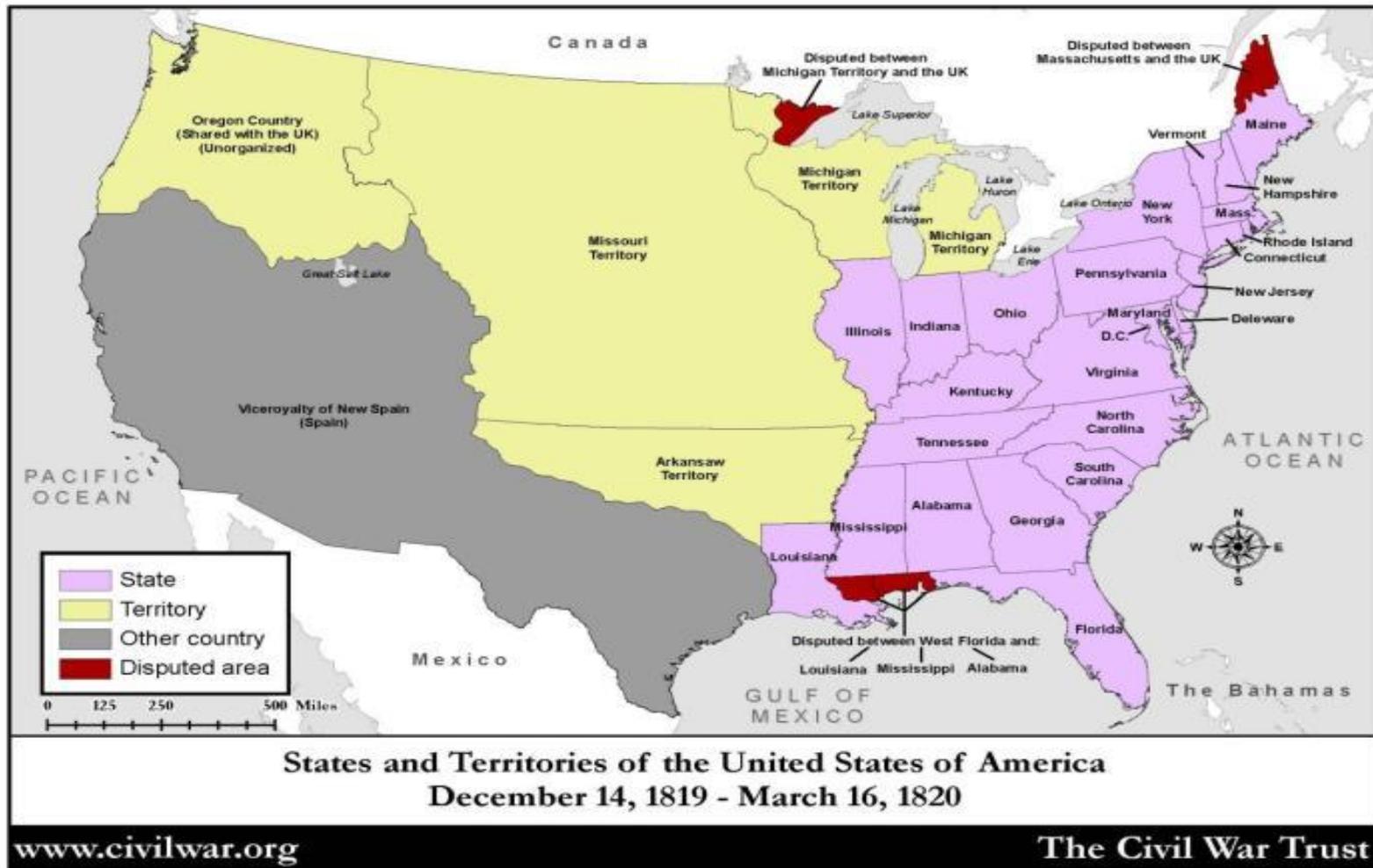


# **The Road to War**

## **Documents**



## Balance of Power



1. Draw a line on the map showing the border between the Free Soil states and Slave Labor states. What is significant about the number of free states vs. slave states in 1820?

2. In 1819, Missouri wants to enter the Union as a slave state. What are some potential problems you see with this scenario?

# The Missouri Compromise

1820

SEC. 8. And be it further enacted. That in all that **territory** ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies **north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude**, not included within the limits of the state, contemplated by this act, **slavery and involuntary servitude**, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be, and **is hereby, forever prohibited**: Provided always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labour or service is lawfully claimed, in any state or territory of the United States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labour or service as aforesaid.

