

7.2

Violence Escalates



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Assess how the Kansas-Nebraska Act was seen differently by the North and South.**
- **Explain why fighting broke out in Kansas and the effects of that conflict.**
- **Analyze how deepening sectional distrust affected the nation's politics.**
- **Compare the positions of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas on the issue of slavery.**
- **Explain the effect of John Brown's raid on the slavery debate.**

Kansas-Nebraska Act

1854 Senator Stephen Douglas sets a bill to discuss slavery in the Nebraska Territory.

He wanted people of the territory to decide whether to allow slavery via popular sovereignty

The [Kansas-Nebraska Act](#) split the territory in two to create a slave & free state

Kansas would begin bitter rivalries between abolitionists & proslavery settlers

Bleeding Kansas

1856- Border Ruffians raised Lawrence Kansas & [John Brown](#), the New York Abolitionist, sought retaliation

He carried out a midnight execution of 5 proslavery settlers leading to more violent outbursts known as [Bleeding Kansas](#).

Many members in Congress would begin to fight, some would bring pistols & canes!

Rep. Preston Brooks beat another senator unconscious with a cane for example

National Politics

The Whig Party would begin to decline & changes in religion from Protestant to Catholic would worry civilians

Nativists would form the “Know-Nothings**” Party which eventually became the American Party**

Anti-slavery zeal would lead to the new Republican Party & grew rapidly in the North.

Sectional Divisions

Dred Scott went to the Supreme Court to sue for his freedom, as he was a slave moved to a free state

Roger B. Taney & the Supreme Court ruled against him saying that “slaves were property not citizens”

This made the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional

Frederick Douglass believed this would hasten the end of slavery

Lincoln V Douglas

Abraham Lincoln- Lawyer from Illinois earned the nickname “Honest Abe” fought for the end of slavery.

Stephen Douglas- Lawyer from Illinois known as the “Little Giant” promoted popular sovereignty

They would both run for office, each argueing for & against popular sovereignty

Douglas would win by a slim margin, but Lincoln became recognized across the country

Harpers Ferry

John Brown continued to fight against slavery,
concluding that violence was needed.

He attempts to seize the federal arsenal in **Harpers
Ferry** to try & inspire a revolution in the South

It fails to win support & Brown is executed,
but the nation argues whether he was a
terrorist or martyr