

Review of Causes of Civil War

1. Preview to Compromise of 1850

The Gold Rush led to the rapid settlement of California which resulted in its imminent admission as the 31st state. Southerners recognized that there were few slaves in California because Mexico had prohibited slavery. Immediate admission would surely mean California would be the 16th free state, giving the non-slave-holding states an edge in the Senate. Already holding the House of Representatives, the free states could then dominate legislation.

Texas was claiming land that was part of New Mexico. As a slave state, any expansion of the boundaries of Texas would be opening new land to slavery. Northerners were opposed. The north was also appalled at the ongoing practice of slavery in the nation's capital — a practice the south was not willing to let go. A compromise needed to be reached in order to prevent the division of the union.

2. Compromise of 1850

The Congress debated the contentious issues well into the summer. By September, Senator Henry Clay's Compromise became law.

California was admitted to the Union as the 16th free state. In exchange, the south was guaranteed that no federal restrictions on slavery would be placed on Utah or New Mexico, so those states would be able to make their own decision about slavery. Texas lost its boundary claims in New Mexico, but the Congress compensated Texas with \$10 million. Slavery was maintained in Washington, D.C., but the slave trade was prohibited.

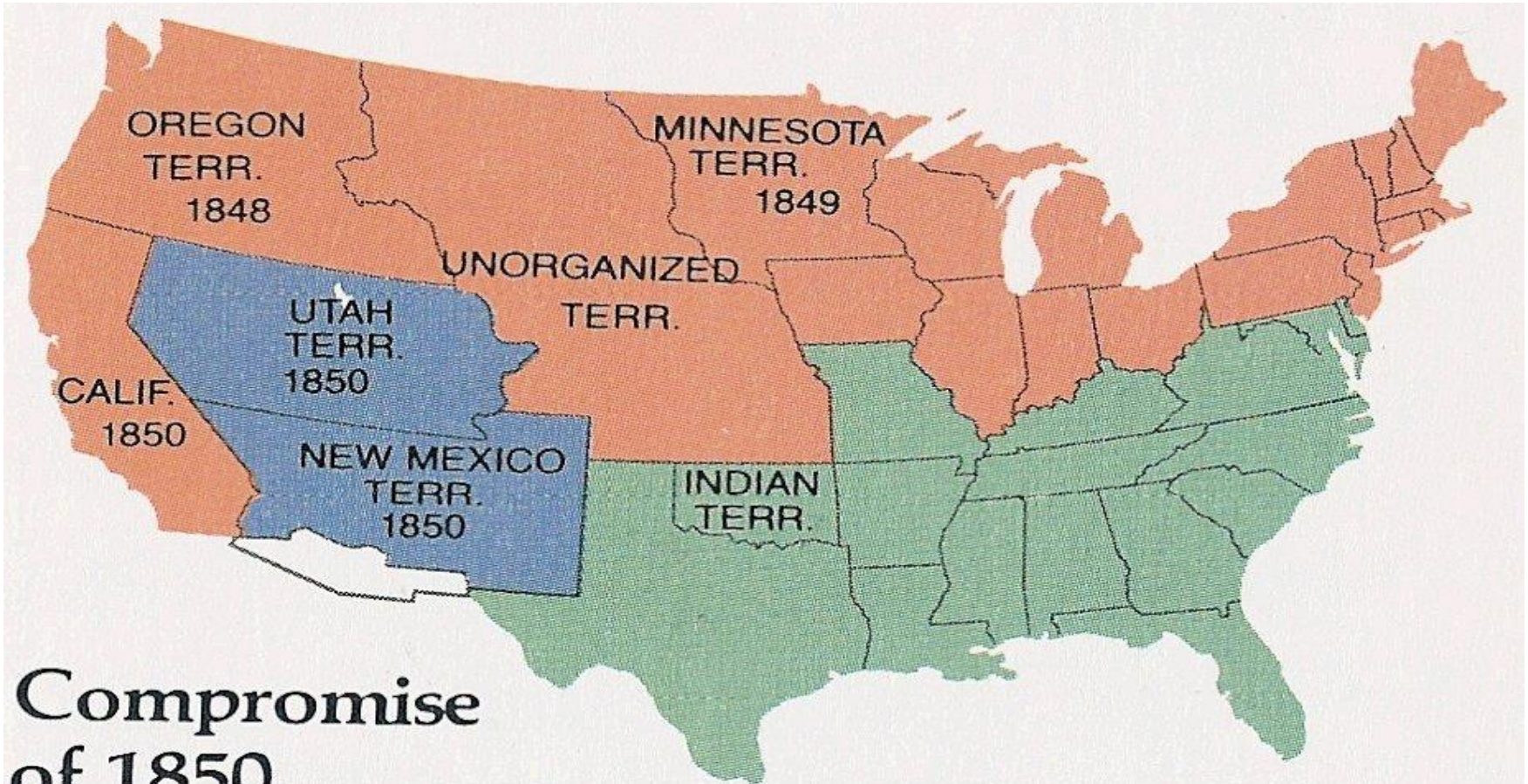
Finally, and most controversially, a **FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW** was passed, requiring northerners to return runaway slaves to their owners under penalty of law.

