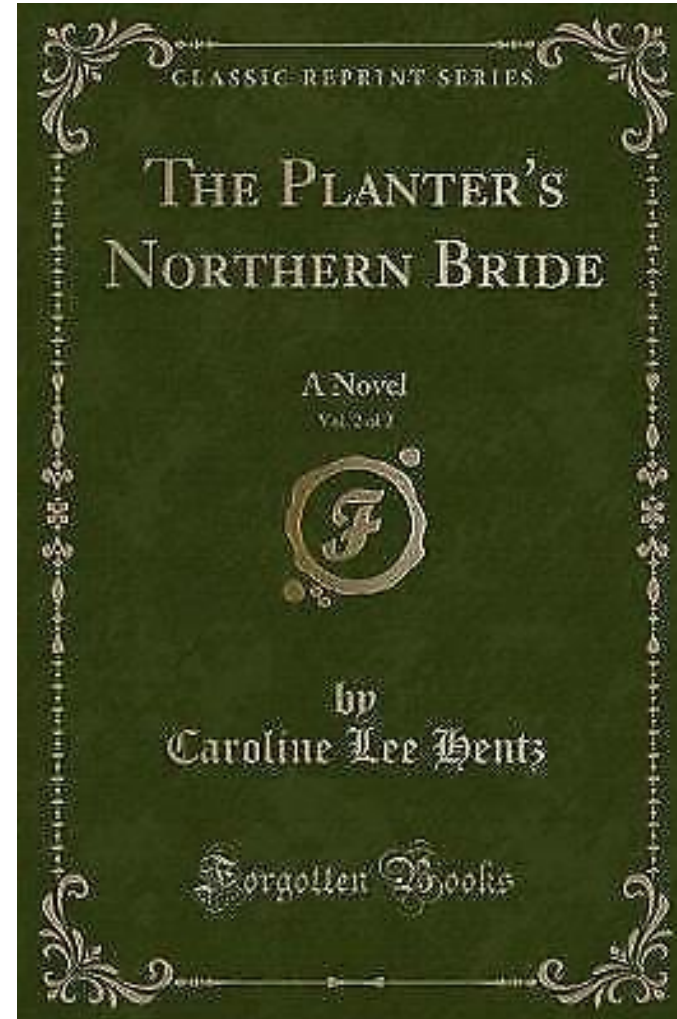
# Plantations and slavery were great!

- *Idealized Image:* Anti-Tom literature presented an idealized image of Southern plantations, emphasizing a harmonious relationship between masters and slaves.
- *Paternalistic View:* Implicit or explicit in these works was the notion that African Americans were incapable of leading independent lives and needed the guidance of white overseers.



# The Planter's Northern Bride

- A novel written in 1854 by Caroline Lee Hentz.
- The novel critiques abolitionism in the U.S.
- Examines the manipulation of anti-slavery organisations like the Underground Railroad by pro-slavery individuals.
- Echoes concepts from Rev. Baynard Rush Hall's anti-Tom novel, Frank Freeman's Barber Shop (1852).



# Plot and pitch

- **Main Character**

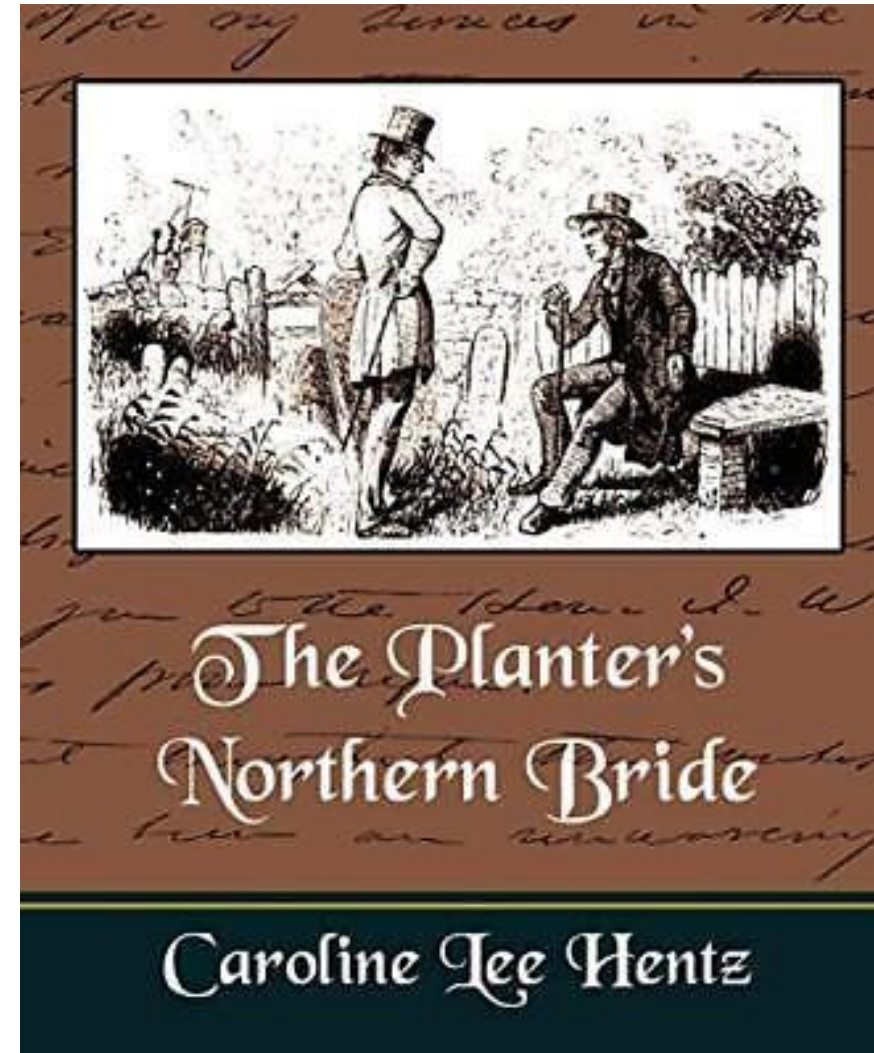
- Eulalia, a young daughter of a New England abolitionist.
- Married to Moreland, a plantation owner.

- **Conflict**

- Initially condemns husband's use of slaves despite his benign treatment.
- Realizes the contentment of Moreland's slaves over time.

- **Revelation**

- Discovers a local abolitionist plot for a slave rebellion.
- Aims to "free" content slaves and harm Moreland and Eulalia.





