

1 | Brink of war: compromise and disunion

- latter half of the antebellum era
- Civil War starts in 1861
- Causes for unity:
 - transportation era
 - Political parties: Wigs, Democrats
 - * had support in both south and north
 - Agriculture united
- How did we go from this^ to north and south war?

1.1 | Missouri Compromise:

- It was a new state to the union
- the union had 11 free states and 11 slave states
- This would shake up the balance of power between slave and non slave states
- British banned slavery, slave states see the writing on the wall.
- The compromise was that Missouri could join as a slave state, and the main would join as a free state
- the first time there was debate on slavery in congress
- discussion on how to deal with new states
- the solution, they drew a straight line and said states that are above this line is free state, and the things that are under the line is a slave state
 - if a slave escapes to the north, then they can be sent back to the south.
 - this gives rise to fugitive slave act.

1.2 | Compromise of 1850:

- this is driven by westward expansion
- US has a war with Mexico
 - US takes 1/3 of Mexican land
- California undergoes a gold rush
- Utah and new mexico also become states
- California wants to join Union
 - people think that CA is too big, want to split it into two states
 - the slave line did not extend to the West coast
- Politicians used to be "great compromisers"
- The compromise: CA can enter as a free state, Washington DC has no more slave trade (to look better to foreign ambassadors, but fugitive slave act is now a thing, Utah and new mexico are new states that could decide for themselves.

1.3 | Fugitive slave act:

- Made it illegal to help fugitive slaves
- people are required to help people find fugitive slaves

1.4 | Kansas-Nebraska Act:

- Stephen Douglas, Lincoln's "enemy"
 - he wants to have a railroad that goes across the country
 - for this to happen you need to have clear state boundaries, this is because the gov has to know how it can give land to railroad building companies
- In order to have the boundaries US needed to add Kansas and Nebraska
- Debate on whether they should be slave or free state
- to solve the issue, Stephen Douglas suggests popular sovereignty
 - the people in Kansas can vote for slave or free state
 - people move to Kansas to stuff the ballots
- Two governments form, civil war in Kansas breaks out

1.5 | Political Realignment of the 1850s

- Charles Sumner makes a speech that condemns the outbreak in Kansas, insults some slave state's senators
- Brooks comes down and beats Sumner with his cane
- Brooks was seen as a hero in the south and as the "devil" in the north
- Wigs had support in north and south, but they fall apart because of this tension
- same thing with the democrats
- There was a rise and fall of independent parties
- There was a rise in the Republican party, which had an antislavery motive that unified it.
- Election of 1860
 - proslavery president

1.6 | Dred Scott Decision

- Slave who sued for freedom on grounds living with owner in free state
- Goes to the federal supreme court, had big implications
- Supreme court rules against Dred Scott
 - on the ground that African Americans were not citizens of the US
 - Also on the grounds that the Missouri compromise is not valid anymore
- The abolitionists said, don't worry, if we win the election of 1860, then we can override the decision and we can appoint new supreme court justices (not legal)
- This decision gave rise to more abolitionists

1.7 | John Brown's Raid (1859)

- thought he was visited by god to kill slave holders
- He goes to the arsenal and takes control
- starts a riot and assumes that other people will come and join his movement
- Robert E. Lee, goes and captures John Brown, and has him hung
- Reaction:
 - North: John Brown was seen as a martyr
 - South: John Brown is seen as a terrorist.

1.8 | Election of 1860:

- Republican: Lincoln
 - No expansion of slavery, but not outlawed
- Northern Democrats: Stephen Douglass
 - Policy of Popular Sovereignty
- Southern Democrat: John Breckenridge:
 - let slavery exist, no gov interference
- Constitutional Union: John Bell
 - No position on slavery, just interested in keeping the union unified
- Lincoln wins the election
 - always assassination on his head
- South Carolina succeeded
 - followed by the deep south

1.9 | Fort Sumter

- first battle of the civil war
- Lincoln waits for the confederacy to attack first
- There was not a single death except a horse
- North does not really have an army
- the south does not really have an army
- both sides did not think that this war was going to be that long