1. According to the document, what is prohibited in the territory north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude?

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2. According to the document, what will happen to a person who escapes to the territory described above?

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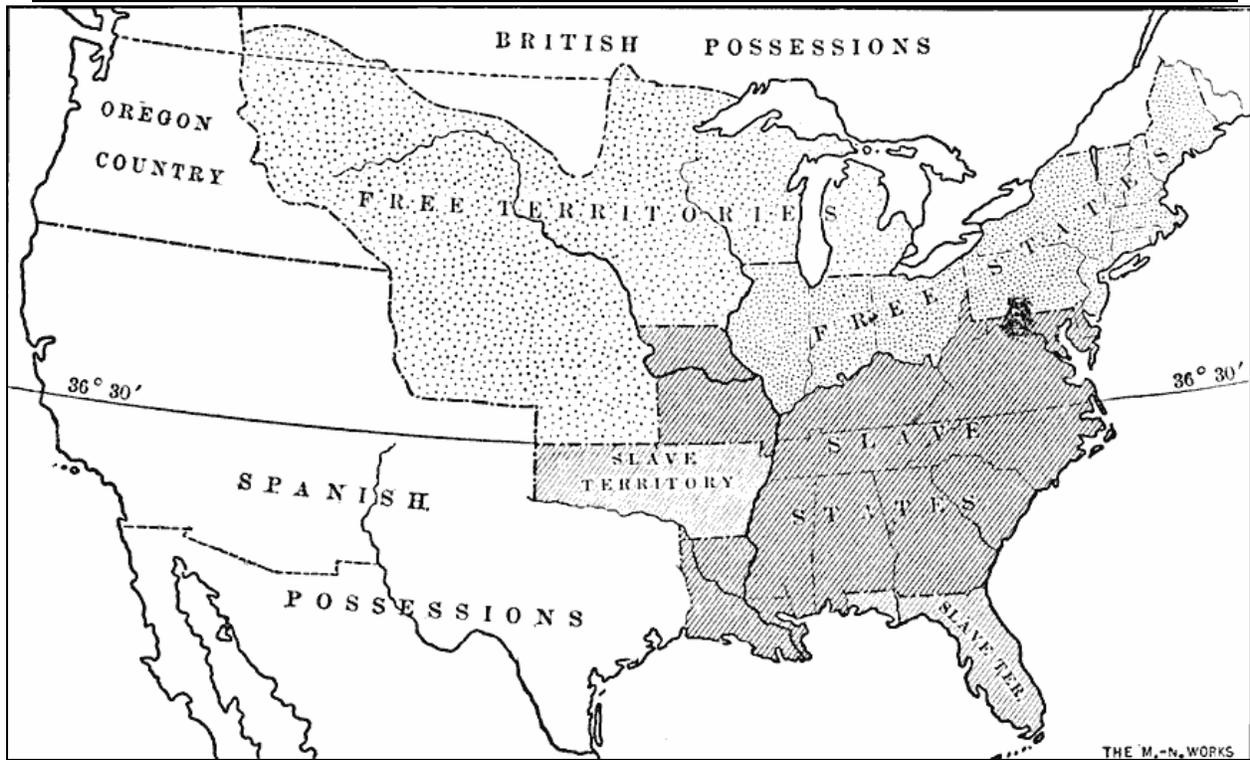
3. Why do you think this document from 1820 is relevant when discussing the Civil War?

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## Slave and Free Areas after the Missouri Compromise, 1820



What do you think of the decision? Why?

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### Thomas Jefferson's Opinion on the Compromise of 1820

“..the Missouri question aroused and filled me with alarm...I have been among the most sanguine in believing that our Union would be of long duration. I now doubt it much.”

- letter to William Short, April 11, 1820

“...like a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union.”