# NEW YORK CITY COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

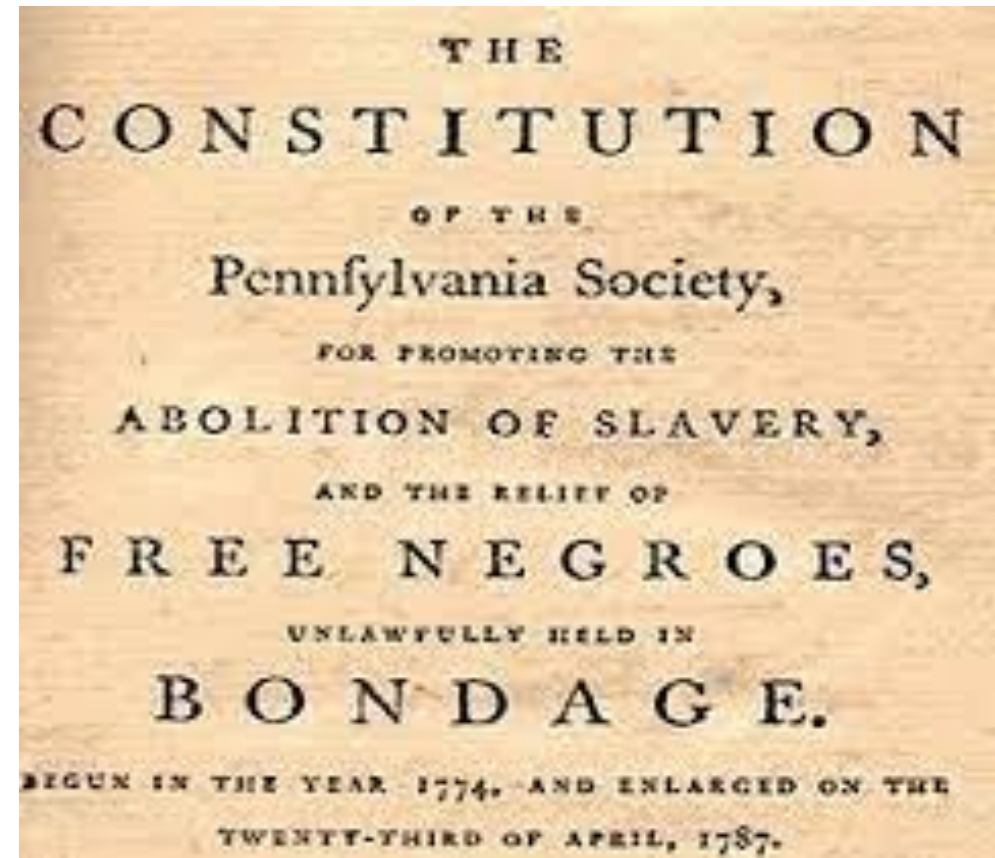
Pressure groups





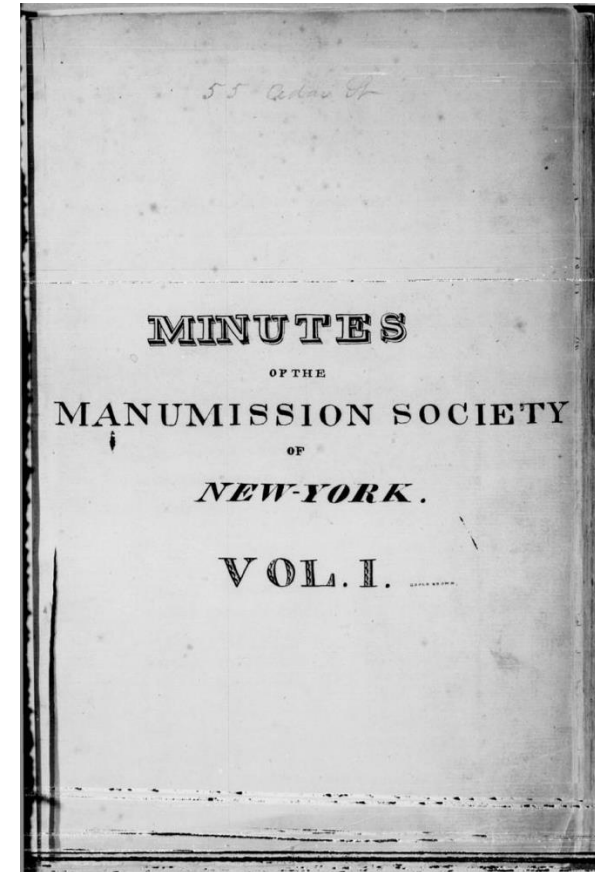
# Pennsylvania Abolition Society

- Founded on April 14, 1775, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as "The Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage."
- Reorganized in 1784 as the "Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery," officially incorporated in 1789.
- Benjamin Franklin served as president after 1785, advocating against slavery at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and petitioning Congress in 1790.
- A model for anti-slavery groups, including leaders and members from both races, such as Robert Purvis, the first Black member admitted in 1842.
- *Recognition:* Revived in 1984, marked by a Pennsylvania State Historical Marker on Front Street below Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.



# New-York Manumission Society

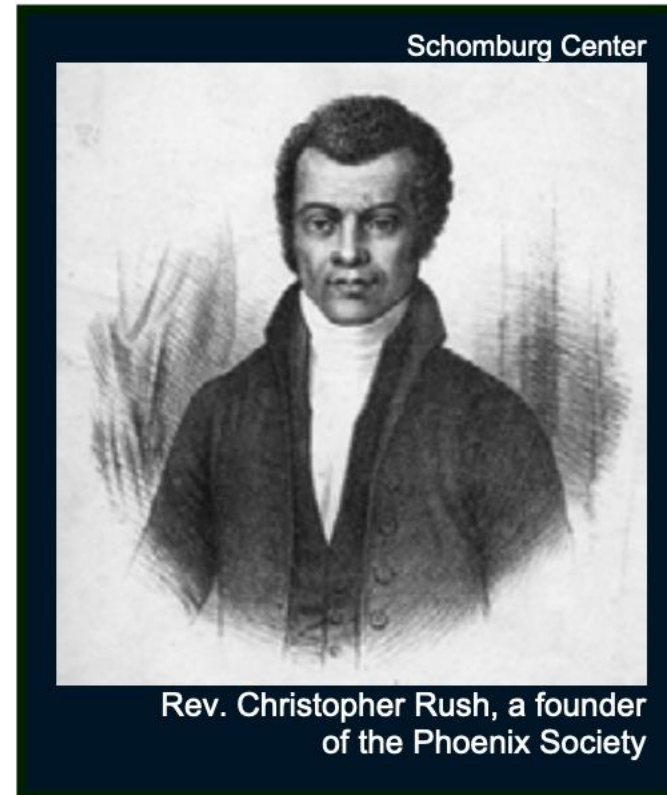
- Founded in 1785 by U.S. Founding Father John Jay to advocate for the gradual abolition of slavery and the manumission of slaves in New York.
- Comprised entirely of white men, mainly wealthy and influential. Key figures included John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and other prominent individuals of the time.
- Focused on battling the slave trade and advocating for the emancipation of all slaves in New York.
- Established the African Free School for poor and orphaned children of slaves and free people of colour.
- Significant success in 1799 with the Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery, declaring children born to slave parents free.
- Founded the African Free School in 1787.
- Focused on addressing slavery in New York, unlike other societies that targeted national issues.





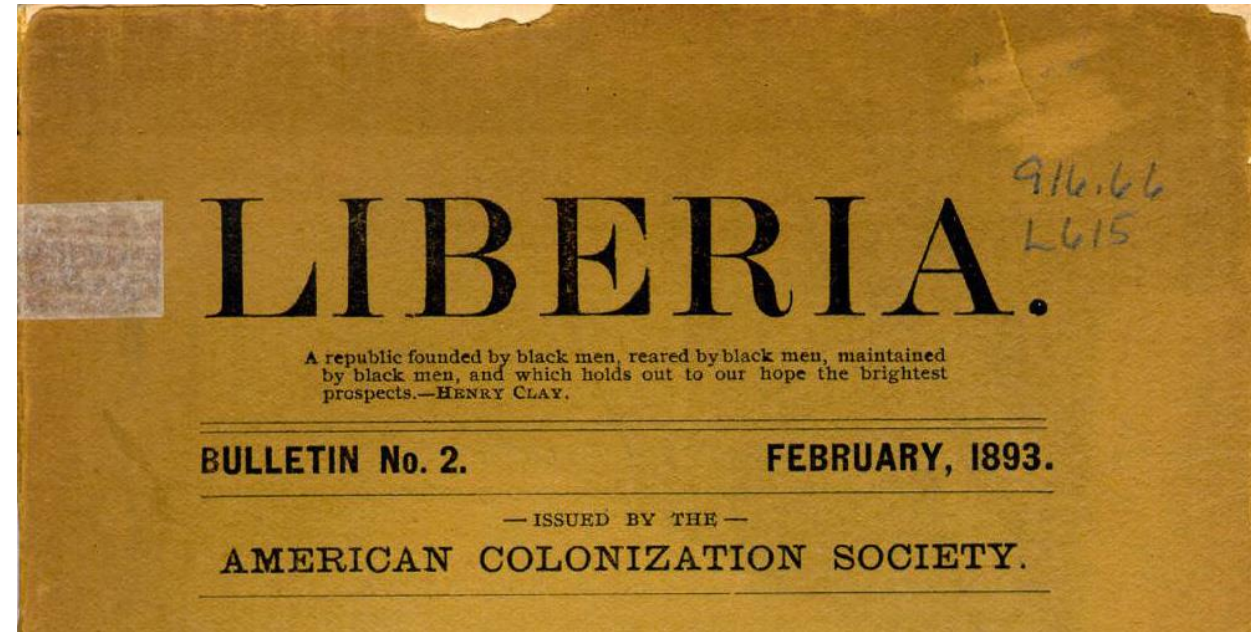
# Phoenix Society (New York)

- - Founded in 1833 in New York City.
- - Founders: Samuel Cornish, Theodore Wright, Peter Williams Jr., Christopher Rush.
- - Mission: Mutual aid society for African Americans, focusing on education and dedicated to "morals, literature, and the mechanical arts."
- - Philanthropic Support: Backing from Arthur and Lewis Tappan.
- - Educational Affiliation: Many members attended the New York Manumission Society's African Free School.
- - Initiatives: Established Phoenix High School for Colored Youth, starting with a boys' school and quickly adding a girls' school; notable attendee: Henry Highland Garnet.



# American Colonization Society (ACS)

- Formation and Purpose:
  - Established in 1816 by Robert Finley.
  - Originally named the Society for the Colonization of Free People of Color of America until 1837.
  - Aimed to encourage migration of freeborn blacks and emancipated slaves to Africa.
- Modeling After British Colonization:
  - Modeled on an earlier British colonization in Africa.
  - The British effort sought to resettle London's "black poor."



# Rational for establishment

- **Modeling After British Colonization:**

- Modeled on an earlier British colonization in Africa.
- The British effort sought to resettle London's "black poor."

- **Motivations for Establishment:**

- Addressed the prevailing view that free people of color couldn't integrate into U.S. society.
- Fears among slaveowners that free Blacks might aid slave escapes or rebellions.
- Belief among White Americans that African Americans were inherently inferior and should be relocated.

