

Stephen Douglas's Dream



Politics and Slavery, part 2

ACTIVITY KEY

Rewrite = rewrite the sentence to make correct

Complete = write the correct answer that completes the idea

Cloze = underline the correct word in the reading

Text = define the word or revise a text feature

Interact = interact with media/text

Opinion = give your own opinion

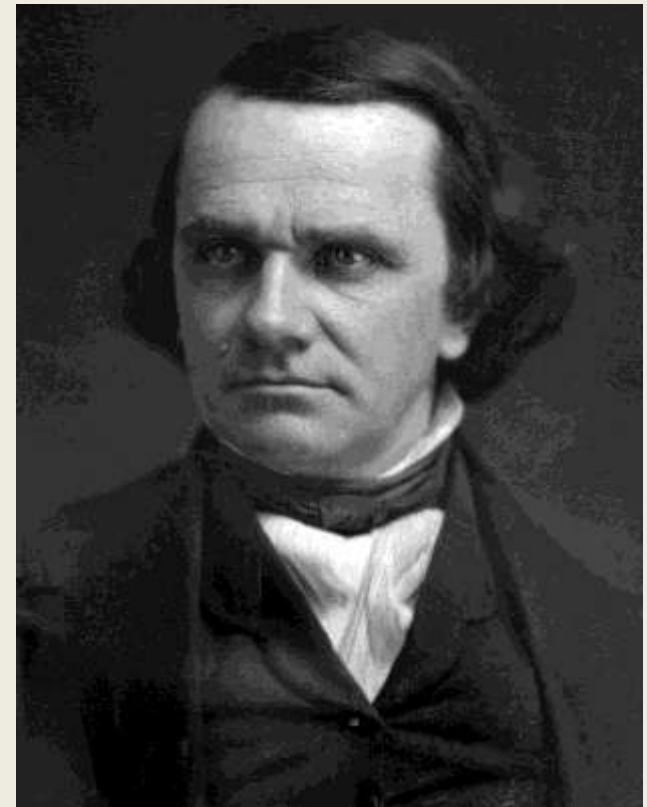


= complete the interactive notebook and/or test

Thomas Jefferson's nightmare was that slavery would destroy the new democracy called the United States of America. But American politicians compromised and compromised over slavery. They avoided conflict. They kept the "wolf" by the ears. In the 1850s, a new leader called Stephen Douglas wanted to keep compromising. His dream was to become a great American hero and keep the United States from breaking apart into sections.

Opinion:

Have you ever heard of Stephen Douglas?



You probably haven't heard of Stephen Douglas. But I know you've heard of Abraham Lincoln. Douglas was a Democrat from Illinois. Lincoln was a Republican from Illinois. They both ran for Senate in 1858 against each other. They are famous for **debates**. Debates are public arguments where you discuss an important issue. People heard Douglas and they thought: "This man is going to be president one day." The Lincoln-Douglas debates in Illinois are famous because they focused on slavery. They didn't have slavery in Illinois. But all of the United States wanted to know: "Will slavery stay in the South? Or is there some **secret plan to make all of the United States open to slavery?**" This is the story of Stephen Douglas' dream and how it doesn't come true.

Debates are...

Complete

1. Stephen Douglas was from the _____ party. Abraham Lincoln was from the _____.
2. They debated about the issue of _____



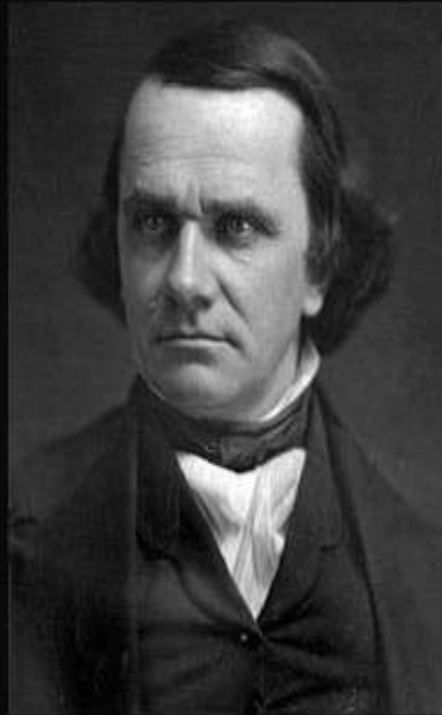
Interact What does this picture show?

