

Causes of the Civil War DBQ – Documents

Document 1:

**Excerpt from a speech by Albert Gallatin Brown, a Mississippi politician
September 26, 1860**

(The Northerners) hate us now, and they teach their children in their schools and churches to hate our children...the John Brown raid...the abolitionists among us, tell the tale...The North is accumulating power, and it means to use that power to emancipate (free) your slaves...Disunion is a fearful thing, but emancipation is worse. Better leave the union in the open face of day, than be lighted from it at midnight by the arsonist's torch."

In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):

Document 2:

Excerpt from *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, Supreme Court decision, 1857

...upon full and carefull consideration of the subject, the court is of the opinion, that, upon the facts stated...Dred Scott was not a citizen of Missouri within the meaning of the constitution of the United States and note entitled as such to sue in its courts.

In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):

Document 3:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

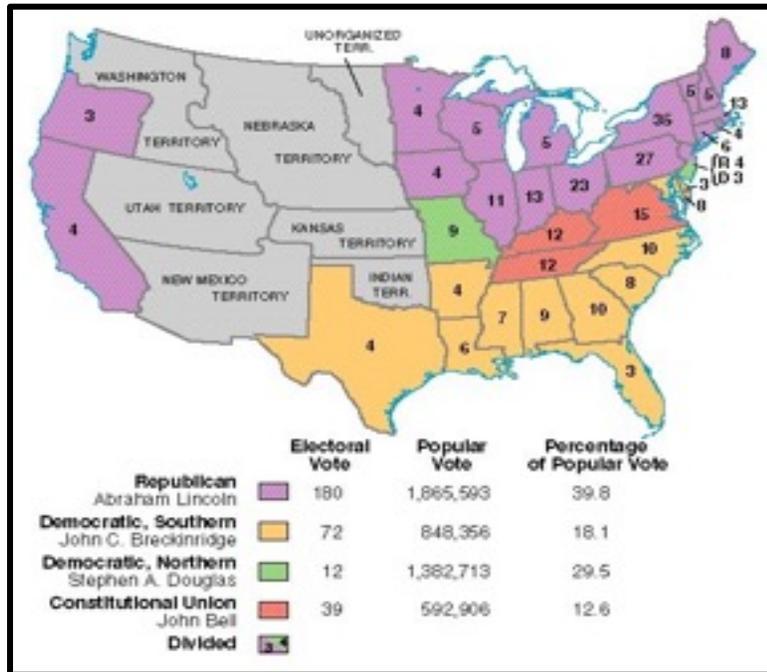
Harriet Beecher Stowe published the best-selling antislavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in 1852. She wrote this book to show that slavery was evil and that the Fugitive Slave Law was unjust. Many Northerners viewed slavery as wrong. Abolitionists wanted to end slavery and some helped slaves escape to the North and Canada. The Southerner's believed that they were stealing their property.



Simon Legree beating Tom
from *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1852

In March 1862, Harriet Beecher Stowe visited the White House and upon meeting President Abraham Lincoln, said, "So this is the little lady who made this big war?"

In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):



Document

4:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:
November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln, who had declared "Government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free..." is elected president.

In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):

Dec 20, 1860 - South Carolina secedes from the Union. Followed within two months by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. Seven states of the Deep South, those in which the slavery system is most entrenched, leave the Union. Many Southerners favored secession as part of the idea that the states have rights and powers which the federal government cannot legally deny. The supporters of states' rights held that the national government was a league of independent states, any of which had the right to secede.

Document 5:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

"The sectional division between North and South began in colonial times and resulted from geographical differences. In the South, the earliest settlers found the warm climate and fertile soil ideal for growing tobacco. They started many tobacco plantations and brought in black slaves from Africa to provide most of the labor. In time, other plantation crops, especially cotton, sugar cane, and sugar beets, were found to thrive in the South. The South thus quickly established a rural way of life supported by an agricultural economy based on slave labor.