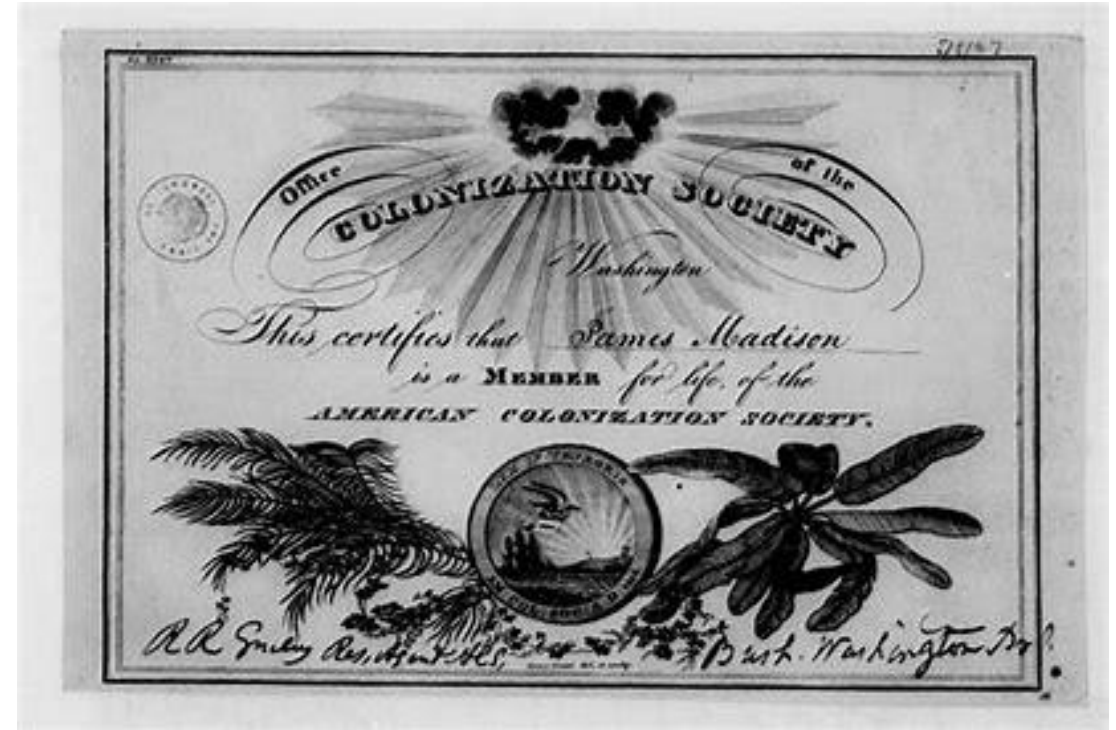


Robert Finley founded the American Colonization Society.



# Opposition from African-American Community

- Overwhelming opposition from the African-American community and abolitionist movement.
- Viewed as intense hatred clad in the guise of philanthropy.
- Seen as manifestations of a passion fit only for demons to indulge in.



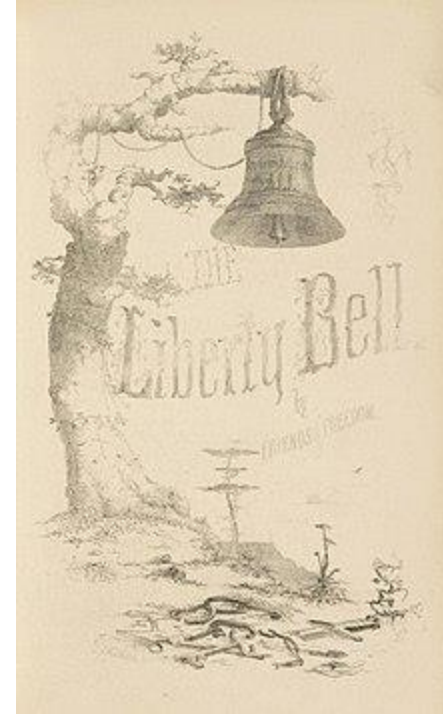
# Mortality and Financial Challenges

- Many African Americans pressured into emigrating, contrary to claims of voluntariness.
- Colonization proved a failure; between 1821 and 1847, few thousand emigrated to Liberia.
- High mortality rates, close to half arrivals in Liberia died from tropical diseases.
- Society transported only 2,769 individuals out of the U.S. by 1833.
- Enormous costs – Zephaniah Kingsley stated transporting the entire Black population would exceed the country's annual revenues.
- Met with hostility from white abolitionists in the 1830s.
- Led by Gerrit Smith and William Lloyd Garrison.
- Garrison proclaimed the society a fraud, asserting it helped preserve slavery rather than solve the issue.



# The American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS; 1833–1870)

- Founded by William Lloyd Garrison and Arthur Tappan in 1833.
- Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave, had become a prominent abolitionist and was a key leader of this society, who often spoke at its meetings.
- William Wells Brown, also a freedman, also often spoke at meetings.
- By 1838, the society had 1,350 local chapters with around 250,000 members.



*The Liberty Bell.* Boston:  
American Anti-Slavery Society,  
1856.



# Why was it formed?

## Founders' Vision:

- Conceived by prominent abolitionists including William Lloyd Garrison, Arthur Tappan, and Lewis Tappan.
- Formed with a vision of immediate and unconditional abolition of slavery throughout the nation.

## Objectives:

- **1. Immediate Abolition:** Advocated for the immediate emancipation of all enslaved individuals.
- **2. Moral Suasion:** Utilized moral persuasion, emphasizing the moral wrongness of slavery.
- **3. Non-Violent Advocacy:** Pursued its objectives through non-violent means, rejecting the use of force.



# Impact of pressure groups

## Local Abolitionist Groups

- Emerged locally, addressing slavery in specific regions.
- Mobilized communities for immediate or gradual abolition.

## National Abolitionist Organisations:

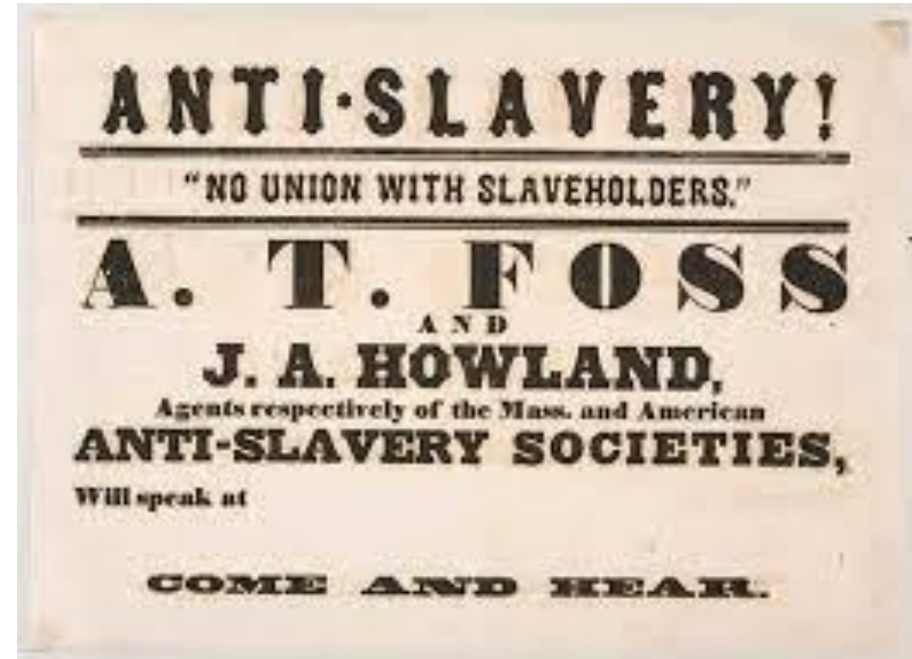
- Prominent groups advocated for complete eradication of slavery nationwide.

## Strategies and Activities:

- Engaged in lobbying efforts for anti-slavery legislation.
- Active participation in the Underground Railroad.

## Impact and Legacy:

- Contributed to legislative changes against slavery.
- Shifted societal attitudes, paving the way for the abolitionist cause.







