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| *Focus Question:*  *How did the Fugitive Slave Act impact everyday northerners?*  *Who authored Uncle Tom’s Cabin; what message did it convey to Northerners?*  *What did “Bleeding Kansas” demonstrate to antislavery Northeners?*  *How did the violence displayed in Congress affect both side’s views on the debate?* | **What furthered the slavery crisis of the American 1850s, especially for the North?**  The Fugitive Slave Act   * The 1850 law, created as a result of the Compromise of 1850, which helped slaveholders recapture runaway slaves, was called the Fugitive Slave Act. * Southern slave catchers roamed the north. * Northerners resented the law because it promised them jail time for helping slaves escape. * The slave catchers “brought the issue of slavery home.”   *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*   * Harriet Stowe published *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in 1852. * It portrayed the moral issues of slavery. * Uncle Tom is the main, elder, respected slave; story also portrays a daring Mississippi River escape. * Book was popular in the North; Southerners viewed it as an unfair portrayal of slavery.   The Kansas-Nebraska Act   * The issue of slavery caused bloodshed in the west. * Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois attempted to organize the Nebraska Territory. * He suggested popular sovereignty for the support of slavery, which effectively abolished the Missouri Compromise. * Southerners applauded the bill; it turned Kansas into a slavery-battleground.   “Bleeding Kansas”   * Both sides rushed to Kansas to vote; some proslavery came illegally. * In May, a slavery mob attacked Lawrence, Kansas, attackers destroyed government offices. * John Brown, an extreme abolitionist, took revenge on this by killing many proslavery neighbors. * This news caused a civil war in Kansas. For three years, it continued. This gained it the nickname, “Bleeding Kansas.”   Violence in Congress   * In late May, Senator Charles Sumner gave a provocative speech, Preston Books attacked him in retaliation. * Kansas and this event became rallying cries for the antislavery movement.   Summary  The Fugitive Slave Act, Bleeding Kansas, and violence in Congress all led to the deepening of the divide between the North and South. First, the Fugitive Slave Act forced Northerners to realize that they were supporting slavery and the moral implications of it. Secondly, Bleeding Kansas, the three-year civil war the Kansas territory experienced, caused Northerners to respond to the South’s violence on antislavery movements. Finally, the violence in Congress appalled many Northerners. These three occurrences made it clear to Northerners the crisis growing in America. To Southerners, it demonstrated the Northerner’s “intrusion” on their rights, and their “ignorance.” |