Who won and who lost in the deal? Although each side received benefits, the north seemed to gain the most. The balance of the Senate was now with the free states, although California often voted with the south on many issues in the 1850s. The major victory for the south was the Fugitive Slave Law. In the end, the north refused to enforce it. Massachusetts even called for its nullification. Northerners claimed the law was unfair. The flagrant violation of the Fugitive Slave Law set the scene for the tempest that emerged later in the decade. But for now, Americans hoped against hope that the fragile peace would prevail.

3. Compromise of 1850 Chart

North Gains	South Gains
California admitted as a free state	No slavery restrictions in Utah or New Mexico territories
Slave trade prohibited in Washington D.C.	Slaveholding permitted in Washington D.C.
Texas lost boundary dispute with New Mexico	Texas received \$10 million
	Fugitive Slave Law

4. Map for Compromise of 1850



Compromise of 1850



Free



Slave



Territory Open to Slavery by Principle of Popular Sovereignty

5. Fugitive Slave Act

The Fugitive Slave Act was a part of Compromise of 1850. This law was a massive gain for the South. The provisions of the act include the following:

- Any runaway slave were to be return to their owners
- Alleged fugitives were not entitled to trial by jury and could not testify on own behalf
- People that helped escaped slaves could go to jail or face \$1,000 fine

Results of the act:

- 9 Northern states refused to cooperate w/ this law
- Many people that were “moderate” on slavery were now upset and joined the movement

6. Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a secret network of people who helped slaves escape to the North. The “conductor” hid fugitives in tunnels and cupboards in houses along the way and provided them with food and clothing. They travelled at night and used North Star as a guide for direction.

The most famous conductor was a former slave named Harriet Tubman. She was born a slave but escaped. In total, she made 19 trips back to South to help 300 slaves.



7. Kansas-Nebraska Act

The **KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT OF 1854** may have been the single most significant event leading to the Civil War. By the early 1850s settlers and entrepreneurs wanted to move into the area now known as Nebraska. However, until the area was organized as a territory, settlers would not move there because they could not legally hold a claim on the land.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act divided the territory into Kansas and Nebraska. Both territories were given popular sovereignty to determine if they would become slave or free states. This act would repeal the Missouri Compromise created 34 years ago. The North was outraged.

Results:

- Renewed the sectionalism between North and South
- The last compromise!
- Split the democrats into “north” and “south”
- Republican party was formed (northerners and westerners who had the goal of stopping the spread of slavery)

8. Advertisements

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the
Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS

AND

Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many *HOUNDS* on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.

**\$100
REWARD.**

Ran away from my farm, near Buena Vista P. O., Prince George's County, Maryland, on the first day of April, 1855, my servant **MATHEW TURNER.**

He is about five feet six or eight inches high; weighs from one hundred and sixty to one hundred and eighty pounds; he is very black, and has a remarkably thick upper lip and neck; looks as if his eyes are half closed; walks slow, and talks and laughs loud.

I will give One Hundred Dollars reward to whoever will secure him in jail, so that I get him again, no matter where taken.

MARCUS DU VAL.

BUENA VISTA P. O., MD.,
MAY 10, 1855.

Compromise of 1850



