##### Unit 5: The Road To Civil War (1820-1861)

The expansion of the US throughout the 1800’s made the US larger, richer, and stronger, but the new territories also brought about major conflict. At first, most people believed that the country could exist with half of its economy based on slave labor (the South) and the other half based on manufacturing (the North). As **manifest destiny (desire to expand Westward)** continued and new territory was added, many of the compromises over slavery began to break down. This slowly led to increased **sectionalism.** Northern States wanted these new states to be “free states” to stop the expansion of slavery and to get enough representatives to make a law to end slavery. The South was scared of this, so they wanted the new states to become “slave states” so there would be a balance of power in Congress. Compromises, such as the **Missouri Compromise, the 1850 Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act** tried to make both sides’ happy, but actually made things worse. In the Kansas territory, because of the idea of **popular sovereignty**, people started fighting each other, which became known as **Bleeding Kansas.**

Tensions greatly escalated with the **Dred Scott Decision**. Chief Justice Robert Tawney ruled that not only was slavery legal in the North, but the Missouri Compromise which separated free and slave states was illegal – Congress cannot regulate property – it was now legal to own slaves in any state! This infuriated **abolitionists** and gave the new anti-slavery **Republican Party** even more momentum. Republican Congressman **Abraham Lincoln** in his debates with Senator **Stephen Douglas** in the **Lincoln-Douglas Debates** made it clear that “a house divided cannot stand” with the issue of slavery. The South saw this is a threat that if a Republican President won, slavery would be made illegal. Harriet Beecher Stowe’s **Uncle Tom’s Cabin** (which depicted the life of a slave very negatively) and the abolitionist John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry to try to create a slave revolt both increased the anger of **Southern “Fire Eaters”** (outspoken politicians), and convinced many that the only choice left for the South was to **secede** (leave) the United States and form their own country. They believed in the principle of

States Rights – they did not want a Northern-controlled Federal Government to tell the states what to do or take away their property. Poor Presidential leadership just allowed the situation to get worse. Due to Abraham Lincoln’s popularity, he was nominated as the Presidential candidate for the Republican Party in 1860. South Carolina stated that if Lincoln won, they would **secede from the Union**. Lincoln, thanks to running against a divided Democratic party, did win, and on December 20, 1860, South Carolina voted and left the Union! Through early 1861, ten more Southern States seceded and formed a new government – **The Confederate States of America – they had their own constitution, flag, president (Jefferson Davis) and government.**

The war started with the Battle of Fort Sumter. From 1861 to 1865, Americans from the North fought Americans from the South in one of the bloodiest wars ever fought in order to preserve the union of the United States.

**Flashcard Words**

**1) Sectionalism**- when each part of the U.S. (North, South, & West) puts its own needs before the needs of the country as a whole.

**2) Secession/Secede**- to break away from

**3) Abolitionist**- a person who tried to end (abolish) slavery

**4) Underground Railroad**- a system of hideouts **Harriet Tubman** and many others used to help slaves escape slavery in the South

**5) Frederick Douglas**- escaped slavery and published a newspaper (**The North Star**)discussing the evils of slavery

**6) Cotton Gin**- an invention that made cotton-farming easier. This device increased demand for slavery.

**7) Nullification** – the idea that a state can nullify (ignore) a law of the national government

**8) Missouri Compromise** (1820)- allowed the state of Missouri to enter the US as a "slave state", Maine to enter as a "free state", and outlawed the spread of slavery above a certain boundary line.

**9) Compromise of 1850**- allowed the state of California to enter the US as a "free state" and created a stronger fugitive slave act.

**10) Fugitive Slave Act**- made it a crime for Northerners to help runaway slaves from the South

**11) Kansas-Nebraska Act** (1854)- allowed Kansas and Nebraska to use **popular sovereignty** (states could vote to decide if they would be "free" or "slave" state)

**12) Popular Sovereignty –** the idea that the people living in a state will vote to decide if they would be "free" or "slave" state.

**13) Bleeding Kansas**- Fighting between pro-slavery and anti-slavery supporters in Kansas.

**14) Dred Scott Decision**- Supreme Court decision that made it illegal for Congress to ban slavery in any US territory.

**15) John Brown**- a radical abolitionist who wanted slaves to rise up and fight.

**16) Raid at Harper’s Ferry**—John Brown’s attempted slave rebellion. Harper’s Ferry was a military warehouse. The rebellion fails but the South is very angry at the North.

**17) Uncle Tom's Cabin**- a very important anti-slavery novel written by **Harriet Beecher Stowe**.

**18) States’ Rights** – The idea that states do not have to listen to the Federal Government if they disagree.

**19) Lincoln-Douglas Debates –** Debates that made Abraham Lincoln famous and called attention to that the country cannot survive half slave and half free.

**20) Abraham Lincoln** – Republican politician. Became America’s 16th President. His election caused the Civil War, but his leadership helped the U.S. win it.

**21) Election of 1860**- Election where South Carolina said that if Abraham Lincoln won then they would **secede** from the Union. Lincoln wins and they secede.

**22) Civil War**- a war between different groups within one country. The American Civil War was when 11 Southern States tried to break apart and form their own country – the Confederate States of America. From 1861-1865, the United States fought to conquer the Confederacy and reunite the country.

**23) The Confederate States of America** – the new “rebel” country formed by the southern states during the Civil War. It had a government and Constitution similar to America’s and a President (**Jefferson** **Davis**).

**24) Manifest Destiny** – America’s belief that it is our destiny to control all of the land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This leads to Westward Expansion.

**Study Questions: *use the documents below to answer the following study paragraphs in one paragraph each. Reference both documents in each question along with outside information.***

1. **What were the historical circumstances that led to these documents being written? Explain how three of the following events contributed to the secession of 11 Southern States (Missouri Compromise, Dred Scott Decision, John Brown’s Raid, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Fugitive Slave Act, Compromise of 1850, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Election of 1860).**
2. **Compare and contrast the purposes of these speeches and their perspectives on secession and Civil War.**

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| **Abraham Lincoln’s Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861** | **Excerpts from Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, Inaugural Address** |
| *In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to "preserve, protect, and defend it."*  *I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.* | “*Our present political position has been achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations. It illustrates the American idea that governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is it the right of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them at will whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established…* *As a necessity, not a choice we have resorted to separation, and henceforth our energies must be devoted to the conducting of our own affairs, and perpetuating [creating] the Confederacy we have formed.”* |