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas argued about slavery. BUT... they didn't argue about **abolition**. Abolition means ending slavery. People who wanted to end slavery were called **abolitionists**. Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas didn't want to end slavery. Neither man was an abolitionist. They knew that if they ended slavery, there would be a big war. They argued about whether to **expand slavery**. Abraham Lincoln wanted to **contain** slavery in the South like the Missouri Compromise says. Stephen Douglas wanted to let each state decide and forget about this North-South dividing line.

Rewrite

1. Both Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas were abolitionists.
2. Abolitionists want to nationalize slavery.
3. Abraham Lincoln wanted to expand slavery into the West.
4. Stephen Douglas wanted the federal government to decide about slavery.

Abolitionist means someone who...



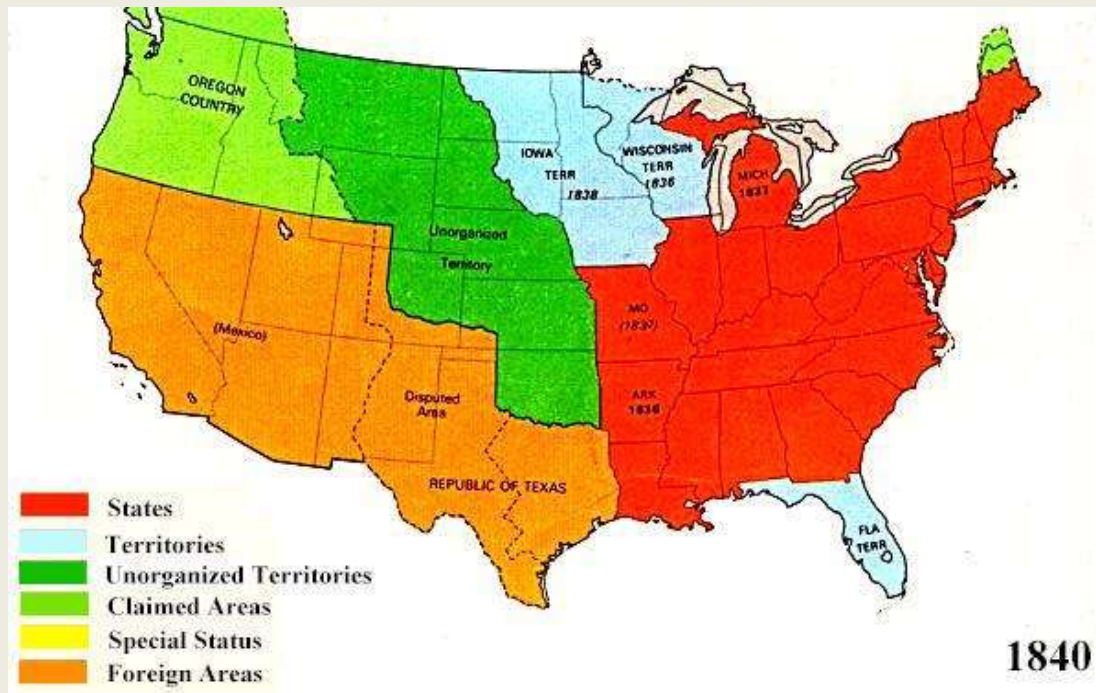
Abolitionism proposes to destroy the right and extinguish the principle of self-government for which our forefathers waged a seven years' bloody war, and upon which our whole system of free government is founded.

