US History H+ Name: Quang Huynh

Chapter 15

**Directions**: answer the following questions completely. No answer should be one word or sentence. Use the who, what, when, where, why, and how as a guide to answering the questions.

1. **Discuss the various solutions that were proposed to deal with the problem of slavery in the territories.** The various solutions that were proposed to deal with the problem of slavery in the territories are the Missouri Compromise, the idea of popular sovereignty, and the Wilmot Proviso. The Missouri Compromise, established in 1821, stated that Missouri would be added to the United States as a slave state and Maine would be added to the Union as a free state. This compromise freed up some tension in the air since it would maintain a balance in the United States, keeping both slave and free states equal. This compromise would not be liked by the South because they had believed in popular sovereignty. Popular sovereignty was the idea that the states and their people could do whatever they pleased in their own territory. This sparked debates and arguments across the Union. Stephen Douglas claimed that a state should be allowed to decide on slavery within their borders. Douglas believed that popular sovereignty is the best solution when talking about the issue of slavery in the Union. Then, the Wilmot Proviso was a proposal to prevent any further territories acquired from Mexico to have slavery. The Wilmot Proviso bill was disapproved by the South, as they wanted to expand slavery into the West and around the United States.
2. **Explain what happened in the Senate between Brooks and Sumner.** The incident between Brooks and Sumner in the Senate involved an attack during an argument. In 1856, Charles Sumner made a speech about abolition and popular sovereignty in Kansas, along with insulting the South Carolina Senator, Andrew Butler. Sumner was discussing about how slavery in his speech, “The Crime against Kansas,” and how slavery should be abolished in the United States. Charles Sumner was a leader of the Republican Party and an Abolitionist. After insulting the South Carolina Senator, the nephew of Andrew Butler came into the chamber. Preston Brooks was the nephew of Andrew Butler and attacked Charles Sumner on the head with a cane multiple times. Sumner fell into a coma and this incident helped to increase the tensions between the South and the North. In addition, the incident encouraged many other people to join the Republican Party.
3. **Describe what led to the creation of the Republican Party.** The things that led to the creation of the Republican Party was the split of previous political parties. Furthermore, a main factor that led to the creation of the Republican Party was to prevent slavery from expanding in the territories of the Untied States. In 1854, previous parties such as the Whigs, Free-Soilers and Democrats banded together to form the Republican Party in an attempt to stop the issue of slavery expansion. Their goal was to end slavery in the West and prevent the spread of slavery to further states and territories in the United States. Moreover, after the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 caused the Whig party to fade away and the death of Henry Clay, the Whigs began to form another party to fill a gap. The Republican Party had wanted to improve the economy of the United States and disagreed with the Southern democrats.
4. **Explain why the southern states seceded.** The Southern states seceded from the United States because they didn’t want to be in a country where slavery is no longer. The South wanted to protect and preserve slavery; thus, they seceded from the Union and became independent to keep slavery from being abolished. The main reason why they wanted to secede from the United States to protect slavery was because when Abraham Lincoln got elected as President in the Election of 1860, the South feared that he would threaten state rights. Furthermore, since Abraham Lincoln was an abolitionist, a fear ensued thinking that Lincoln would completely abolish slavery. The South was deeply afraid that they wouldn’t have a say in the matter of slavery and needed to do something to keep slavery. The South wanted an equal amount of slave states and free states, so when Lincoln got elected as president, they thought they would no longer have a voice in the government. This is why the southern states seceded from the United States.
5. **Discuss the reaction of President Buchanan when the states seceded. Should he have done more?** President Buchanan’s reaction when the states seceded was saying that secession was illegal. Although he said this, he did not attempt to do anything to enforce or act on any changes within the states. President Buchanan declared it was illegal for the South to secede from the United States but didn’t do anything to stop them from seceding. He ultimately claimed that the federal government of the United States lacked the power to prevent a state from seceding. Since Buchanan believed in the power of the states and popular sovereignty, he intentionally allowed the South to secede from the Union. After the South seceded from the Union, the South started to take federal property in their territory, such as weapons and forts. Despite the South taking federal property, they did not have enough power to take Fort Sumter. This resulted in South Carolina asking for the government to surrender Fort Sumter. Buchanan declined and sent more supplies to Fort Sumter. Personally, President Buchanan shouldn’t have done anymore than that, since it would’ve caused more violence or led to the South seceding even earlier.
6. Identify each of the following and their **significance**:
   1. **Wilmot Proviso –** The Wilmot Provision sparked and ignited the debate over the extension of slavery. It was a bill that was made in 1846 that banned slavery in the territories that the United States of America gained after the Mexican-American war. The Northern states favored the Wilmot Proviso because it would help to prevent slavery, while the Southern states were against the Wilmot Proviso because they wanted slavery to exist everywhere in the United States. Congressman David Wilmot would be the one that proposed this bill, and it was never passed because the South had bigger representation. The Wilmot Proviso was important to American history because it would further divide the Northern states and the Southern states.
   2. **Fugitive Slave Act –** The Fugitive Slave Act, passed in 1850 by the federal government, made it legal to capture and return runaway slaves anywhere in the United States of America. The Fugitive Slave Act would anger the abolitionists and increased slave catchers, as there was an incentive and reward to capture and return slaves back to their owners. Even in northern states, where the slaves were “free,” this new act made people have second thoughts about capturing slaves. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 didn’t allow slave runaway fugitives a jury trial and national marshals could have American citizens to help and find runaway slaves. People who know information about runaway slaves and don’t capture slaves could be imprisoned for half a year and fined $1,000.