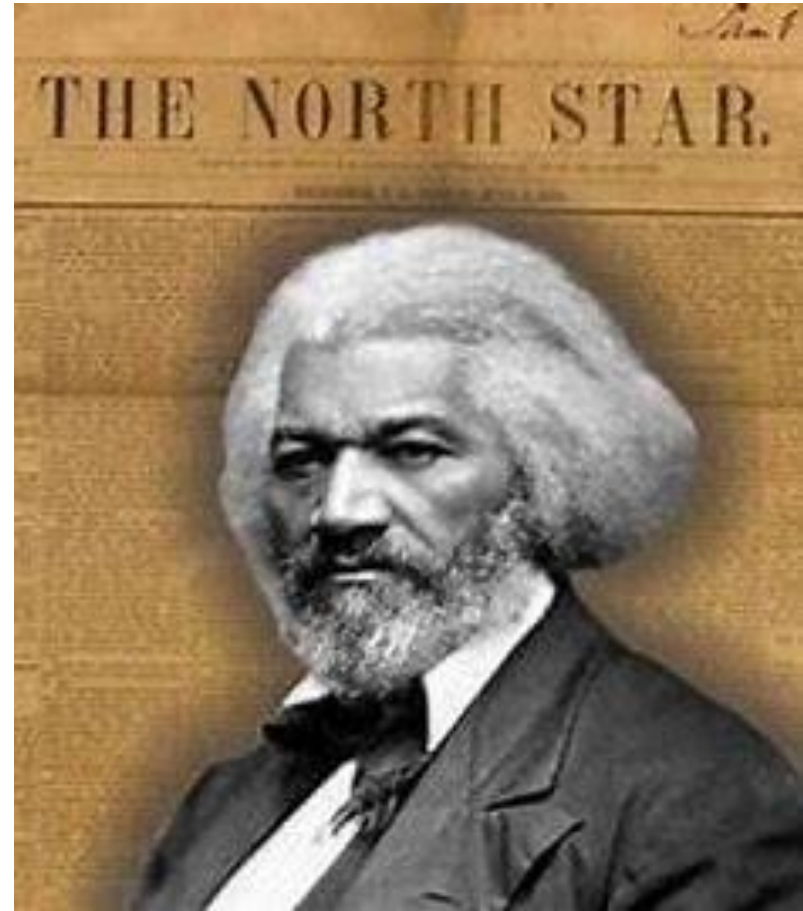
# The Public Relations War



# Tactics

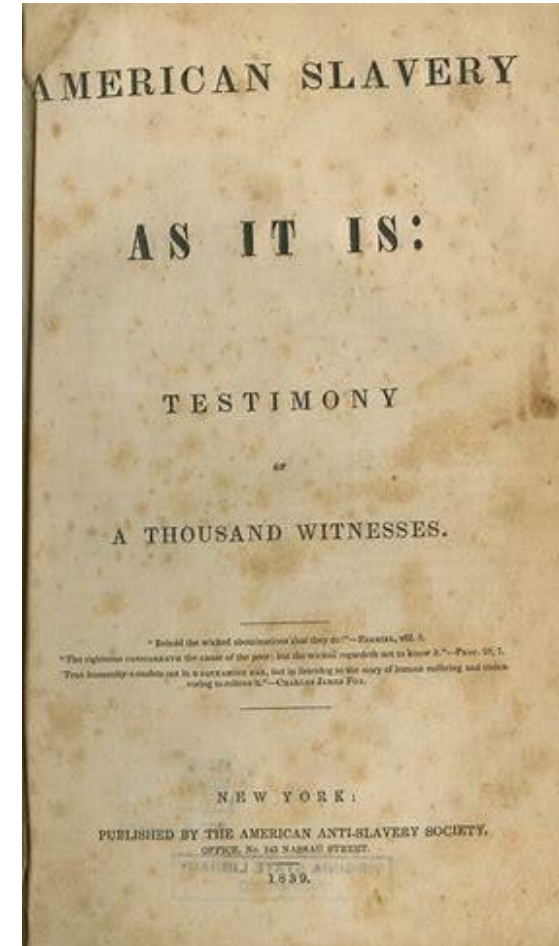
Abolitionists employed moral persuasion, emphasizing the moral wrongness of slavery and appealing to the conscience of the public.

- Literature and Publications
- Public Lectures and Debates
- Underground Railroad
- Political Activism
- Legal Challenges
- Boycotts and Economic Pressure
- Religious Appeals



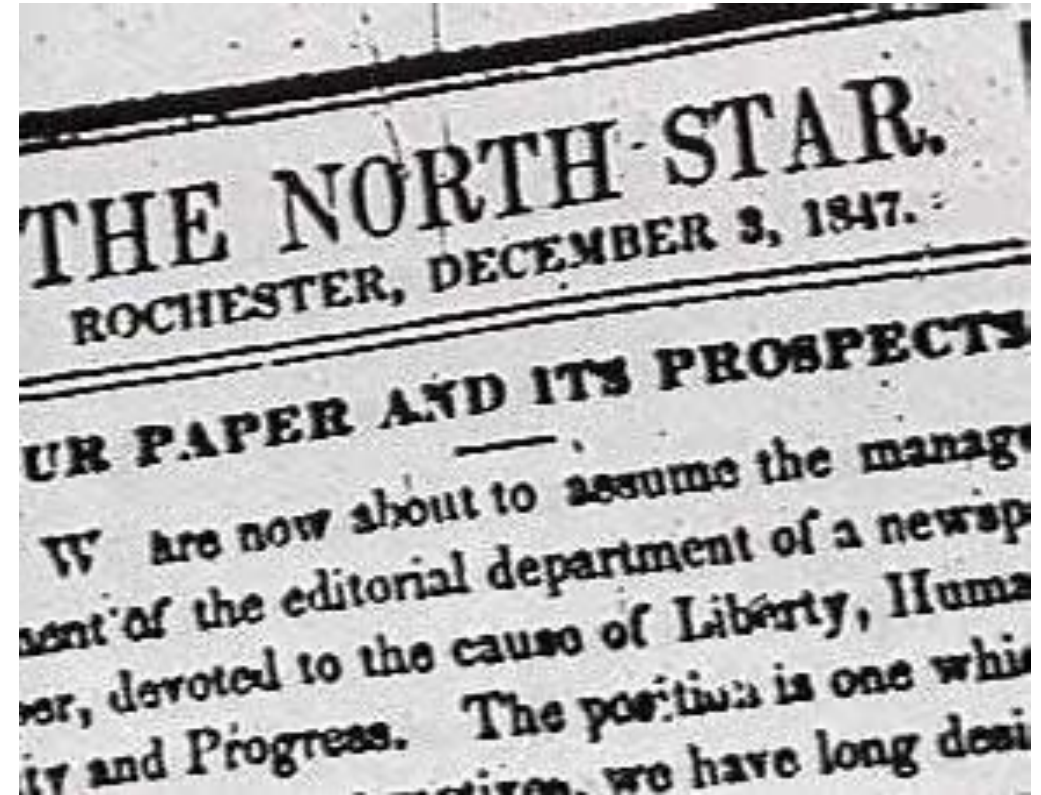
# Literature and Publications

- **"American Slavery As It Is: Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses" (1839):** Edited by Theodore Dwight Weld, this compilation presented firsthand accounts of the conditions of slavery, making a powerful case against the institution.
- **"Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave" (1845):** Douglass's autobiography provided a firsthand account of the brutality of slavery and became a key work in the abolitionist literature canon.
- **"Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World" (1829):** Written by David Walker, this pamphlet called for enslaved individuals to rise up against their oppressors and was considered a radical and incendiary work.



# News papers

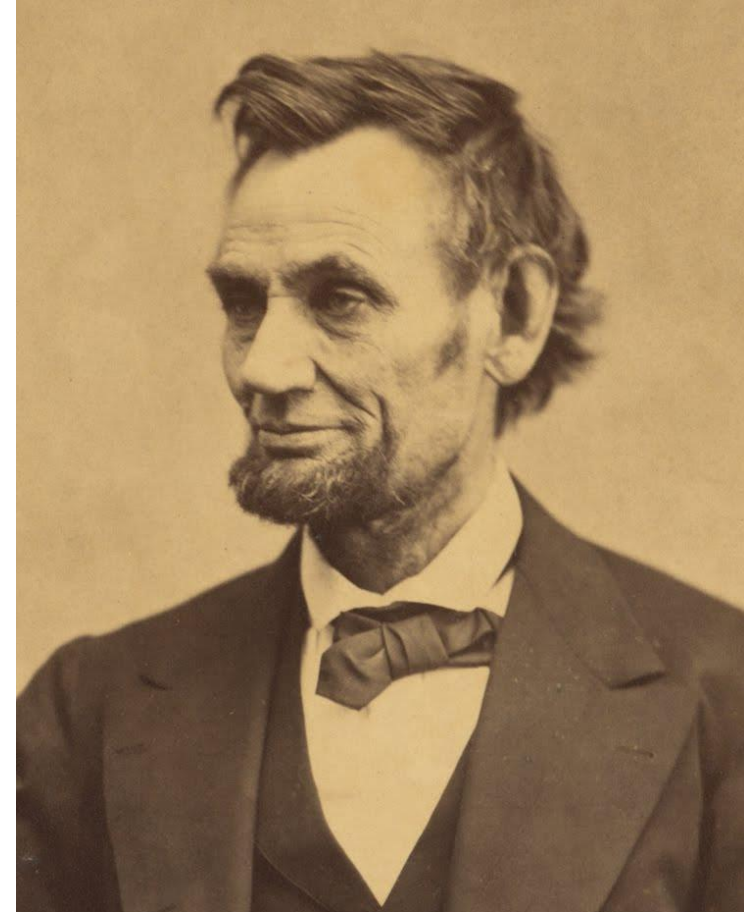
- **"The Liberator" (1831-1865):** Founded by William Lloyd Garrison, "The Liberator" was one of the most influential abolitionist newspapers. Garrison's uncompromising stance and moral suasion approach were central to the paper's message.
- **"The North Star" (1847-1863):** Edited by Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave who became a prominent abolitionist leader, "The North Star" advocated for the immediate abolition of slavery and equal rights for African Americans.
- **"The Anti-Slavery Bugle" (1845-1861):** Published in Ohio, this newspaper was associated with the American Anti-Slavery Society and promoted abolitionist views in the Midwest.