- letter to John Holmes, April 22, 1820

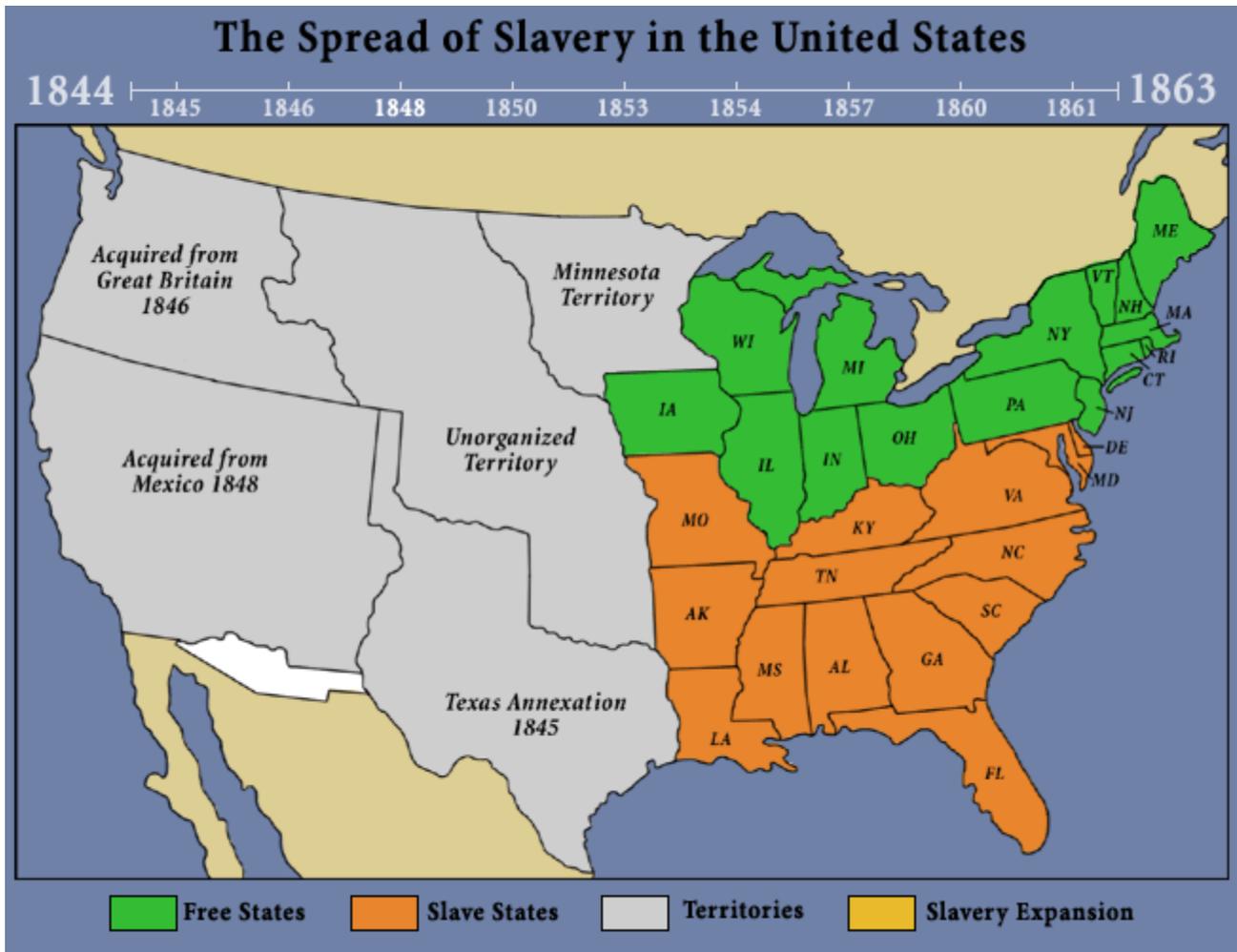
Why is he alarmed? What does Jefferson mean when he calls the compromise the “knell of the Union”?

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# Expansion of the United States



What problems can you possibly see occurring as a result of the acquisition of land from the Mexican-American War?

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California wants to enter the Union as a free state. Note that part of California is below the Missouri Compromise line of  $36^{\circ}30'$ . What do you expect will happen, based upon the Missouri Compromise, in regards to free and slave states?

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# Compromise of 1850

It being desirable, for the peace, concord, and harmony of the Union of these States, to settle and adjust amicably all existing questions of controversy between them arising out of the institution of slavery upon a fair, equitable and just basis: therefore,

1. Resolved, That California, with suitable boundaries, ought, upon her application to be admitted as one of the States of this Union, without the imposition by Congress of any restriction in respect to the exclusion or introduction of slavery within those boundaries.

2. Resolved, That as slavery does not exist by law, and is not likely to be introduced into any of the territory acquired by the United States from the republic of Mexico...

8. Resolved, That Congress has no power to promote or obstruct the trade in slaves between the slaveholding States; but that the admission or exclusion of slaves brought from one into another of them depends exclusively upon their own particular laws.

