

## American Option: The Origins of the Civil War, 1846–1861

Key Questions	Key Content
How and why did the outcomes of the war with Mexico 1846–48 add to sectional difficulties?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Missouri Compromise, 1820</li><li>• The Wilmot Proviso, 1846</li><li>• The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848</li><li>• The Compromise of 1850</li></ul>
Why did the Compromise of 1850 break down so quickly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementing the Fugitive Slave Act</li><li>• Implementing the Kansas-Nebraska Act</li><li>• <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i></li><li>• The formation of the Republican party</li></ul>
Why did the Republicans win the 1860 presidential election?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Dred Scott judgement</li><li>• The Lincoln-Douglas debates</li><li>• John Brown and Harpers Ferry</li><li>• The election campaign of 1860</li></ul>
Why did the Civil War begin in April 1861?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The results of the 1860 presidential election</li><li>• The secession of the southern states</li><li>• The leadership of Lincoln</li><li>• The leadership of Jefferson Davis</li></ul>