# Debates

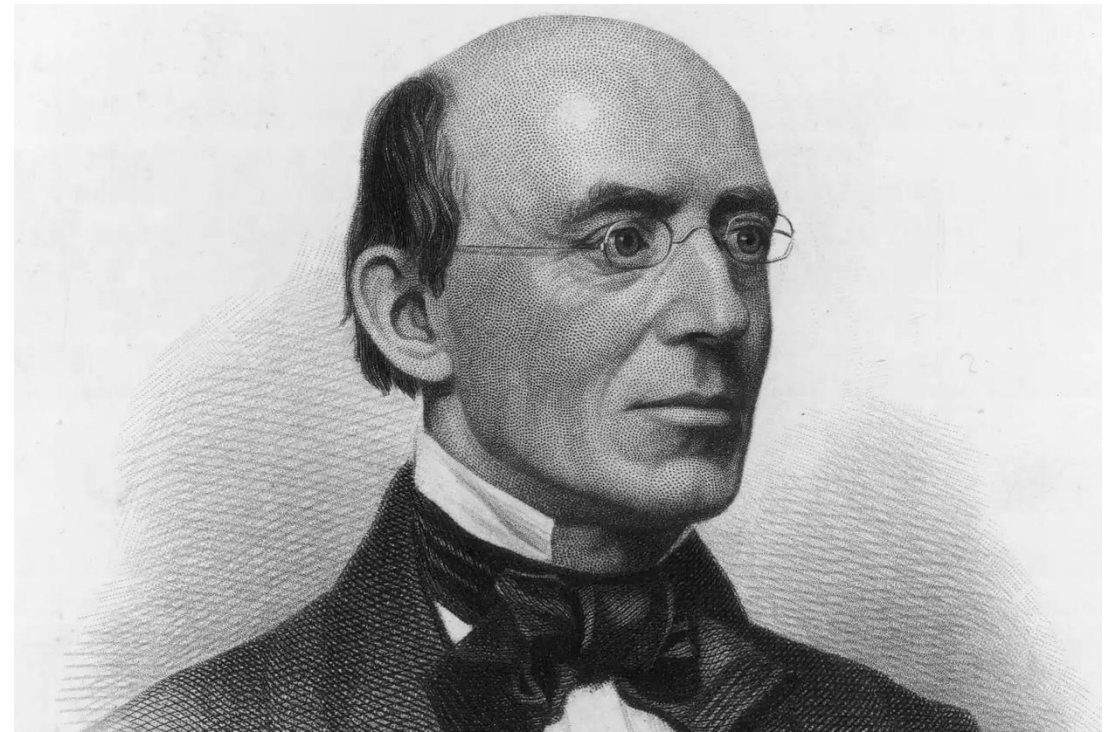
- Abolitionists engaged in debates with pro-slavery advocates, presenting moral, economic, and political arguments against the institution of slavery. These debates were often intense and played a role in shaping public opinion.
- One notable example is the series of debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas during the Illinois Senate race in 1858. While the main focus of these debates was on the extension of slavery into the territories, they provided a platform for discussing the broader issues of slavery and its moral implications.



# Public speaking

**Ain't I a Woman?:** Sojourner Truth, an African American abolitionist and women's rights activist, delivered a famous speech titled "Ain't I a Woman?" at the Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, in 1851. Her powerful and extemporaneous speech highlighted the intersectionality of race and gender, emphasising the equal rights of both black and white women.

**Public Speaking:** Garrison, the founder of "The Liberator" and a leading abolitionist figure, was a fervent advocate for the immediate and unconditional abolition of slavery. He participated in numerous public lectures, where he spoke passionately about the moral imperative of ending slavery. Garrison's advocacy extended to the use of moral suasion and nonviolent resistance.



# International speaking tours

Frederick Douglass: European Tour (1845-1847): After gaining his freedom, Frederick Douglass embarked on a tour of the British Isles and Ireland from 1845 to 1847. Douglass was an eloquent speaker and a powerful advocate for the abolition of slavery. His experiences as a slave, detailed in his autobiography, provided Europeans with firsthand insight into the dehumanizing effects of slavery.





# William and Ellen Craft

Tour of England (1850-1851):  
William and Ellen Craft were a married couple who escaped slavery in Georgia. Ellen, who was light-skinned, disguised herself as a white man, while William posed as her servant during their escape. They eventually reached England and embarked on a speaking tour to share their story and advocate for the abolition of slavery.



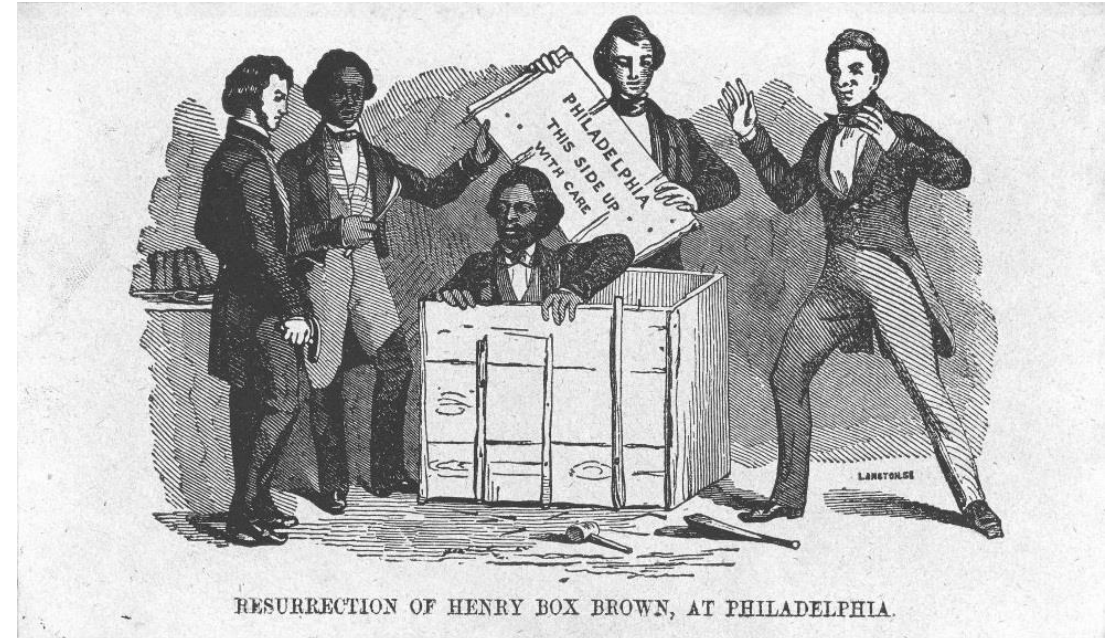
# Sarah Parker Remond

Anti-Slavery Lecturer in Britain (1859-1863): Sarah Parker Remond, an African American abolitionist, traveled to Britain in the late 1850s and early 1860s to lecture on the abolition of slavery. She was an active member of the American Anti-Slavery Society and used her platform to raise awareness about the ongoing struggle against slavery in the United States.