1. According to the document, which institution is causing conflict between the states?

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2. According to the document, did California enter the Union as a free or slave state?

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3. According to the document, what does Congress not have the power to do?

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4. How do you think the country reacted?

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# The Fugitive Slave Act

Excerpt

## **Section 6**

And be it further enacted, That when a person held to service or labor in any State or Territory of the United States, has heretofore or shall hereafter escape into another State or Territory of the United States, the person or persons to whom such service or labor may be due... may pursue and reclaim such fugitive person, either by procuring a warrant or by seizing and arresting such fugitive, where the same can be done without process... In no trial or hearing under this act shall the testimony of such alleged fugitive be admitted in evidence

## **Section 7**

And be it further enacted, That any person who shall knowingly and willingly obstruct, hinder, or prevent such claimant, his agent or attorney, or any person or persons lawfully assisting him, her, or them, from arresting such a fugitive from service or labor,... or shall harbor or conceal such fugitive, so as to prevent the discovery and arrest of such person, after notice or knowledge of the fact that such person was a fugitive from service or labor as aforesaid, shall, for either of said offences, be subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding six months, by indictment and conviction before the District Court of the United States and shall moreover forfeit and pay, by way of civil damages to the party injured by such illegal conduct, the sum of one thousand dollars for each fugitive so lost as aforesaid, to be recovered by action of debt, in any of the District or Territorial Courts...

How do you think the citizens of the free states viewed the compromise, especially Section 7?

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Why do you think the “Compromise of 1850”, including the Fugitive Slave Act, is called a compromise? What issue do you think they are compromising over?

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How do you think people reacted?

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## Reaction to Compromise of 1850

“What do you want, you who reside in the free states? Do you want that there shall be no slavery introduced into the territories...? Have you not had your desire in California?...What more do you want? **Henry Clay**

“...the Southern gentlemen have pressed the cause, not only of human slavery but of slavery extension...the North has maintained an unbroken silence. The time has surely come when the voice of freedom should find an utterance.” **Horace Mann**

How do these opinions of the Compromise of 1850 differ?

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What future problems do you foresee?

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**CAUTION!!**

**COLORED PEOPLE**  
**OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,**  
You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the **Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,**

For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN,** they are empowered to act as **KIDNAPPERS**  
**AND**  
**Slave Catchers,**

And they have already been actually employed in **KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES.** Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY,** and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS** on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

**Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.**

**APRIL 24, 1851.**

Based on this poster, how do Northerners react to the Compromise of 1850?

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What suggestions does this poster tell “colored people” of Boston to do in order to remain free?

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# Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854

**Territory Nebraska;** and when admitted as a State or States, the said Territory or any portion of the same, shall be received into the Union with or without slavery, as their Constitution may prescribe at the time of the admission...

...**Territory of Kansas;** and when admitted as a State or States, the said Territory, or any portion of the same, shall be received into the Union with or without slavery, as their Constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission...

**Opposition:** *“We arraign this bill as a gross violation of a sacred pledge; as a criminal betrayal of precious rights; as part and parcel of an atrocious plot to ...convert it [the territories] into a dreary region of despotism, inhabited by masters and slaves....”* Salmon P. Chase

**Defense:** *“The legal effect of this bill...is neither to legislate slavery into these territories or out of them, but to leave the people to do as they please....Why should this principle not prevail?”* Stephen A. Douglas

Both the territories of Kansas and Nebraska were above the line drawn in the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Why do you think it was decided that these new territories would choose their own states' status of free or slave?

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In the four years after this compromise bloodshed and violence dominated these territories with leaders from both slave holding and abolitionist factions. Why do you think these groups were fighting?

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How do you think news of this fighting affected Americans throughout the country?

