

## **Ch 10 Section 3 The Birth of the Republican Party**

### **New Political Parties Emerge**

#### **Slavery Divides Whigs**

- Northern, Southern Whigs split over slavery in 1852 elections
- Democrat **Franklin Pierce** elected president in 1852
- Whig Party splinters after Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854

#### **Nativism**

- **Nativism**—belief in favoring native-born Americans over immigrants
- Nativists form American Party (1854), known as **Know-Nothing Party**, used passwords and secret handshakes
- Middle-class Protestants afraid of Catholicism; split over slavery

#### **Antislavery Parties Form**

##### **Forerunner of the Republican Party**

- Liberty Party pursues abolition through laws; affects 1844 election

##### **The Free-Soilers**

- **Free-Soil Party** opposes extension of slavery into territories
- Many Free-Soilers not abolitionists; support restrictions on blacks
- Object to slavery's impact on white wage-based labor force
- Convinced of conspiracy to spread slavery throughout U.S.

##### **Republican Party**

- 1854 in Wisconsin, unhappy Whigs, Democrats, Free-Soilers form **Republican Party**
- **Horace Greeley**, abolitionist, helps found Republican party
- Republicans oppose slavery in territories; other opinions varied
- Main competition for voters is Know-Nothing Party

##### **The 1856 Election**

- Republicans select **John C. Frémont**—mapped OR Trail, led troops in CA
- Democrat **James Buchanan** elected; secession averted