   3. **Lecompton Constitution –** The Lecompton Constitution was a document about proslavery that was made after the election where voters could decide whether slavery should be allowed in Kansas. This document was established before Kansas entered the Union. Furthermore, the Lecompton Constitution excluded blacks from the Bill of Rights and fully allowed slavery in Kansas. The Kansas governor would veto this document, but then the legislature would override the governor of Kansas’s veto. The current president of the United States at the time, James Buchanan, would support the Lecompton Constitution, which angered the anti-slavery abolitionists in the North. The controversial part about the Lecompton Constitution was that Kansas became a slave state although most people who voted were against slavery. Due to the high tensions between anti-slavery and pro-slavery discussions, a convention meeting was held at Lecompton in 1857. At this convention, there was a draft about a constitution under which Kansas would become a slave state. Although votes indicated that the majority were against slavery, President Buchanan still supported the Lecompton Constitution and angered the North and the South. The Lecompton Constitution would be passed in 1858 but thousands of people would still vote against it. Then, a final vote on August 2nd, 1858, decided that Kansas would have an anti-slavery legislature.
   4. **John Brown –** John Brown was a mentally ill abolitionist who thought that violence was needed to end slavery. John Brown believed in Christianity and thought that slavery was a big sin. In 1855, John Brown would help several slaves to escape. Then, he brought four of his sons and three men to go to Pottawatomie, Kansas, which was a settlement full of pro-slavery activists near the border of Missouri. At this settlement, John Brown and his army began to violently kill the people who believed in pro-slavery. He managed to kill five men by a sword in front of their families in 1856. Brown saw his violent actions justifiable because of his radical beliefs that slavery was an unholy sin and Christians must “break the jaws of the wicked.” He thought that he was obeying the will of God. Then, in 1859, John Brown rented a farm near Harpers Ferry in Virginia. He and his followers began to attack the people who supported slavery in the town. After the Harper Ferry Raid, John Brown and his followers were defeated by a local militia and the citizens. John Brown affected America because he would make people afraid of supporting slavery.
   5. ***Dred Scott v. Sanford –***The Dred Scott v. Sanford case was a court case in 1857 where a slave tried to fight for his freedom by suing his current master. Dred Scott was a slave born around 1800 in Virginia. Dred Scott argued that he is living in a free state, thus that means that he should be a free man. He believed since he was no longer in a slave state and now in a free state with his slave owner, he should be allowed to be free as a slave. Dred Scott went to the Supreme Court for a hearing and his case would be dismissed because the Supreme Court ruled that African Americans are not citizens in the United States. This meant that Dred Scott was still a slave. According to the Supreme Court, slaves have no rights and were considered property under the Constitution. This ruling sparked controversy and divided the Democratic Party into two, between anti-slave and pro-slave states. This was significant because it would lead to the 13th Amendment to be established in 1865 to abolish slavery.
   6. **Lincoln-Douglas debates –** The Lincoln-Douglas debates, taken place in 1858, were arguments between Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln about the spread slavery. Abraham Lincoln is a Republican who accepts slavery as it is now but does not want slavery to get expanded into the new territories of the United States. Then, Stephen Douglas was a northern Democratic that was in favor of popular sovereignty deciding the fate of slavery. The Lincoln-Douglas debates would allow both Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas to voice their opinions to win a seat in the Senate. Although Abraham Lincoln would lose the debate for Senate, it would help him to get a better position to win the presidency. Basically, Douglas won the battle, but Lincoln won the war. The debates would help broadcast Lincoln’s message and opinions. Then, in the Election of 1860, Lincoln won the presidential race.
   7. **Freeport Doctrine –** The Freeport Doctrine was a response of Stephen Douglas during the Lincoln-Douglas debates, argued in 1858. Douglas argued that slavery could not exist unless it is supported by the local governments and the ruling of the Supreme Court would not matter. Essentially, slavery was in control of the states and not in the federal government’s control. Any ruling by the Supreme Court was not important. No matter how the Supreme Court ruled, popular sovereignty would always win. Only the states and territories could decide whether they should have slavery in their state or not, despite the Dred Scott v. Sanford court case. The Freeport Doctrine would not help Douglas in the Election of 1860 because it led the Southern states to stop supporting Douglas. Douglas’s statements split his political party into two, the Northern Democratic Party and the Southern Democratic Party. This is because he opposed the Lecompton Constitution and defended popular sovereignty. This would weaken the power of Stephen Douglas in the Senate and split the Democrats, resulting in Douglas losing in the Election of 1860.
7. **Other than slavery, what do you believe was the most important significant factor to cause the Civil War? Explain**. Other than slavery, the most important significant factor that caused the Civil War was the discussion and battle between the power of the state government and the federal government. Although slavery was a main cause of Civil War, arguments between how much power the states and federal government has was the root. The struggle was if the federal government was able to abolish or regulate slavery within a state. For instance, the Southern states believed in popular sovereignty, where the state could determine whether slavery should be allowed in the state or not. The South wanted to expand slavery further in the United States, so they believed in the power of the states. This meant that the South thought that state power was greater than federal power. Moreover, the North believed in the power of the federal government. Abolitionists in the North did not support slavery and wanted to get rid of slavery in the South. The North thought that the federal government should be able to override their actions and be able to regulate slavery. Basically, the South wanted more state power and the North wanted more federal power. This disagreement between the North and the South led to tensions between the states. The Southern states stated that the federal government shouldn’t be allowed to control slavery in their states due to the 10th Amendment, which says that the federal government could only have power and act on topics that are listed in the Constitution. The debate over slavery led to more arguments between state power and federal power, which was a significant cause of the Civil War.