Why the Civil War Happened
And What We Can Learn From It
Day 3

WHAT WE’LL COVER

- Day One: Setting the stage: - the late 1790s through the 1830s or so
- Day Two: 1840 through mid-1850s
- Day Three: Late 1850s-spring of 1861

DRED SCOTT DECISION -- 1857

- Dred Scott: slave of an Army surgeon
- Taken from Missouri to Illinois and Minnesota and back to Missouri
- Sued for his freedom
DRED SCOTT DECISION -- 1857

- Supreme Court ruled
- Scott was not a citizen, had no right to sue
- Congress had never had the right to prohibit slavery anywhere
- Therefore, Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional

Lincoln-Douglas Debate -- 1858

- Stephen A. Douglas (Dem) and Abraham Lincoln (Rep) were vying for an Illinois Senate Seat
- 7 debates
- Main issue – expansion of slavery
- Douglas believed in “Popular Sovereignty”
- Lincoln believed slavery should not be expanded
- Neither of them was an abolitionist
Locations of Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1858

Fifth Debate, October 7, 1858, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois

John Brown’s Raid -- 1859
JOHN BROWN’S RAID -- 1859

Consequences:
• Northerners admired his zeal and courage
• “Instant Martyr”
• South was shocked and outraged

ELECTION OF 1860

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>S. Democratic</th>
<th>Const. Union</th>
<th>N. Democratic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominee</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
<td>John C. Breckenridge</td>
<td>John Bell</td>
<td>Stephen A. Douglas</td>
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<td>Home State</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>Running Mate</td>
<td>Hannibal Hamlin</td>
<td>Joseph Lane</td>
<td>Edward Everett</td>
<td>Herschel V. Johnson</td>
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<td>Electoral Vote</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>States Carried</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Popular Vote</td>
<td>1,865,908</td>
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<td>39.8%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
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Lincoln Wins – And the Rest is . . . History

Before Lincoln is Inaugurated on March 4, 1861—
• Southern States secede, beginning with South Carolina in December, 1860
• Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas all left the Union by February 1

Lincoln Wins – And the Rest is . . . History

• On February 4, delegates from all these states except Texas met in Montgomery, Alabama
• February 18, Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America.
• March 21, Alexander Stephens is chosen VP; delivers “Cornerstone Speech”
THE RESULT IS WAR

50 major battles, 5000 minor battles

• Troops: North - 2,128,944 South – 1,082,119

• Casualties: (deaths through battle and disease; wounded; prisoners of war)
  North – 642,000 South – 482,000

HOW WERE CRISSES DEALT WITH BEFORE THE 1850S?

• Expansion into new land? Confederation Congress
• Alien and Sedition Acts? Eventually, Supreme Court
• 1815 Secession Crisis? Within Party System
• 1819 – Balance between Slave & Free States? Congress
HOW WERE CRISSES DEALT WITH BEFORE THE 1850S?

- 1828-1833 – Tariff Battle and Nullification Crisis? President/Congress
- 1840s westward expansion issues? President/Congress
- Mexican Session territorial issues? Congress

WHY WAS IT DIFFERENT AFTER 1850?

- Institutions of Government broke down:
  - Presidents, Congress (Senate), States, Political Parties, Courts
- The “Great Triumvirate,” involved in every compromise between 1810 and 1850, was gone by 1852.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?
WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

▪ The breakdown of the institutions intended to help society respond to economic change can lead to violent conflict
  
  **BUT**

▪ Sometimes it might be better to rip off the scab