

## Ch 10 Section 4 Slavery and Secession

### Slavery Dominates Politics

#### **Dred Scott Decision**

- **Dred Scott**, slave who had lived in free areas sues for freedom
- 1857, Chief Justice **Roger B. Taney** hands down decision
  - slaves do not have rights of citizens
  - no claim to freedom, suit begun in slave state
  - Congress cannot forbid slavery in territories because it would interfere with a slaveholder's right to own property

#### **The Lecompton Constitution**

- Proslavery Kansas government writes constitution, seeks statehood
- Referendum votes down constitution; President Buchanan endorses it
- Stephen Douglas gets second referendum; voters reject it again

### Lincoln-Douglas Debates

#### **Lincoln Challenges Douglas**

- 1858, Republican **Abraham Lincoln** runs for Douglas's Senate seat
- Because Lincoln unknown, challenges Douglas to 7 debates about slavery in the territories

#### **Positions and Arguments**

- Douglas: slavery backward, not immoral; Lincoln: slavery immoral
- Douglas thinks popular sovereignty will undo slavery
- Lincoln thinks legislation needed to stop spread of slavery
- Both men distort other's views, make them seem extreme

#### **The Freeport Doctrine**

- Lincoln: how to form free states if territories must allow slavery
- Douglas's **Freeport Doctrine**—elect leaders who do not enforce slavery
- Douglas wins seat; doctrine worsens regional split between Democrats
- Lincoln's attacks on "vast moral evil" of slavery draw attention

### Passions Ignite

#### **Harpers Ferry**

- John Brown plans to start a slave uprising, needs weapons
- 1859, leads band to federal arsenal in **Harpers Ferry** to get arms
- U.S. Marines put down rebellion, capture Brown

#### **John Brown's Hanging**

- Brown is hanged for high treason, December 1859
- Many Northerners admire Brown; Southerners fear future uprisings

### Lincoln Is Elected President

#### **The Republican Convention**

- Overflowing crowds attend presidential convention in Chicago

#### **Seward and Lincoln**

- Senator William H. Seward expected to win nomination
- Lincoln wins nomination; seen as more moderate than Seward
  - tells South will not meddle with slaves; South feels threatened

#### **The Election of 1860**

- Democrats split over slavery
- Lincoln wins with less than half of popular vote

- gets no Southern electoral votes

### **Southern Secession**

#### **The Shaping of the Confederacy**

- South Carolina and 6 other states secede:
  - want complete independence from federal control
  - fear end to their way of life
  - want to preserve slave labor system
- Feb. 1861 **Confederacy** or Confederate States of America forms
- Confederacy permits slavery, recognizes each state's sovereignty
- Former senator **Jefferson Davis** unanimously elected president

#### **The Calm Before the Storm**

- Buchanan calls secession illegal, says also illegal to stop it
- Mass resignations from government in Washington, D.C.