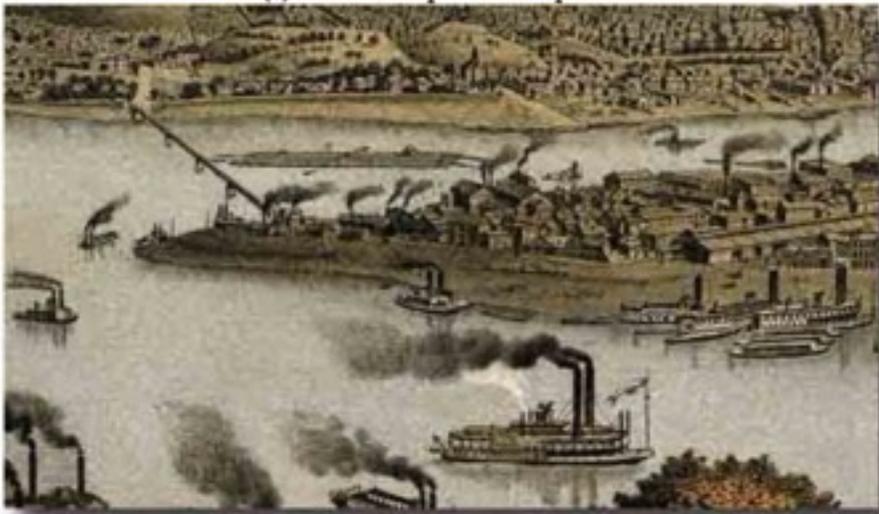
The cooler climate and rocky soil in the North were not suitable for establishing plantations or large farms. As a result of those and other factors, the North's economy came to depend more on trade than on agriculture. Industry and commerce were centered in the North. Many factories using mass-production methods had sprung up there, and cities grew rapidly." The North developed an intricate railway system and shipping industry to transport the manufactured goods.



Southern Cotton Plantation 1850s

In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):

(c) www.historicpanoramicmaps.com



Pittsburgh Factories 1850s

Document 8:

“Cotton is King,” a speech given by James Henry Hammond on March 4, 1858.

...It appears, by going to the report of the Secretary of Treasury, which are authentic, that last year the United States exported in round numbers \$279,000,000 worth of domestic produce, excluding gold and foreign merchandise re-exported. Of this amount \$158,000,000 worth is the clear produce of the South; articles that are not and cannot be made at the North. There are then \$80,000,000 worth of exports of products of the forest, provisions and breadstuffs. If we assume that the South made but one third of these, and I think that is a low calculation, our exports were \$185,000,000, leaving to the North less than \$95,000,000.

In addition to this, we sent to the North \$30,000,000 worth of cotton, which is not counted in the exports. We sent to her \$7 of \$8,000,000 worth of tobacco, which is not counted in the exports. We sent naval stores, lumber, rice, and many other minor articles. There is no doubt that we sent to the North \$40,000,000 in addition; but suppose the amount to be \$35,000,000, it will give us a surplus production of \$220,000,000. But the recorded exports of the South now are greater than the whole exports of the United States in any year before 1856. They are greater than the whole average exports of the United States for the last twelve years, including the two extraordinary years of 1856 and 1857....

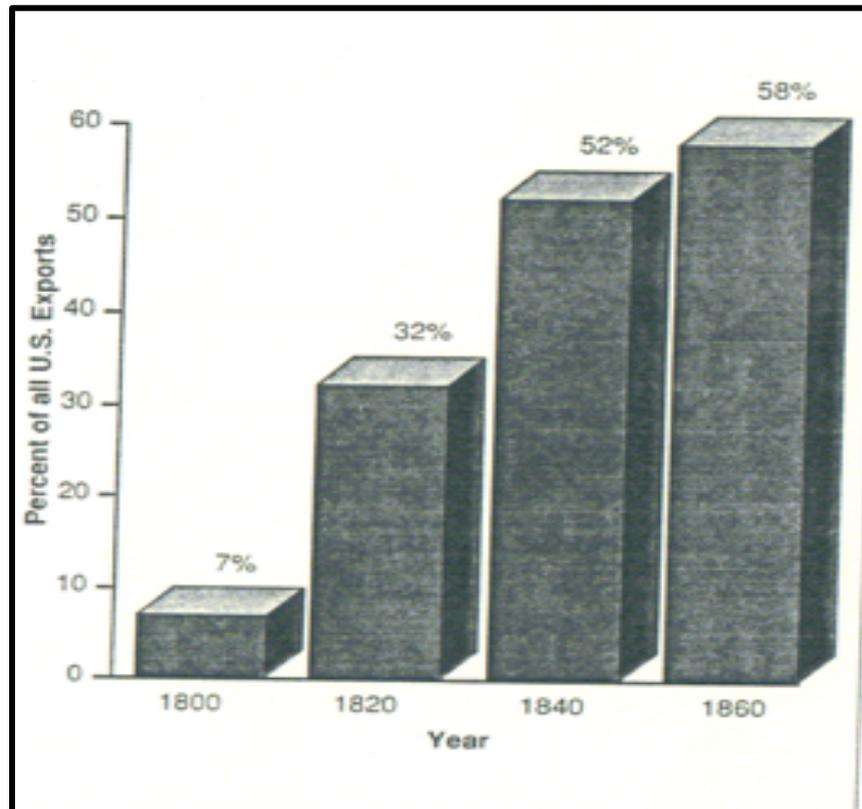
With an export of \$220,000,000 under the present tariff, the South organized separately would have \$40,000,000 of revenue. With one-fourth the present tariff, she would have a revenue with the present tariff adequate to all her wants, for the South would never go to war; she would never need an army or a navy, beyond a few garrisons on the frontiers and a few revenue cutters....