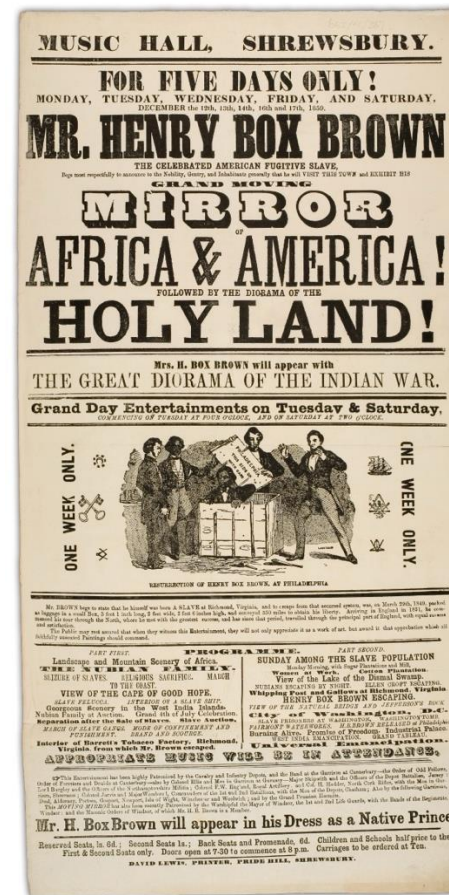
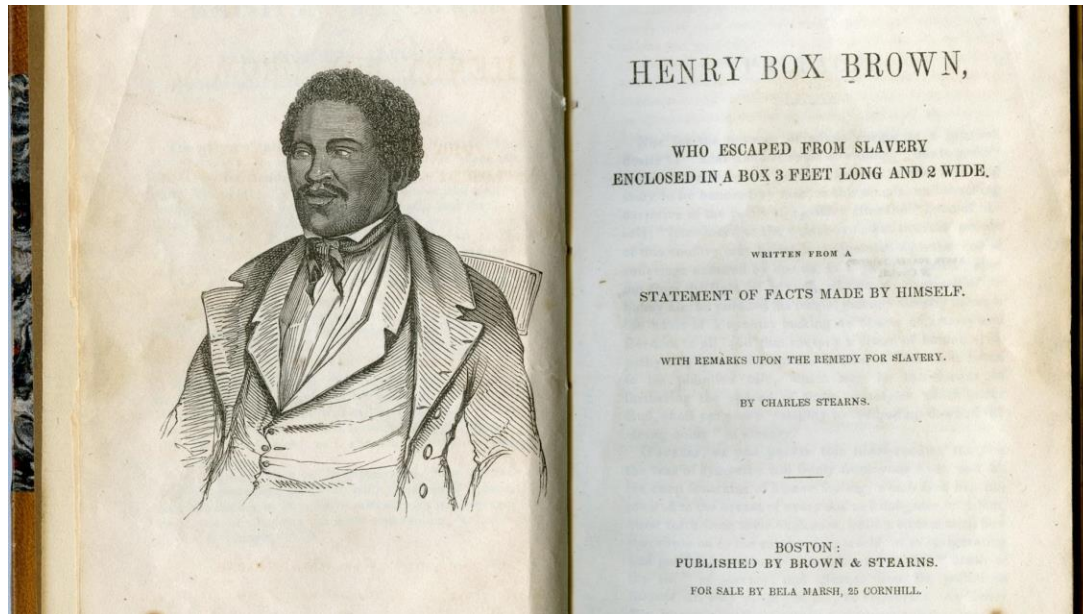
# Henry 'Box' Brown

- Born around 1815 in Virginia, Henry Brown worked as a tobacco worker on a plantation.
- Family separation, with his wife and children sold to another slaveholder, fueled Brown's determination to escape slavery.
- Collaborating with a free black and white abolitionist, Brown devised a plan involving shipping himself in a labeled crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.
- On March 23, 1849, Brown entered a three-by-two-foot crate, enduring a 27-hour journey with minimal provisions.
- The crate arrived at the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society's office on March 24, 1849, where Brown was assisted in exiting by abolitionist group members.
- After escaping, Brown became a prominent abolitionist speaker and engaged in the temperance movement.
- In 1849, he published his autobiography, "Narrative of Henry Box Brown," detailing his life, escape, and experiences as a free man.





# Publicity that came from his escape



# The Underground Railway

- The Underground Railroad, active in the United States during the early to mid-19th century.
- A clandestine system of secret routes and safe houses.
- Enslaved African Americans utilised the Underground Railroad.
- Mainly aimed at escaping to free states and eventually reaching Canada.
- The network was primarily orchestrated by free African Americans.
- Abolitionists and sympathetic individuals played a crucial role in supporting escape efforts.



Harriet Tubman, captured in a c. 1870 photograph by H.B. Lindsley, stands as a pivotal figure in the Underground Railroad. Through 13 daring trips to the South, Tubman facilitated the liberation of over 70 individuals, leading them to freedom in the Northern states and Canada. Her courageous leadership earned her the enduring title of the "Moses of Her People."

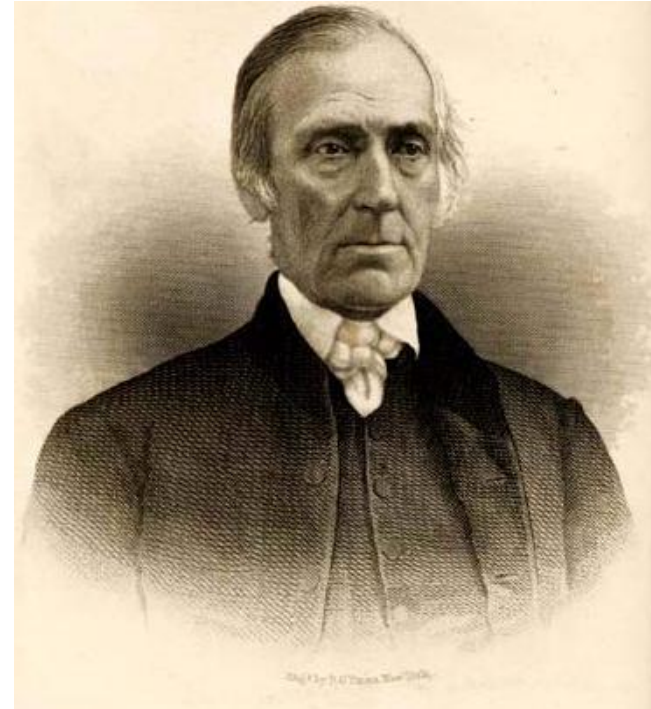
# Paths and impact

- **Routes:**

- Mention of an earlier route toward Florida, a Spanish possession until 1763–1783.
- The Underground Railroad as we know it began in the late 18th century, expanding northward.
- Routes not only led to free states and Canada but also to Mexico and non-slave trade Caribbean islands.

- **Impact**

- The network steadily expanded, reaching its peak before the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Estimated that around 100,000 slaves had escaped to freedom via the Underground Railroad by 1850.

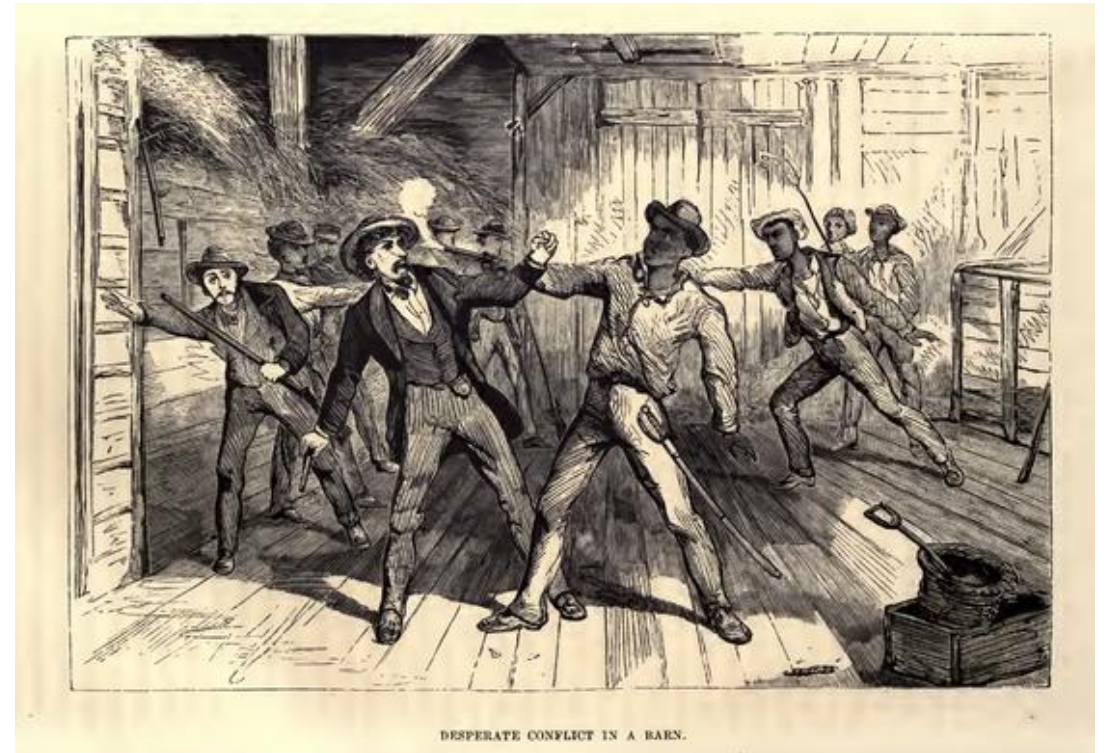


Quaker abolitionist Levi Coffin, alongside his wife Catherine, played a remarkable role in the Underground Railroad, assisting over 2,000 enslaved individuals in their journey to freedom. Their dedication and efforts underscore the impactful contribution of Quaker communities to the abolitionist cause during this challenging period in American history.