(Stephen Douglas)

izquotes.com

True or False: This quote says that abolitionism is a good idea _____

When we look at maps of the USA from the 1800s, there are always lots of colors. The colors represent many things. One very important thing to understand is that there are states and there are **territories**. These territories belong to the United States, but they aren't organized. They aren't states, yet. So, they don't get Congressmen. They have less power. But when they become states, they will have power. The debating is really focused on these territories.



Draw an arrow towards the states.

Make ///// lines on the areas that are territories or will become territories

In the map above, you should have covered all of the green, blue , and orange with lines. All this land is or will be territories. If you need to review what happens with the “orange” land, please see [Remember the Alamo](#).

The United States stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. **Manifest Destiny** was complete. There was lots of new territory to make into states. Before these places could become states, they needed people or **settlers**. Some settlers wanted the land to be open to slavery; some settlers wanted the land to be closed to slavery. Stephen Douglas thought the best way to determine this was to vote on it. This vote is called **popular sovereignty**.

Predict

What do you think popular sovereignty is?

Stephen Douglas believed in **popular sovereignty**. This is a very democratic idea. The idea is that when a territory wants to become a **state**, then it votes on whether to allow slavery or not. Power to the people! The settlers get to decide whether to be free or slave. If you have slaves, and your territory votes to be free, then you have to leave the **state** with your slaves. But if your territory votes to be open to slavery, then you can stay with your slaves.

Popular sovereignty means you vote on whether to be free or _____.

The vote in **popular sovereignty** is for your _____, not the entire country.

Explain Popular sovereignty is more democratic because...

Predict Why do you think people in the North will not like popular sovereignty?

People in the Northern states have a big problem with popular sovereignty. They wanted to keep the Missouri Compromise line. If you remember from **Jefferson's Nightmare**, this line goes East-West across the United States. It's simple: if the land is **North** of the line, **there WILL NEVER BE slavery allowed there**. But, if the land is **South** of the line, this land is **OPEN** for slavery. You can bring your slaves to Texas... it's South. But you can't have slaves in Oregon, it's North. This is simple:

Rewrite

1. People in the North have a problem with the Missouri Compromise line.
2. In the idea of the Missouri Compromise, people get to vote on whether their state is open to slavery.

Predict

1. Why do you think Northerners wanted to keep the Missouri Compromise line?

- Any land located South of the Missouri line should be open to slavery.
- Any land located North of the Missouri line should be closed to slavery.

What “compromise” does the sign above show?

-States will have a referendum—or a vote—on whether to enter the Union free or slave.

What “idea ” does the sign above show?

The Missouri Compromise worked really well from 1820 onward. People grew up with it. They accepted it. Nobody questioned it until the Mexican-American War made things all confusing. It started with Texas:

In 1845, Texas joined the United States of America. Texas was **annexed**, which means it joins voluntarily. Texas was an independent Republic. They had slaves. They had slaves from the beginning. The white people who went there were from the South. They brought slaves. So, Texas was going to be a slave state. This wasn't a question. If they didn't let Texas have slaves, Texas wouldn't join the United States. **Texas was mostly South** of the Missouri Compromise line.

Complete

1. Which state was annexed into the United States?
2. Annex means to join _____
3. Texas entered as a _____ state

4. Texas was geographically _____, so there wasn't a problem.



Can you **draw** the Missouri Compromise line? (Hint: the arrow will help you.)
Now, can you **Circle** Texas. It should be mostly be under your line.

After Texas joins the United States, there is a war with Mexico. Many people in free states worried about the war. Abraham Lincoln worried about the war. They worried about the war because they didn't want this whole **slavery** expansion thing to come up again. They didn't want slavery to expand to the new Mexican lands. When the United States entered the war, some representatives wanted to **ban** slavery from the Mexican land. This is called the **Wilmot Proviso**. The idea was that any new territory should not have slaves. It made sense, because Mexico never had any slaves in these places anyway. But this didn't pass. The Southerners didn't like it.

Complete

1. The United States goes to war with _____.
2. During the war, some people in free states worried about _____ expanding into the new land.
3. The Wilmot Proviso wanted to...
4. Did the Wilmot Proviso pass?