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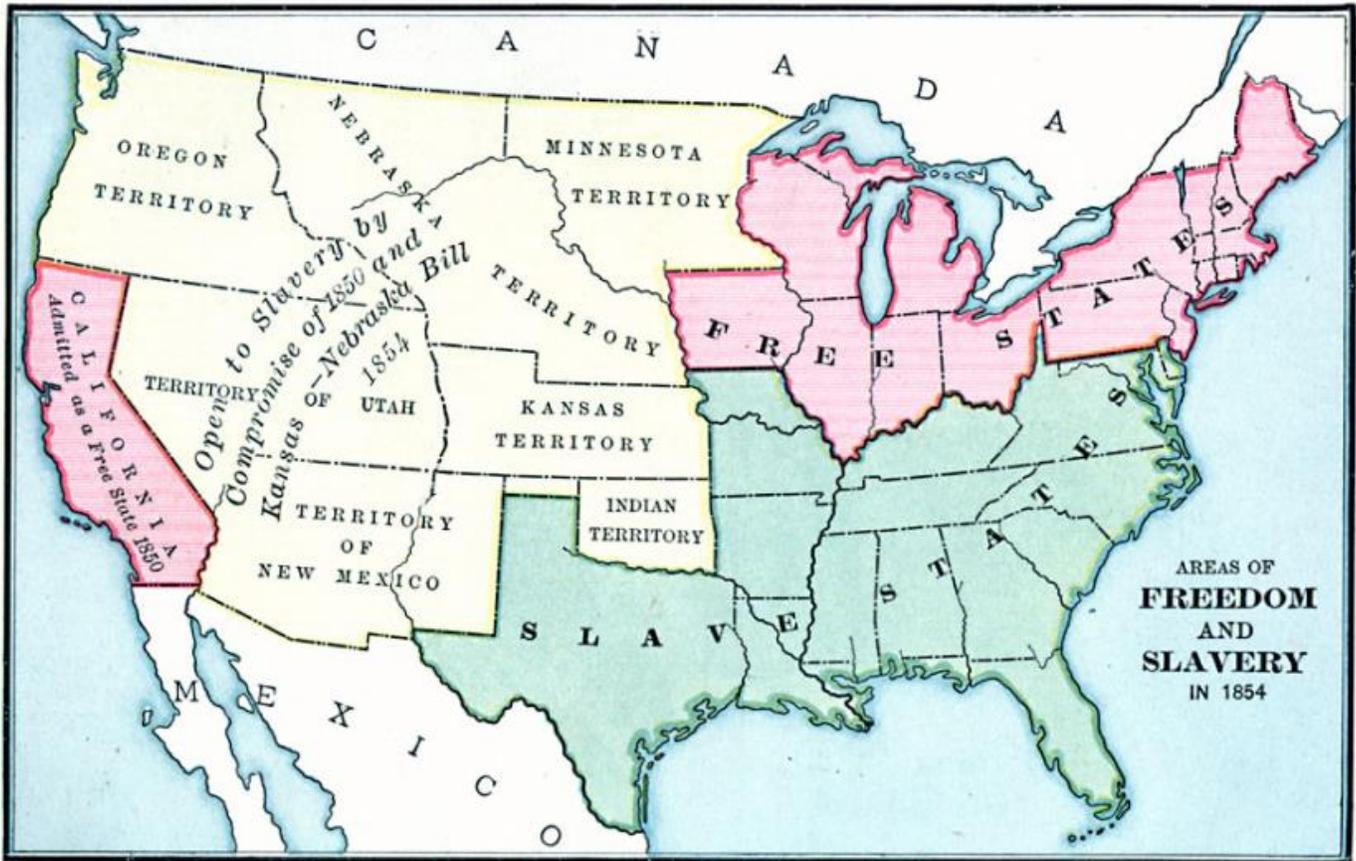
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# Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854

Map



What changes occurred in 1854?

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What did the Kansas-Nebraska Act do to the Missouri Compromise?

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# **Dred Scott vs. Sanford**

## Supreme Court Decision

“They [African Americans] are not included, and were not intended to be included, under the word ‘citizens’ in the Constitution, and can therefore claim none of the rights and privileges which that instrument provides for and secures to citizens of the United States.”

“...the act of Congress which prohibited a citizen from holding and owning property [slaves] ...north of the line therein mentioned is not warranted by the Constitution and is therefore void...”

- Chief Justice Roger Taney, Majority Opinion

What are the two ideas established by this Supreme Court ruling?

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## **Reactions**

“It is no novelty to find the Supreme Court following the lead of the Slavery Extension party, to which most of its members belong. Five of the Judges are slaveholders, and two of the other four owe their appointments to their facile ingenuity in making State laws bend to Federal demands in behalf of "the Southern institution.”

- Editorial in the Albany, New York, Evening Journal, 1857

According to the document above, whom does this person think the Supreme Court is favoring and why?

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"A prize, for which the athletes of the nation have often wrestled in the halls of Congress, has been awarded at last, by the proper umpire, to those who have justly won it. The nation has achieved a triumph, sectionalism has been rebuked, and abolitionism has been staggered and stunned."

- Richmond Enquirer, March 10, 1857

According to the document above, what has the decision done for the Southern cause?

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