# Travelling conditions

- - Freedom seekers utilized various means: foot, wagon, boats, and trains.
- - Escapes typically occurred in small groups (1-3), with larger groups (15-20) led by abolitionists.
- - Black mariners, often sailors, crucially provided rides, safe routes, and disclosed trusted locations.
- - The journey, intentionally indirect, posed challenges for women and children, struggling with silence and pace.
- - Information about routes and safe locations discreetly passed through word of mouth or encrypted messages.
- - Southern newspapers sought information, offering rewards, as federal marshals and catchers pursued seekers, even to the Canada–U.S. border.



Struggle for freedom in a Maryland barn.  
Wood-engraving from William Still's *The Underground Rail Road*.

# Legal Action and Constitutional Foundations

## 1780 Massachusetts Constitution:

- During the Revolution, Massachusetts ratified its constitution, declaring all men equal.

## Freedom Suits in Massachusetts:

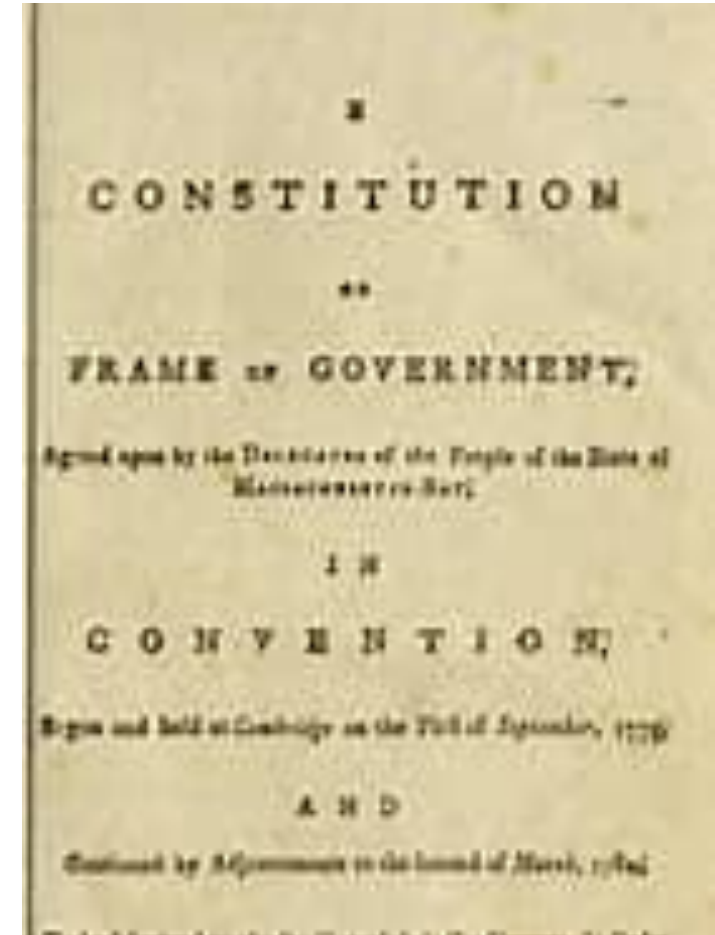
- Enslaved African Americans in Massachusetts filed freedom suits based on the constitutional clause.

## Commonwealth v. Nathaniel Jennison (1783):

- Massachusetts Supreme Court reaffirmed Brom and Bett v. Ashley, asserting enslaved individuals' constitutional right to liberty.

## Impact on Slavery:

- This legal precedent effectively abolished slavery in Massachusetts by recognizing enslaved individuals as having constitutional rights.



# Gradual Abolition and Legislative Measures

- **Pennsylvania's Gradual Abolition (1780):**

- Pennsylvania, in 1780, initiated gradual abolition by prohibiting slave importation.

- **Enslaved Individuals' Freedom Criteria:**

- Initially, only slaves of masters who failed to register with the state and "future children" of enslaved mothers were freed.

- **Pennsylvania's Full Abolition (1847):**

- Slaves in Pennsylvania before 1780 were not freed until 1847, marking the completion of the gradual abolition process.



A 1792 political cartoon on the sugar boycott; the British king and queen urge their daughters to drink their tea without sugar, not for humanitarian reasons, but for the sake of saving money.



# Abolitionist Economic Strategies in the 19th Century

## **Boycotts of Slave-Produced Goods:**

- Northern abolitionists urged consumers to boycott products like cotton, sugar, and tobacco to economically pressure slaveholding states.

## **Free Produce Movement:**

- Abolitionists promoted the Free Produce Movement, advocating for goods produced without slave labor and rejecting products linked to slavery.

## **Abolitionist Merchants and Businesses:**

- Some conscientious merchants and business owners refused to trade in or profit from slave-produced goods, aligning their economic activities with anti-slavery principles.



# Economic Resistance and Divestment

## Divestment from Slaveholding Investments:

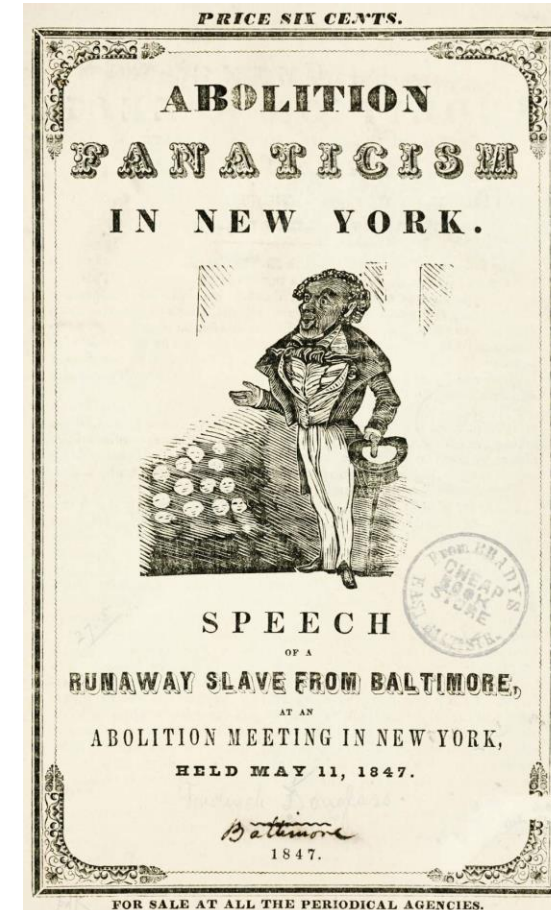
- Abolitionist activists encouraged divestment from businesses and financial institutions supporting or profiting from slavery.

## Anti-Slavery Fairs and Goods:

- Abolitionist societies organized fairs promoting ethically produced items, aligning consumer choices with anti-slavery values.

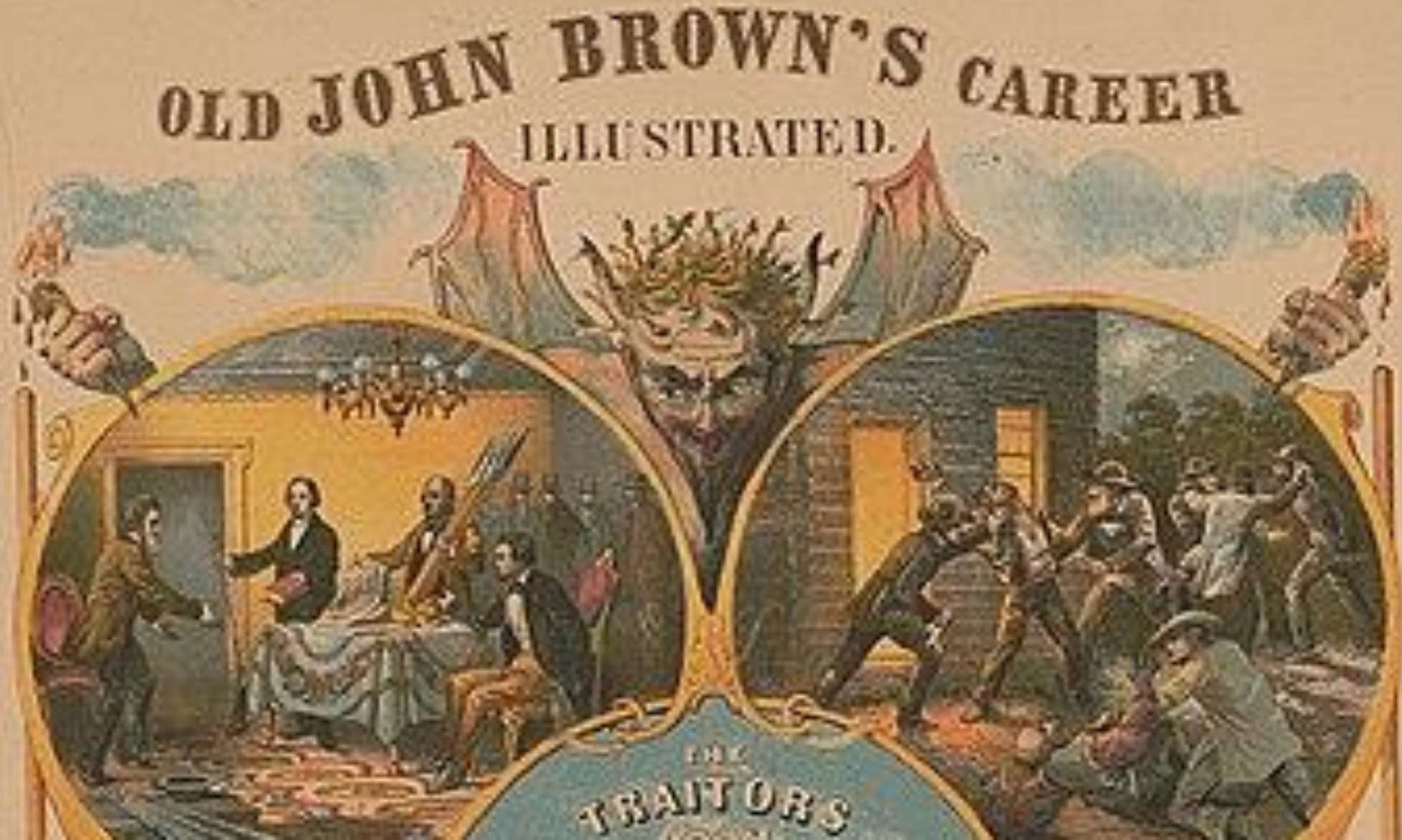
## Educational Campaigns:

