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| *Focus Question:*  *What different parties were fractured; what caused them to do so?*  *What political factors made it easier and harder for Lincoln to win?*  *What were some build-up factors to why the Southern states decided to break away?*  *What were most people’s thoughts on the secession of the South?*  *Who led efforts to compromise with the South in efforts to make them rejoin (the Union)?* | **How did Lincoln’s election lead up to the secession of the Southern states?**  Political Parties Splinter   * Republicans nominated Abraham Lincoln; though the Democrats had internal disagreements over its platform. * Northerners won platform vote. * Nominated Stephen A. Douglas, though could not win nomination. * The Democrats split apart, and both nominated their own candidates.   The Election of 1860   * The election was effectively two different ones, because of the North and South. * The nation “was tired of compromise,” as proved by the result – Lincoln won the election. * Lincoln stated he would do nothing to abolish slavery in the South, many Southerners didn’t trust him.   Southern States Secede   * Many Southerners had warned that if Lincoln won, they would secede. * Southerners based this right on states’ rights. * In late 1860, South Carolina was the first to secede. * Then, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas also joined the walk-out. * Held a meeting, became the Confederate States of America, chose Jefferson Davis as leader. * Confederates also drafted their own Constitution, based on America’s, but with changes in areas such as slavery and state’s rights.   The Union Responds to Secession   * Northerners viewed the secession as unconstitutional. * James Buchanan argued against secession. * Secession also raised the issue of majority rule; Northerners complained of the South’s unwillingness to live by the rules of a democracy.   Efforts to Compromise Fail   * Some, such as John J. Crittenden of Kentucky still attempted to compromise with the South. * On March 4th, Lincoln took the oath of office; spoke forcefully against secession. * Into March and April, Northerners and Southerners waited to see what action would be taken next.   Summary  Because both the North and the South had been tired of compromise, the South decided to secede. Though they’d been promised existing slave-state’s status’s would be untouched, they still felt the North was putting too much pressure on them, especially as they were the majority, and decided that the election of Abraham Lincoln was the final straw. Consequently, the South seceded from the Union on the principal of state’s rights, and formed their own government. |