

Political Divisions

(Chapter 15 Section 3 pp. 488-492)

Political Parties Undergo Change – The Election of 1856

Party	Situation / Platform	Candidate	Who won?
Republican	Stop the SPREAD of slavery	John C. Fremont	
Whig	National Whig Party had fallen apart & could not nominate a candidate	NONE	
American (Know-Nothing)	Anti-Immigrant & Anti-Catholic	Millard Fillmore (former P.O.T.U.S.)	
Democratic	Could not pick a STRONG supporter of the Kansas/Nebraska Act <i>(but wanted to continue support of popular sovereignty)</i> Don't pick anyone too controversial	James Buchanan (PA)	X

Dred Scott Decision

Topic	Details
The Case	<p>Dred Scott was a slave, taken by his master FROM Missouri (slave state) TO Illinois (free state) and back. Did his being in a free state set him free?</p> <p>Dred Scott sued for his freedom – case eventually went to the Supreme Court</p>
The Court's Decision (1857) <i>(The verdict was read just 2 days after Buchanan's inauguration)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scott (as a slave) was NOT a U.S. citizen, therefore he had no legal right to sue in a U.S. court <i>(this made "free" African Americans VERY nervous)</i>2. Congress DID NOT have the constitutional right to forbid slavery anywhere in the U.S. <i>(cited the 5th Amendment – cannot deny a person's rights without due process of law)</i>
Southern Reaction	<p>Cheered the decision (justified their belief that slavery was essential to their way of life)</p> <p>Chief Justice Roger Taney was a slaveholding Southerner</p>
Republican Reaction	<p>Republicans were stunned by the decision – argued that the decision was only an OPINION</p> <p>Called for "open defiance" of the Court's decision</p> <p>Led to growing sectional differences</p>
Lincoln's Reaction	<p>Lincoln (who was a little known RR lawyer and ex-congressman at the time) predicted worse was yet to come from the courts</p>

Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858 Illinois Senate race)

	Summary	Who won the election?
Lincoln	<p>The central issue was the spread of slavery throughout the West</p> <p>Mentioned ideas of the Dec. of Independence when talking about the wrongs of slavery</p> <p>Brought up the <i>Dred Scott</i> decision – Did this go along with the idea of popular sovereignty? <i>(“Go to bed dreaming...& wake to find Illinois a slave state” speech)</i></p>	
Douglas	<p>Criticized Lincoln for saying that the U.S. could NOT be ½ free and ½ slave</p> <p>Tried to say that the Supreme Court decision in <i>Dred Scott</i> did not contradict popular sovereignty</p> <p>“Freeport Doctrine”</p>	X
Importance of Debates	<p>Lincoln emerged as a prominent figure in the Republican Party.</p> <p>Seen as a possible candidate for the Presidential election of 1860.</p>	

