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| *Focus Question:*  *What triggered the Republican Party to form?*  *What did the results of this election show about the state of American political divide?*  *Why was this ruling especially outrageous to Northerners?*  *What were key points of debate for Lincoln and Douglas?* | **In what main ways did the issue of slavery affect American politics between the North and South?**  The Republican Party Forms   * As a result of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the problems it created, quickly grew in the North. * Republicans nominated John C. Fremont, a famous explorer of the west. * Fremont’s name did not appear on the ballot in the South.   The Election of 1856   * Democrats nominated James Buchanan to run in 1856; made it his goal to preserve the Union. * The Know-Nothing Party nominated Millard Fillmore, but they gained little traction. * Fremont won 11 northern states, but still lost overall.   The Case of Dred Scott   * Dred Scott v. Sandford reached the Supreme Court in 1856. * Dred Scott sued for his freedom after his owner died. * Roger B. Taney ruled against Scott, also declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional. * Northerners frowned upon this.   Lincoln and Douglas Debate   * Abraham Lincoln was nominated in Illinois to challenge Douglas for his U.S. Senate seat. * Lincoln argued on slavery’s moral wrong, but did not say it should be abolished altogether. * Douglas supported popular sovereignty. * Douglas won reelection, though Lincoln and the Republican party were both strengthened.   John Brown Attacks Harpers Ferry   * John Brown wanted to inspire slaves to fight for their freedom. * Planned to capture weapons in the U.S. armory from Harpers Ferry, VA. * Killed four people in the raid, stole the arsenal. * No slaves joined the fight, and U.S. Marines soon captured Brown and six others. * Brown was tried for murder and treason, and was hung. * Northerners saluted him, which horrified many of the South.   Summary  The issue of slavery divided the U.S. political spectrum countless times from 1840 onwards. In 1856, the election was divided between two candidates in the North, yet the South never even placed one of the candidates on the ballot. Another example is from Lincoln’s run against Douglas, in which Douglas succeeded with the idea of popular sovereignty. Until U.S. citizens could resolve their issues with slavery, the politics that governed would remain in disarray. |