Interact: What war does this picture show?

The United States wins the war with Mexico. They win lots of land. They win the state that will become California. In many ways, California is just like Texas. During the Mexican War, California says: “We are no longer part of Mexico. We are independent. We are the **Republic of California.**” Texas did the same thing. But, Texas wanted slavery. California didn’t want slavery. The settlers in California come to mine gold. They come from all over the United States and the world to find gold. California’s population is large. Before the Mexican War is over, they make a Constitution that **bans** slavery. They don’t want to compete with rich slave-owners for land. **California is “closed” to slavery.**

Complete

1. The Republic of California _____ slavery, which means they make it illegal.
2. California wants to enter the USA as a _____ state, not a slave state.
3. The people who come to California want to find _____, not have slave plantations.

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Complete What kind of people might come to California?

California wants to enter the United States as a free state. They don't want slavery. There's a little problem. **Southern California** is below the Missouri Compromise line. This is the part of California that includes San Diego. So, if the Missouri Compromise is going to work, then California should split into two states: Northern California, which is free, and Southern California, which is slave. This is a stupid idea! The people in California don't want to be two states. Also, Southern California is mostly Hispanic people. They don't have slaves. They never had slaves. California wants to come in as 100 percent free.

Complete

1. California wants to enter the United States as a _____ state.
2. Southern California is _____ the Missouri Compromise, so it should have _____. (Hint: slavery or free)
3. People in California don't want _____, especially Hispanic people who never had slaves.

California will enter free. And it seems like maybe this Missouri Compromise idea isn't so good. Why not just let the people in the states decide? We should give **popular sovereignty** a chance! The two places where they will let the people vote don't have many people, anyway. They are the **Utah Territory and the New Mexico Territory**. The land isn't very good for farming, here. It's mostly desert and mountains. Not many settlers...

These new "desert" territories get to vote on whether to be free or slave. They will decide by popular sovereignty. The funny thing is that they never get a chance to have this vote. The Civil War starts between the North and the South before they can even get enough people to settle and vote. **The idea of popular sovereignty seems like a good idea for the future of the United States.** The idea is popular with Democrats, who believe in state's rights. The state gets to choose. The federal government should mind its own business.

Complete

1. Popular sovereignty means that the states get to vote about...
2. They decide to use popular sovereignty in two territories called...
3. Popular sovereignty is popular with the _____ political party.

Predict

1. If you have popular sovereignty, what might happen with the Missouri Compromise line? (Hint: is it necessary anymore?)
2. If you don't have this Missouri Compromise line, is it possible to have slavery in the North?
(Hint: if you can get enough votes for slavery, what might happen?)

There is one group who really doesn't like this idea. They are called **Free Soilers**. They hate slavery because they don't think it's fair to the "Common Man." It's not fair to the white settlers who can't compete with the slave-owners. These **Free Soilers** have a big problem with any new territory becoming a slave state. They think slavery should just stay in the South. They know that slavery can't last forever, so why should they give up land for this cancer! They said: Free Soil, Free land, Free men.



Interact What is this sign about?

The Free Soilers have a problem with **popular sovereignty**. They don't want slavery to expand. Slavery takes away from the "common man" and gives to the slave-owners. Many people in the North and West start to believe in an idea of the evil "slave power" **conspiracy** that has too much power in the United States. This Southern **slave power conspiracy** has way too much power. The South is just a small part of the United States, but it seems like nobody can even do anything about slavery. A conspiracy is like when a small group of people control a large group of people, and they do stuff that isn't fair. The idea was that a few Southern states controlled the destiny of the United States.

Complete

1. The _____ (the wage-worker) has a problem with slavery because it takes away jobs and lands for whites.
2. Many people in the North start to begin in a _____.
This is the idea that the Southern slave-owners have too much power.



Interact: What do you think a “Free State” means?

Rewrite

Free Soilers believe that:

“Slavery takes away from the evil slave-owners and gives to the Common Man.”