- Abolitionists used economic arguments, highlighting that slavery hindered progress and was economically inefficient, in their educational campaigns.





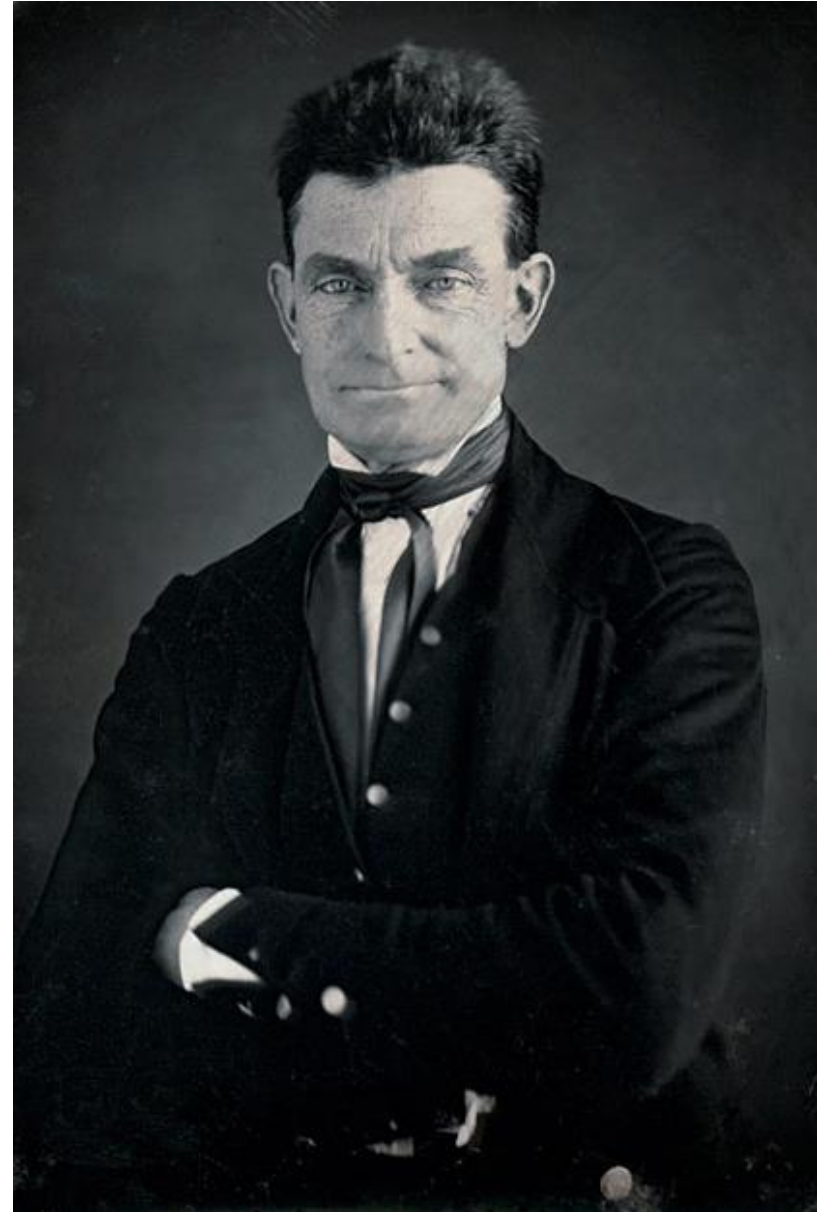
# Direct action: the use of violence





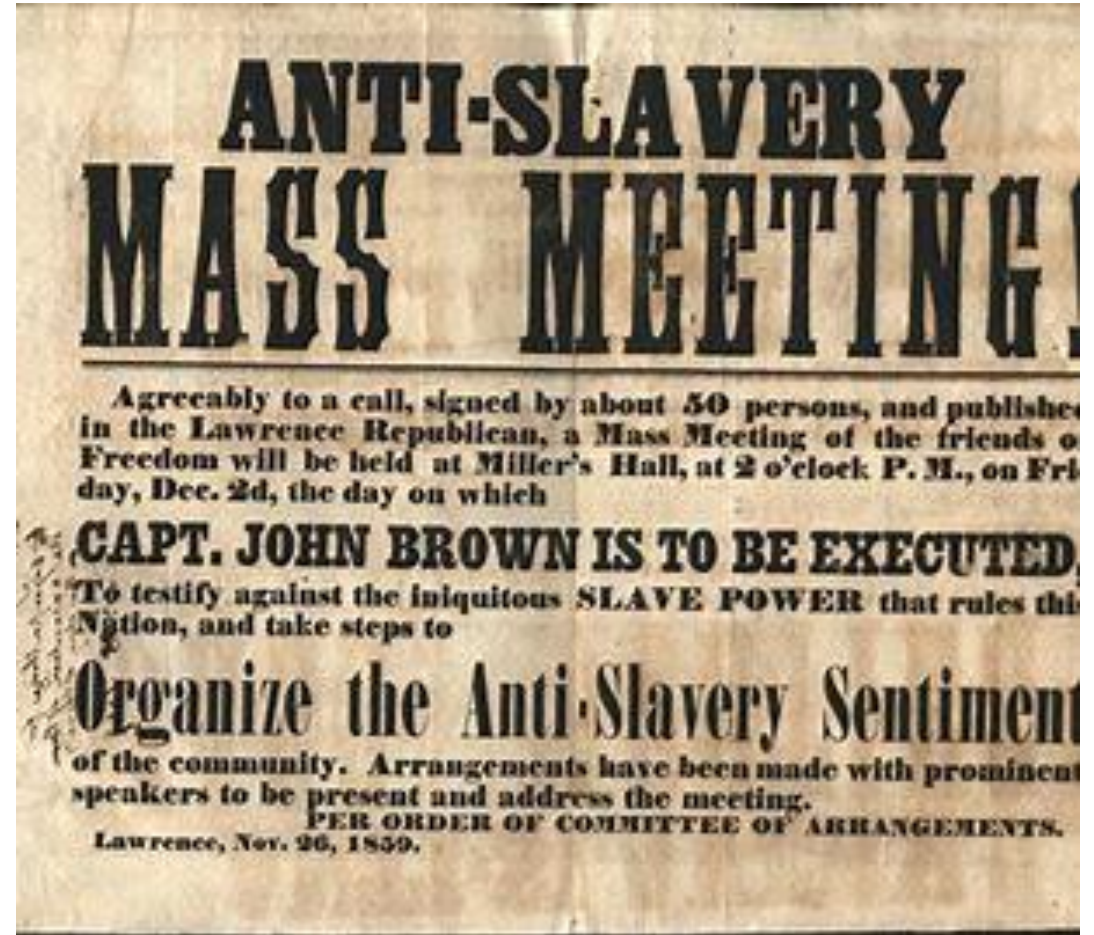
# Captain John Brown

- A prominent leader in the American abolitionist movement before the Civil War.
- Gained national prominence in the 1850s for radical abolitionism and Bleeding Kansas.
- Captured, tried, and executed in 1859 for leading a raid at Harpers Ferry.



# Brown's Beliefs and Influences

- Deeply influenced by the evangelical Christian and Puritan faith.
- Believed he was "an instrument of God" obligated to end American slavery.
- Advocated violence as a necessary means in the abolitionist movement.



# Harpers Ferry Raid and Legacy

- Gained attention during the Bleeding Kansas crisis in the late 1850s.
- Led a raid on the federal armoury at Harpers Ferry in 1859 with the aim of arming and starting a slave liberation movement.
- Executed in 1859, contributing to tensions that led to the American Civil War; a hero in the North, varied opinions in the South.