No, you dare not make war on cotton. No power on earth dares to make war upon it. Cotton is king....

In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):

Document 9:

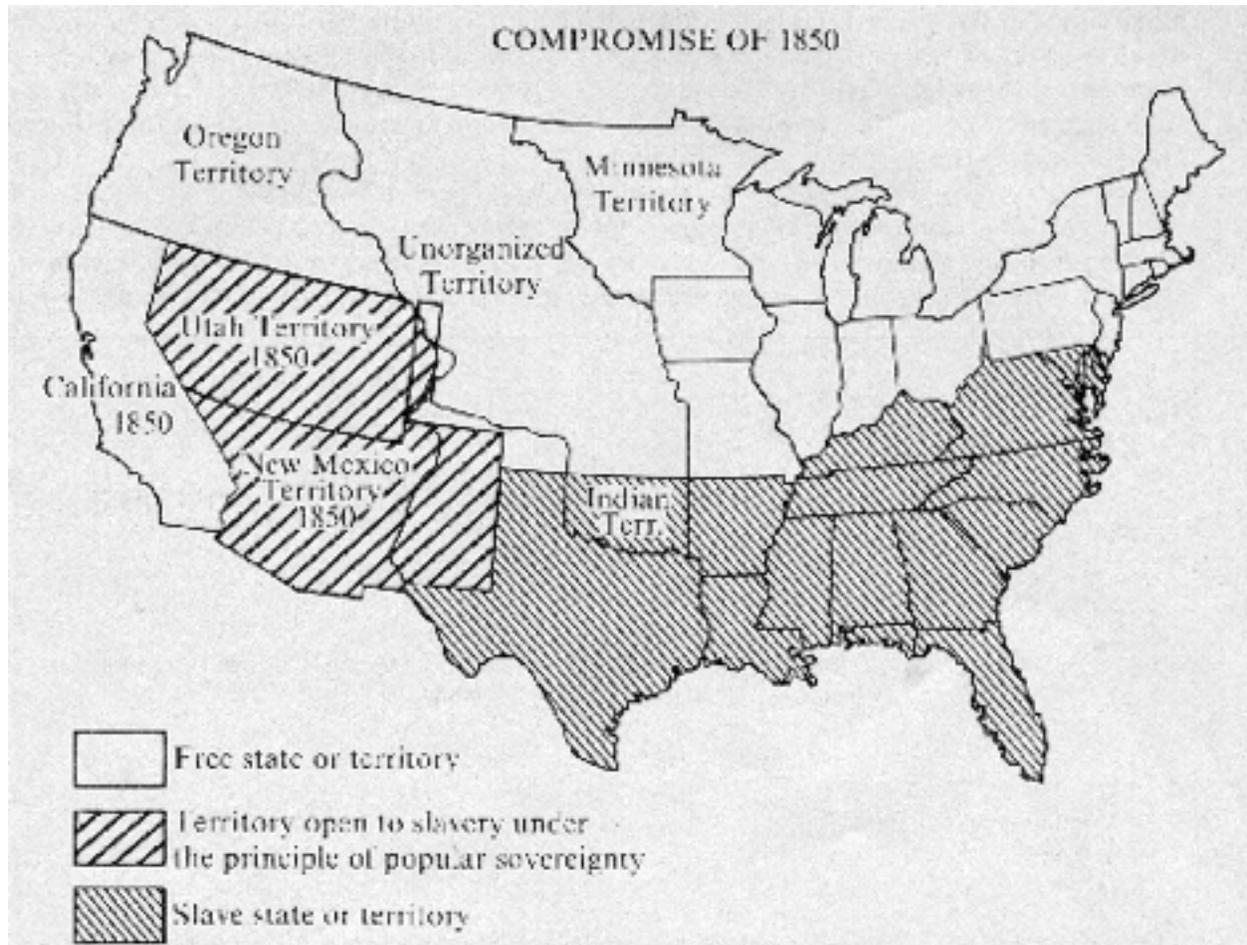
Cotton Exports as Percentage of All U.S. Exports, 1800-1860.