The **slave power conspiracy** came out of the Compromise of 1850. We already talked about most of this compromise: California enters free; Texas enters slave; the other territories voted through popular sovereignty. But there was another part of this Compromise: the Fugitive Slave Act. The word fugitive refers to a slave that has run away. When slaves ran away from the masters in the South, they would go North. They followed the **Underground Railroad**, which was a path from South to North. When they got North, they should be free.

The Fugitive Slave Act made it possible for Southerners to come North and arrest escaped slaves. It said that citizens of the North must follow this rule even if they didn't support slavery. It made it possible for a Southern man to arrest any black man in the North and accuse him of being a slave. Then, the black man had to return to the South. The Free Soilers believed this was part of the **slave power conspiracy**. The Compromise also outlawed the sale of slaves in Washington, DC, which was something.... But not much!

Cloze

The Compromise of 1850 included the following:

- Texas entered as a [SLAVE / FREE] state.
- California entered as a [SLAVE / FREE] state.
- The Fugitive Slave Law was [WEAKENED / STRENGTHEN] so that now Southerners can enter the [NORTH / SOUTH] and arrest escaped slaves.
- The sale of slaves in Washington, DC was [ALLOWED / PROHIBITED]

This chart shows what?

Legislative Item	Victory for?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California admitted to the Union as free state	Clear victory for the North
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Popular sovereignty to determine slavery issue in Utah and New Mexico territories	Moderate victory for both sides
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texas border dispute with New Mexico resolved• Texas receives \$10 million	Moderate Southern victories
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slave trade, but not slavery itself, abolished in the District of Columbia	Moderate Northern victory
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong federal enforcement of new Fugitive Slave Act	Clear victory for the South

The United States in the 1850s was a divided country. It was frustrating for everyone, especially people who didn't support slavery. Now, back to our story on Stephen Douglas. He really wanted to come up with a solution. He really wanted the United States to be united again, not divided about slavery. He also really wanted to build a railroad across the United States. This railroad is called the Trans-Continental Railroad. Douglas was from Illinois. The biggest city in Illinois is Chicago. He wanted the railroad to start in Chicago and go to Northern California, maybe San Francisco. This would make Chicago really important and bring him lots of tax dollars and respect!

Complete

1. Stephen Douglas wanted to build a...
2. The railroad would cross the USA and be called the...
3. Douglas wanted the railroad to start in his home state, Illinois, and in the city of ...



Predict Southerners will have a problem with making a railroad from Chicago (in the north) to California (in the north). Can you guess why?

Stephen Douglas wanted to make a great compromise and save the United States. He also really wanted to build a railroad across the United States. This is the Trans-Continental Railroad. If he builds this railroad, then people can go from his home state of Illinois to the new territories in the West. The West can be filled with settlers. The United States can really become strong. But no company has enough money to build this railroad. The only “company” that can build this railroad isn’t a company. It is the United States government. Only the **United States federal government has enough money** and credit to build this railroad.

Complete

Is the Trans-Continental Railroad a “federal” project or a “state” project?



What does this map show? The proposed path of _____

Shade /// the slave territory (Hint: it's under the 36.30 line)

The Trans-Continental is a Federal project. So, If Stephen Douglas is going to build this railroad, he needs votes from the South. He needs Southerners on his side. They don't want the railroad if he talks bad about slavery. So, Stephen Douglas needed to make nice with the **Southern "slave power conspiracy."** Many Southerner representatives say: "We don't want this railroad unless you give us a chance to have slavery in the West." How frustrating! You can't even talk about making a railroad without dealing with slavery.

The railroad was going through this land called the Kansas-Nebraska territory. This was land from the Louisiana Purchase, not the Mexican War. This was good land for farming, not like Utah and New Mexico. This Kansas-Nebraska territory was north of the East-West line. The Kansas-Nebraska territory should be closed to slavery. According to the Missouri Compromise, Kansas-Nebraska territory should enter as free, no exceptions! Here's the problem: Southerners don't like this idea at all!

Complete

1. Stephen Douglas wants to build a...
2. The railroad is expensive, so he needs money from...
3. If the Federal Government pays for his railroad, he will need votes from Senators from the...
4. Stephen Douglas has to deal with the “Slave Power Conspiracy” because he needs...
5. The land that railroad passes through should be _____ to slavery because it is above the Missouri Compromise.
6. The territory with good farmland that the railroad will pass through is called the....

Stephen Douglas can't get his railroad with the Missouri Compromise line. The Southerners know that if he makes this railroad, lots of **settlers** will come to Kansas and Nebraska territories. The settlers will be free soil settlers, not slave-owners. They will make lots of new states. All of these states will be free because they are north of the line. The balance of power in Congress will end. The Southern states will lose their power in Congress. The North will get new friends in Congress. They will abolish slavery. The railroad *could* mean the end of slavery.

Complete

1. Southerners want to keep the _____ in Congress, so they worry about new free states.
2. If they build a railroad in the Kansas-Nebraska territory, then many _____ will come and live there. They will be free soil people.

Stephen Douglas makes a solution. He says: "I think we need to get rid of this Missouri Compromise line. It's not fair. It's not fair to the people. Let's bring **popular sovereignty** to the Kansas-Nebraska territory. The people can vote. It will be democracy. If they choose slavery, we should respect it. If they choose free soil, we should respect that, too." It sounds like a good idea. It sounds like another great compromise. But this is called Stephen Douglas's bad idea, not the Compromise of 1854. It was more like the Disaster of 1854. This is the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

Explain

What is Stephen Douglas' solution to the railroad problem?

Rewrite

Stephen Douglas keeps the Missouri Compromise and ends Popular Sovereignty.

Stephen Douglas brought popular sovereignty to the Kansas-Nebraska territories in 1854. This is called the Kansas-Nebraska Act. It opened the Kansas-Nebraska territory to slavery. It was a disaster.

Here's why: Imagine you are slave-owner from Missouri. You hear that Kansas is open for slavery, so you get some cheap land there. You move your family and your slaves there. But you know that in 10 years, there's going to be a vote. If slavery loses, you have to sell your land and go back to Missouri. You are risking a lot, so you want to make sure slavery wins in Kansas.

Complete

1. The Kansas-Nebraska Act brought _____ to the new territories. They voted on whether to be free or slave.
2. The Kansas-Nebraska Act ended the _____ line.

Stephen Douglas's idea didn't work very well. People from Missouri came over to Kansas to vote in the elections about slavery. They also crossed the border from Missouri to Kansas to fight with **free soilers**. Soon, there were gangs roaming around Kansas, fighting with each other. The pro-slavery group was called "**Border Ruffians**." The free soiler group are called **Jayhawkers**. The Kansas-Nebraska Act caused a mini-Civil War. It was like a gang war between the settlers. The free soilers called it Bleeding Kansas.

Complete

1. The Kansas-Nebraska Act caused fighting between _____ and _____.
2. The people who wanted slavery were called _____.
3. The free soil group who fought against slave-owners were _____.
4. The whole incident was called _____. (Think: blood)