In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):

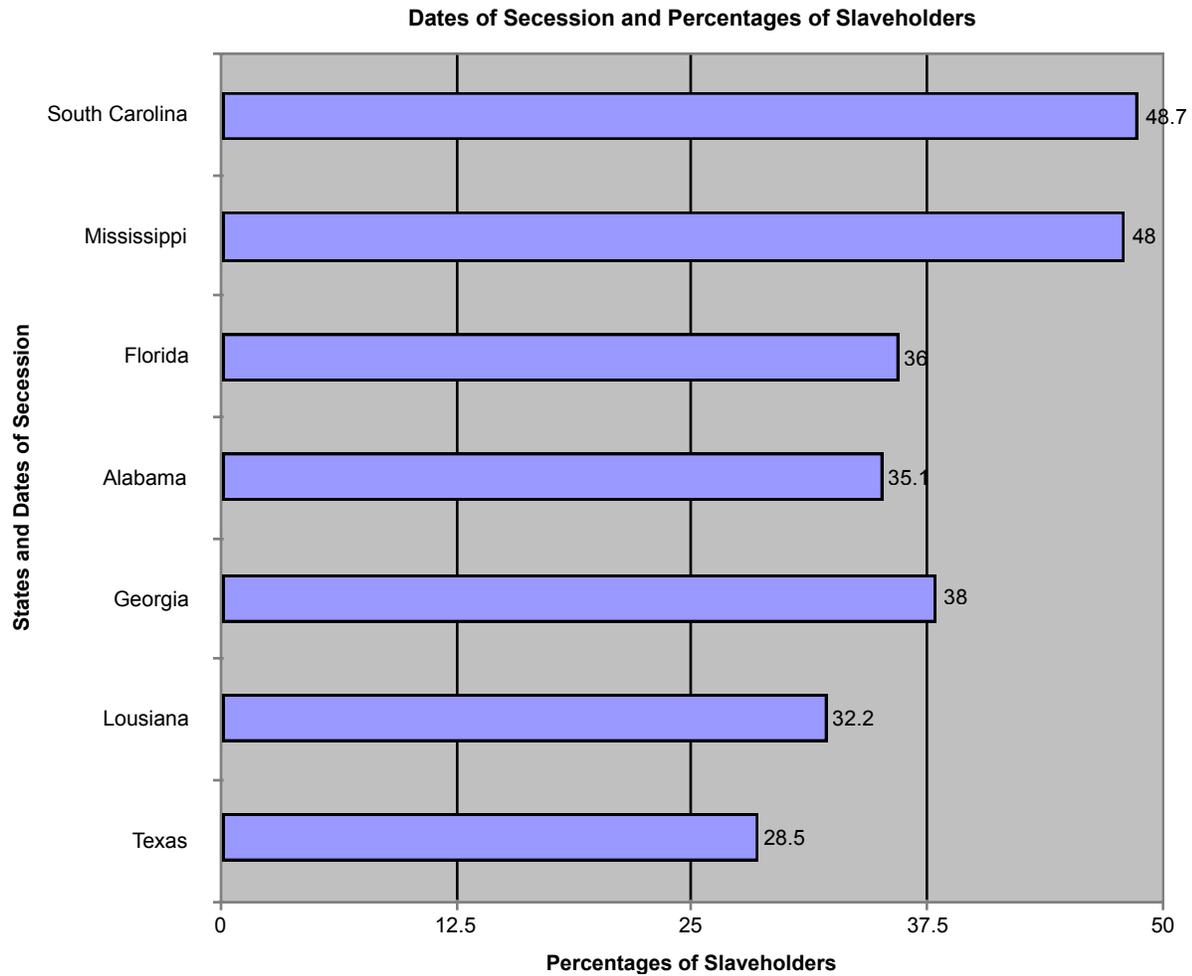
Document 10:

Compromise of 1850



In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):

Document 11:



In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):

Document 12:

Source: Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

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.

In your own words, summarize the significance of this document (what is the most important information it tells you?):