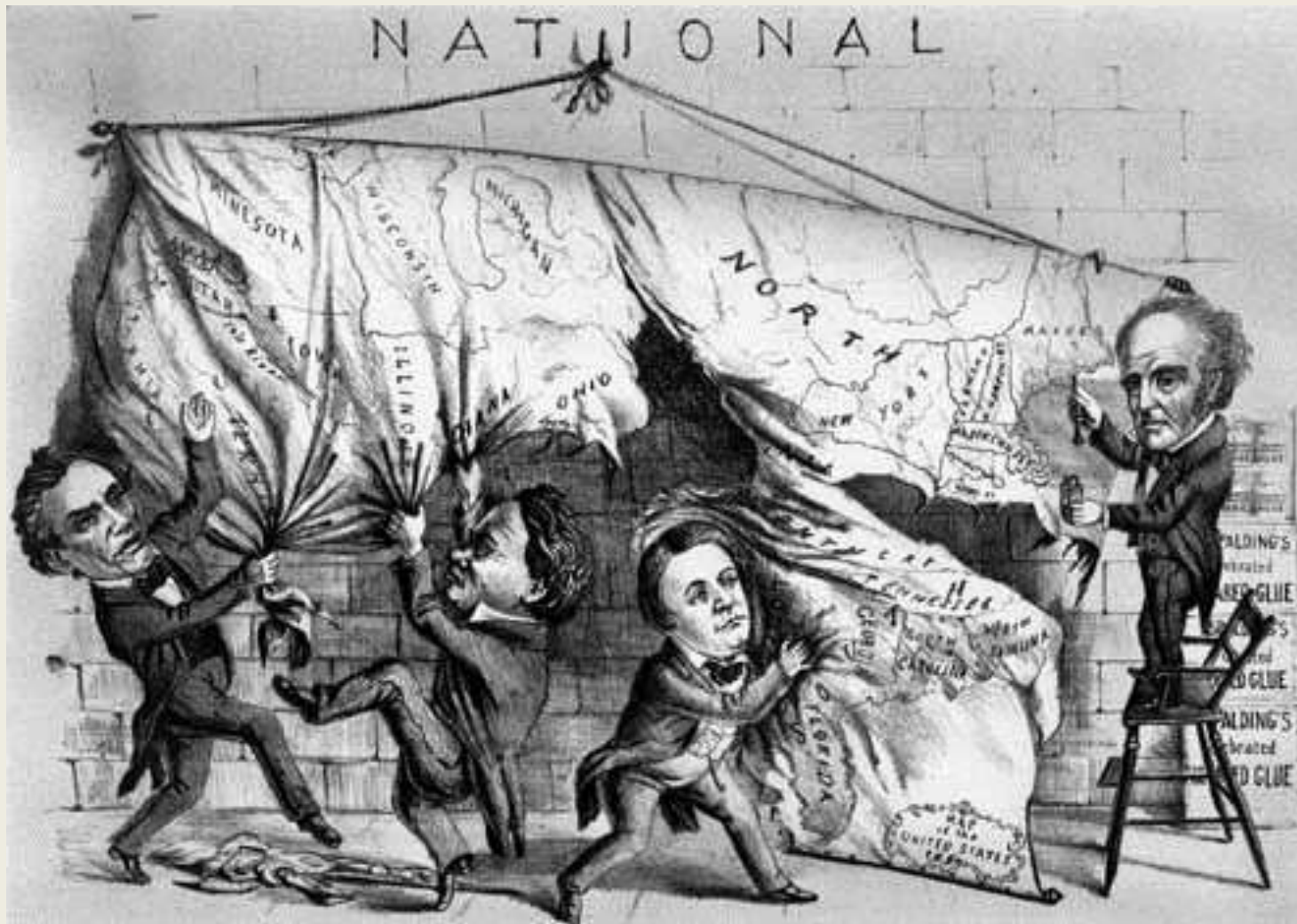


What is this picture?

- “Free” territory open to slavery
- Popular Sovereignty rule of land
- Violence erupts between Border Ruffians and Jayhawker

Interact What is this sign about? _____

(Hint: it's a name for the conflict in Kansas)



This picture is a criticism of popular sovereignty.

What do you think it shows?

Main Ideas

1. Why did Stephen Douglas support popular sovereignty? What did he want?
2. What happens during the Compromise of 1850?
3. What is the Kansas-Nebraska Act?
4. What is Bleeding Kansas?

Bonus Read through and highlight the main ideas. It will help you remember for the test.

Stephen Douglas's dream turned out to be a nightmare. His compromise didn't work. Popular sovereignty didn't work. In our next BFU, we will look at the man who opposed popular sovereignty and Douglas. This is the man whose party became---overnight---the most powerful political force in the divided United States.

